

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: ENGL 2341
Introduction to Fiction

Instructor: Rob Knight
Office: Building 3—Room 316K
SPC Office Phone: 806-716-4889
E-Mail: Use Course Messages to communicate
Class Times: MW—1:00 PM
Office Hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12:30-1:00 PM	2:00-2:30 PM	12:30-1:00 PM	2:00-2:30 PM	AM by appointment
4:00-5:00 PM	4:00-5:00 PM	4:00-5:00 PM	4:00-5:00 PM	
	6:00-7:00 PM	6:00-7:00 PM		

Course Description: This course includes a critical study of, and writing about, a variety of short stories and novels.

Course Purpose: English 2341 introduces students to selected works of fiction. Works studied may be those considered “great works,” or a representative selection from geographic regions or time periods, or centered on certain themes. This course includes the general historical background, as well as the principles of literary criticism appropriate to the literary genre of fiction.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1302

Text: None. Instructor will provide access to all stories, plays and poems, etc.

Necessary Resources:

You are required to have access to the following technologies:

- High-speed Internet connection
- SPC Blackboard account
- Microsoft Word—a free copy is available through SPC. Papers must be in .doc or .docx formatted and in MLA format.
- Adobe Reader (Free download online)
- Flash Drive/ Thumb Drive/Google Drive/Drop Box/etc. to store each of your typed assignments for this course.

Save often to avoid heartache later: “My computer crashed with my assignment on it, so I had to start over, and that’s why my paper is late,” is not an acceptable excuse. Save your work in numerous places, and save it frequently.

- Registering at remind.com. This registration will allow me to send emergency notifications to you. A link to this website will be posted on Blackboard.

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

1. Critically evaluate works of fiction in terms of the elements of fiction (plot, setting, characterization, symbolism, tone, point of view, figurative language, etc.)
2. Understand the biographical, cultural, and historical contexts of fictional works written during particular time periods
3. Evaluate the distinguishing characteristics of works of fiction, especially in order to analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods

4. Show an understanding and refinement of the skills of expository and argumentative writing already developed in English 1301 and 1302
5. Apply critical thinking to the study of drama and to the writing of analytical papers
6. Use a library and relevant internet sources for research purposes
7. Research and write an accurately documented paper, using MLA style or other assigned documentation style
8. Participate in class discussions or group work over the literature in the course

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A pre- and post-test or writing assignment rubric may be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

Grading Policy:

Reaction Papers	70%.—All reaction papers will use MLA format and be submitted as a .doc or .docx file and submitted through Turnitin on Blackboard. A content module will be available for that.
Research Project	20%— 50% Thesis Statement and Full Outline Rough Draft Peer Review 50% Final Paper
Misc.	10%
Final Exam	Optional and supplemental to grade

(This policy may be changed at the instructor’s discretion. Students will be notified of any changes.)

Research Project

You will be required to complete a multi-part research project over the course of the semester. Details for this assignments can be found in Blackboard. Late work will not be accepted for any reason.

Due Dates

Due dates are posted on the course calendar, and are firm. I do not grant extensions or allow late work for any reason. Work submitted after the due date will not be evaluated and will receive a grade of 0.

You assume the responsibility for your technology. I suggest three things:

1. Have a backup plan in place from day one, just in case your technology fails.
2. After submitting an assignment, return to the assignment submission before the due date and make sure it’s been submitted properly. If it’s not submitted properly by the due date, you will not receive credit for it, regardless of whether or not you thought the paper had submitted.
3. Don’t wait until the last minute to submit assignments. If you have trouble, but no one is available to help you, you will still not able to submit the assignment late.

You are responsible for making sure your work has been submitted properly.

Assignment Submission

I cannot accept any assignment via email, for any reason. All files must be submitted via the assignment tool in the Blackboard modules. It is your responsibility to make sure the assignment submitted properly *before* the due date. No documents will be accepted after the submission deadline has passed, for any reason.

Additionally, all files must be submitted as .doc or.docx documents (Microsoft Word). **I cannot accept .gdoc, .pages, .odt, .rtf, or .txt files.** If you submit anything other than a .docx file, you will be given a 0 for that assignment and will not be allowed to make it up.

Style Guide

We will use the MLA style guide for formatting and documentation in this course. Specific rules regarding this particular style guide can be found in the MLA content area on Blackboard. All documents you submit should be formatted using MLA standards, and all citations you write, whether in-text or on a Works Cited page, should follow MLA guidelines for citation.

Essay/Paper Assessment Guidelines:

Essays may earn grades ranging from A to F based on the instructor's grading scale. Depending on the assignment, certain criteria may be weighted more than others, and the instructor's assignment may establish additional, more specific criteria. The quality of each of the criteria determines the letter grade. Not every essay will fit a single grade's description completely. Instructors may also include process assignments and drafts in their assessment of the final grade.

