

Department of English  
Spring 2018

**ENGL 3374W.01: Teaching Literature and  
Composition in the Secondary School**  
12:30-1:50, TTh; EV 313; CRN 22462

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CHSS 190

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**Office Hours**

Appointments are always encouraged. I am generally available 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday, but please email me to let me know you are coming.

**Description**

Theory and practice of teaching writing in the secondary school. Discussion and application of classroom practices, definition of standards, and evaluation of student writing. Prerequisites: ENG 1301, 1302, either 2332 or 2333, and 3 hrs. of ENG 300-level. Credit 3.

**Objectives**

Through your work in this course, you should:

- Acquire an understanding of the fundamental principles of teaching writing and literature as part of a comprehensive secondary language arts curriculum
- Learn to apply these core principles to your own teaching
- Begin thinking about what you want to be as a teacher and to help you formulate some basic approaches
- Understand the connections between the Texas state English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) Standards and the secondary English Language Arts and Reading TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) curriculum and to understand how they affect you as a teacher of the English Language Arts in Texas
- Prepare for the state certification examination in English Language Arts and Reading (the TExES)

**Required Texts**

Anderson, Jeff. *Everyday Editing*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse, 2007.  
Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*. NY: Vintage Books, 2009.  
Gallagher, Kelly. *Teaching Adolescent Writers*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse, 2006.  
Jago, Carol. *Papers, Papers, Papers: An English Teacher's Survival Guide*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2005.  
Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. NY: HarperCollins, 2002.

You will also need to purchase or check out several high-school YA literature texts. These are readily available from public libraries, used book stores, etc.

**Requirements**

- write 2 formal papers (15% each)
- prepare a unit plan (20%)
- writing responses (log writes/mini-themes and book summaries) (50%)

ENGL 3374 is designated as a W (writing intensive) class, which requires that at least 50 percent of your grade derive from writing assignments. As the summary of requirements indicates, 90 percent of your grade will be based on written work.

N.B.—a brief note, anent: attendance and participation

**Attendance:** SHSU stresses the importance of punctuality and regular attendance. While all students are expected to attend every class, University policy allows 3 hours of absences, which means a total of 2 TTh classes. So you may have those 2 days; however, this does not excuse you from any course requirements. More than 2 absences may affect your grade adversely. Note: if you have a legitimate reason for missing class, please talk with me (before missing, if at all possible).

**Participation:** I'll be looking for your comments about the texts we're reading as well as how thoroughly you complete in-class writing assignments. We'll also be doing some group work, and you'll need to take an active, positive role in that work. In all our activities, you need to be an active participant, one who contributes positively to the class overall.

### ***Incomplete (X) Grade***

At times, due to extenuating circumstances beyond your control, you may not be able to finish the course, and you may request a grade of X (incomplete). Students who request an X grade must provide adequate documentation of the reason for their not being able to complete the course, and they must have satisfactorily completed at least 50 percent of the course's assignments in order to be eligible for a grade of X. If I think an X to be warranted, I'll recommend this grade to the Department Chair who then will decide whether the X should be entered as the semester's grade. If an X is approved, you'll have one semester to complete the remaining work; if you don't complete the work in that time period, the X grade will automatically convert to an F.

### ***Instructor Evaluation***

Near the end of the semester, you'll complete an evaluation of my teaching, using the SHSU IDEA system.

### ***Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct***

It is academically dishonest, and often illegal, to present someone else's ideas of writing as your own. You cannot use even short phrases or parts of sentences obtained from other sources unless you properly document those sources. Documentation includes marking quotations as well as providing notes, citations, and a reference list. If you receive assistance from a source other than your instructor, your colleagues in the class, or The Writing Center, then you must acknowledge that assistance. Identify the source and the nature of the assistance in an acknowledgments note at the end of the assignment. Failure to acknowledge constitutes academic misconduct. In addition, it is academically dishonest to submit your own previously written work for a current assignment or to submit an assignment in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors.

You will be held responsible for furnishing upon request all the sources and preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you used to prepare written assignments. If you cannot produce those materials upon request, the assignment will be considered incomplete and so will not fulfill the requirements. You will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment on a different topic, one you negotiate with your instructor.

You are responsible for protecting your own work. It is your responsibility to ensure that other students do not copy your work or submit it as their own. Allowing your work to be used in this manner constitutes academic misconduct.

Plagiarism and academic misconduct of any kind may constitute grounds for failing this course and may result in further disciplinary action according to university policy. Consult the *SHSU Student Handbook* regarding your responsibilities and rights concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. (In addition, writing textbooks often contain useful discussion of plagiarism.)

Your instructor may require that you submit all of your essays to a plagiarism detecting service such as turnitin.com. Your enrolling in the course and electing to stay in it constitutes your agreeing to submit your work as your instructor requires.

### ***Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy***

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an

assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor.

### ***Students with Disabilities Policy***

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

### ***Visitors in the Classroom***

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

### ***Electronic Media Policy***

You may use the following electronic media solely for educational purposes in this class: laptops, iPads (and similar machines, e.g., Kindles), and cell phones. I may ask that you show me what's on your screen at any given time, just to make sure that you are engaged in the course. Please note that you may not send text messages and make phone calls during class time. Either turn off your cell phone (unless that's where a text we're working with resides) or silence it. Also note that you may not check email or surf the net during class time. If you anticipate an emergency contact during class, please let me know that ahead of time.

### ***The Academic Success Center***

The Sam Houston Academic Success Center, located in Farrington 111, is open from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, and 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Sunday. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one at any stage of the writing process (brainstorming, generating a draft, organizing a draft, or revising a draft) for any written assignment. The ASC operates on an appointment system, so please call (936) 294-3680 to schedule a session with a writing tutor. (Hours are subject to change; see website for up-to-date hours and other information.)

### ***The Syllabus Defined***

A syllabus is a living entity that grows from the first of the semester till the last and comprises every assignment and handout that you receive. I may need to adjust assignments according to the pace of the class or unforeseen changes to the calendar.

Date	Out-of-Class Assignments (to be completed before class)	In-Class
January		
1		Intro to Poetry and discussion
23	<i>Teaching Adolescent Writers (TAW)</i> Chapter 1; Log Write 1; rough draft of Six Word Memoir	General introduction, TAW Ch 1 discussion, mini-peer review of six word memoir
25	Finish draft of Six Word Memoir, Read TAW Chapter 2, Log write 2	Introductions; Mapping our Writing Process: Assign E1