“A” Essay (Superior)

To earn an “A,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences strongly support the thesis, and body paragraphs are unified around their topic sentences. The essay conveys a clear purpose and is tailored to a distinctive audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain abundant, fresh details and examples that provide specific, concrete, logical evidence. If sources are required, the paper accurately integrates and correctly documents credible source material to add insight, sophistication, and complexity to the paper’s ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is excellent and logical (emphatic order, chronological order, etc.), transitions are sophisticated, and the paper exhibits mastery of basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and is virtually free of other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety (simple, compound, complex) are effective and powerful.

“B” Essay (Strong)

To earn a “B,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences directly support the thesis, and body paragraphs display unity. The essay conveys good awareness of purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs are well-developed with specific details, examples, and sound logic. If sources are required, the paper accurately uses and correctly documents credible source material to supplement its ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is clear and helpful, transitions are helpful, and the paper exhibits strong basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than two major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and very few other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“C” Paper (Acceptable)

To earn a “C,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** A thesis is stated but may lack a strong claim or be obvious or predictable; topic sentences adequately support the thesis. One error in paragraph unity may occur. The essay’s purpose and audience are adequately conveyed.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain relevant details or logical reasons but need more specific examples/evidence. If sources are required, credible outside sources are usually integrated and cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization of ideas is satisfactory, transitions are logical, and the paper indicates competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than four major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Some other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors are present but not distracting. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“D” Paper (Developing)

To earn a “D,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper only partially fulfills one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis may announce the topic but no claim, contain more than one idea, or be too vague, too broad, or too narrow. Topic sentences are not tied to the thesis. Two errors in paragraph unity may occur. Essay conveys little awareness of audience or purpose.
3. **Support:** Details are sparse or vague and consist of generalizations, clichés, or repetition. If applicable, sources are insufficient and/or not always integrated or cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is attempted but disjointed or confusing; transitions are sparse. The paper indicates awareness of but not competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than six major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Several other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors distract from the content. Informal word choices occur with little or no variety in sentence type and length.

“F” Paper (Unacceptable)

To earn an “F,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper fails to fulfill one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis is illogical, incomplete, or missing, so the essay lacks focus on one central idea. Topic sentences are missing, so body paragraphs lack unity. The essay ignores the purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Details are illogical, irrelevant, or missing from body paragraphs. If sources are required, the paper fails to use sources, does not meet the minimum source requirements, uses source material inaccurately, uses sources that are not credible, fails to document fully or correctly, and/or includes plagiarism.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is incoherent, transitions are missing or illogical, or the paper indicates lack of competence in basic paper components (for example, lack of introduction and/or conclusion, lack of paragraphing).
5. **Sentence Skills:** Seven or more major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) occur with numerous other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice is often inaccurate, immature, or inappropriate. Multiple sentence structure/syntax errors make the paper difficult or almost impossible to read. If one type or a combination of types of errors, regardless of whether they are major or minor, seriously affects the readability of a paper, it will receive an “F.”

Attendance Policy:

An absence is defined as the following:

- Failure to attend a scheduled class
- Missing more than 20 minutes of a class or 30 minutes of a Tuesday night class
- Leaving a class early without obtaining approval from the instructor
- Three tardies to a class (Tardy is arriving 5 minutes after class starts up to the time for an absence to be counted)

4 absences are allowed in a MW class.

In accordance with college policy, students may be dropped from classes at the discretion of the professor due to excessive absences. **All absences, excused and unexcused, are included in this count.** A differentiation is not made between “excused” or “unexcused” absences. Whenever possible, students should let the instructor know about expected absences as soon as possible and before the class meeting. After you exceed the allotted number of absences, you could be dropped from the class with an “F” or “X”.

Students are responsible for dropping themselves if they cannot or no longer wish to participate in the course. If a student does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, that student may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student’s responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call 806-716-4606 or visit the Disability Services Office in Building 8 at Reese Center.

Statement of Nondiscrimination:

It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Statement of Diversity:

In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at: (http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Classroom Rules:

BE PREPARED. Being prepared means that the student has carefully read all required readings and completed any out-of-class writing assignments.

BE PROFESSIONAL: All actions and words should reflect kindness and respect for both the instructor and all other students. I will not tolerate rude, disrespectful, or unprofessional behavior directed at any member of this class. Disruptive behavior is not restricted to behavioral issues alone; it can include interruptions from cell phones, iPods/mp3 players, sidebar conversations, or beeping watches. None of these behaviors is conducive to the environment we hope to promote this semester. Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and/or firearms will not be tolerated in the classroom; students under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be abided. Students may bring (quiet) snacks to class, but not full meals – and may consume non-alcoholic beverages in closed containers. Anyone exhibiting disruptive behavior will be asked to leave and counted absent for the day. More than one occurrence may result in other disciplinary actions.

BE HONEST: Honesty is an important part of integrity. Academic integrity is non-negotiable in a university environment. Students who plagiarize the work of another, whether through outright copying off of the internet or other sources or having another person produce the student's work and then claiming the work as the student's own, will receive a 0/F for that particular assignment and could be dropped from the course with an X or F, at the instructor's discretion. There are no extenuating circumstances for cheating of any kind. My recommendation – for the very first offense – will be for a failing grade for the course at a minimum and, very likely, recommendation for suspension from South Plains College. I have zero tolerance for cheating. If I suspect a student or group of students of cheating, I will drop him/her/all involved without discussion. Please believe me when I say that I have ways of determining whether or not a student has cheated that he/she/they cannot get around.

The SPC General Catalog specifically addresses academic integrity as follows: “It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension” (23). “Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers” (23). Students must consult the General Catalog for the college's detailed policies on plagiarism and cheating. Ignorance of the college's policies and procedures is not a viable defense for plagiarism or cheating.

BE MENTALLY PRESENT: The use of any electronic devices (cell phones, iPhones, iPods, Blackberry, or any other device) will not be tolerated. Your cell phone needs to be set to silent, not vibrate and out of sight; texting under the desk/in your lap is NOT out of sight. Any student using a cell phone, iPod, or any other electronic device not previously approved by the instructor will not be dismissed for the day, but will be counted absent; I will not interrupt class to dismiss you. (However, I understand that sometimes emergencies occur. If you need to have your cell phone on during class for an emergency, please discuss it with me before class begins that day.) Laptops will be allowed only with prior approval.

COMMUNICATION: Please contact me through the Message portal in Blackboard and not via Email. I typically check my messages twice a day (Monday-Thursday), once in the afternoon and once again in the late evening. If you have a question, please feel free to message me through Blackboard; however, please allow at least 24 hours for a response. Additionally, I do not check my messages on weekends until Sunday evening; Students should limit messages to “quick” questions. My office hours or appointments are the best way to address more complex questions and concerns about the course. If the answer to

your question can be found on the course website or in the syllabus, please do not message me as I will only refer you to one of these sources. Please note: you will find my response in your SPC BlackBoard messages.

I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communication with me, including email correspondence. "Sooooooooooooooooo B4 u snd me a msg. B sure i can read it Students must use proper grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Students should never ask that I respond ASAP and should refrain from using ALL CAPS and excessive punctuation in the subject line of the email.

GRADING TIME FRAMES: I grade all work as efficiently and quickly as possible. When your assignments are evaluated, you will have them back; please do not inquire as to whether or not your papers/exams are graded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Any information sent-out via announcements in emails or posted as an announcement on the course website is important and is, accordingly, an extension of assignment requirements and syllabus policies. Students must read all announcements and will be held responsible for any information posted in the announcements.

FINAL COURSE AVERAGES: At the end of the semester, there is always a temptation for a student to email professors and ask, "Is there anything I can do to make a [insert grade here] in your class." The quick answer is "No." The longer answer is this: throughout the semester, you are given numerous opportunities to earn grades in this course. At the end of the semester, it is too late to do anything. I rarely give extra credit or drop grades; however, you have many participation grades, essay-participation grades (most of which are completion grades), and opportunities to "help" you. The most efficient and effective way to achieve a desirable grade in this course is to attend each class and be prepared with all materials and readings and submit all course work in a timely manner. If you do what is required of you, you will be successful. Remember: What you put into this course is what you will get out of it.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR: Students are responsible for completing the critical reading, writing, and grammar assignments as identified in the weekly summaries. As this is a college-level course, students are responsible for their own time and course-management strategies. This being said, the course is designed for the critical reading, rhetorical strategies, and grammar assignments to be completed on the appropriate due date as outlined in the schedule.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- * Have a backup plan in place from day one in case your technology fails.
- * Do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment. If no one is available to help you, you will still not be able to submit the assignment late.
- * After submitting an assignment, return to the assignment submission before the due date and make sure it has been submitted properly. If it has not been submitted properly, resubmit it.
- * Blackboard support hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Student support is available by e-mailing blackboard@southplainscollege.edu or calling (806) 716-2180. When e-mailing a request for help, include your full name, course enrolled, name of instructor and a phone number where you can be reached.

This syllabus and schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Continued enrollment by the student in the course indicates that the student agrees and will abide by all policies set-forth in this syllabus by the instructor.