

English 2341 Syllabus (Spring 2020)

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***Email is the best way to contact me.**

Contact

The best way to contact me is via email (see above). If you have problems, simply contact me. I'm here to help.

I work hard to reply to emails within 24 hours Monday-Thursday and Friday during my office hours.

Catalog 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.

Required Texts

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Feed by M.T. Anderson

Course 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

Course Work

Reader Response Papers (x4)	40%
Reading Quizzes and Summaries	30%
Final Project/Essay	20%
Final Exam	10%

Grade Availability

You will always have access to your current grades. Simply click on the My Grades link to view individual assignment grades and your current course grade. You should check your grades weekly.

Grading Timeline

I will try to get your major assignments graded within two weeks. As soon as assignments are graded, they will be available under the My Grades tab. You can also review feedback for your essays.

Reading Responses

Each novel will have a Reading Response mini-essay. Students only need to submit four of these. Extra credit will be given for every additional essay submitted.

Submitting Essays

You will submit papers and reading responses under the Writing Assignments tab on Blackboard.

- Papers must be saved and submitted as Microsoft Word files (.doc or .docx). These are the only formats that Turnitin will readily accept.
- If I can't open your file, it will receive a zero.
- All written work must be formatted according to MLA style. (See link under the Links tab and MLA Handout under the Handouts tab.)
- Once your paper has been graded, you will be able to view my feedback.

Late Work Policy

In order to treat all students fairly, late work will not be accepted in this course, unless there are extreme circumstances. This is an online course, so you will have a week to complete minor assignments (like discussion board posts, homework, reading quizzes, etc.). All major assignment due dates are on the Course Schedule. See below.

Methods of Evaluation

Student work is evaluated by means of A, B, C, D, and F: Superior, Good, Average, Poor, and Unacceptable. Numerical grades are assigned for convenience in averaging grades only. Essays and writing assignments will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Use of the conventions of standard grammar.
2. Use of the appropriate method of development for the assignment.
3. Use of the principles of unity and coherence.
4. Use of logical, factual arguments to advance the thesis of the assignment.

Academic Integrity

The guidelines set forth in the South Plains College catalog will be followed. From the catalog:

Cheating: Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. 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.

Plagiarism: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism is another word for academic dishonesty and is a form of theft. All of the writing and the ideas in your writing (e.g., journals) must be your own. Any attempt to pass off the work of someone else as your own will result in an F for the course.

Failure to comply with this policy **will** result in a '0' (no credit) for the assignment and can result in an "F" for the course if circumstances warrant. Please note that essays cannot be "recycled" – reusing previous essays that you have written is still a form of academic dishonesty. All writing in this class must be new and original.

Turnitin

Work and essays written **MUST** be submitted to Turnitin via Blackboard. An unfavorable Turnitin report may result in a zero for the assignment. A failure to upload to Turnitin will result in a zero for the written work, regardless of quality.

Blackboard, Internet Access, and Word Processors

Blackboard is the website host for our class, where you are able to view and access homework, view and print out class *PowerPoint* lessons, check your grades, view the syllabus, and utilize additional links. You will need internet access and a word processor to complete your homework assignments. If you do not have a computer or reliable internet access, you will need to plan time into your weekly schedule to use the SPC computer labs on the Levelland, Reese, or ATC campuses or find a computer with reliable, fast internet access and a word processor that you can use on a regular basis. Access our Blackboard course from the SPC homepage: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/> or at:

<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>

Frequently, you will need to view *PowerPoint* presentations and *Microsoft Word* files, as found under the *Course Content* tab. In order to fully participate in the course, you will need access to *Microsoft Office*. SPC provides *Office 365* for free for all students. You can download the programs here:

<https://office.com>

Reading Assignments

Assigned reading is a requirement for this course. Readings will be assigned every week. Any information discussed in the assigned reading may be included in your exam or reading quizzes, even if it was not explicitly mentioned in the lecture or PowerPoints.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive. Any student who misses more than four (4) class sessions could be dropped from the course. An absence is defined as failing to attend class or leaving class without the instructor's approval. If you are unprepared for class, you may be asked to leave and will be given an absence. Furthermore, a student will be counted as absent for every two tardies.

Cell Phones and Technology

Please do not use your cell phones during class except in the event of an emergency (talk with me about it first). Put your phone on silent, and do **NOT** text message during class.

- If you are expecting an important call or emergency call, quietly step outside in order to avoid disturbing your fellow students.
- If you use your cell phone during class, you will be asked to leave. You will be counted absent.
- Personal laptops and tablets must remain closed and powered off during class, unless otherwise stated.

Classroom Etiquette

Since you are college students, you are expected to conduct yourselves professionally:

1. Be respectful.
2. Bring all necessary materials (textbooks, notebook, writing utensil, etc.) to each class.
3. Any person disrupting class will be asked to leave.
4. Come to class prepared.

Tips for Success

1. Professional Writing. Your written work and communication should reflect that you are in a composition course. All essays should be written in scholarly, Standard Academic English.
2. Communicate. If you do not understand the assignment, call or email me. I am here to help you! However, try to contact me in a timely fashion. Do not email me the night before an assignment is due. I work hard to respond to emails within 24 hours, except on the weekends.
3. Be Organized. Give yourself enough time to complete each assignment. Do not fall behind in the course.
4. Be Studious. Internet courses require self-discipline, organization, and motivation. You need to set aside time each week to "attend" this class.

Note to 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 or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland

(Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Diversity Statement

In this class, the instructor will endeavor to 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 participants to learn about others, about the larger world, and about themselves.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

As your instructor, I do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status. You can find SPC's Non-Discrimination Policy Statement online.

****Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus, policies, and schedule at any point during the semester. Students will be notified of any changes.**

Schedule

Note: This is **NOT** your homework calendar; it is a brief overview of the material the course will cover. This is a tentative schedule, so the course may deviate from this if I deem it necessary. There will be weekly readings and assignments. A new schedule will be handed out during Week 4.

Week 1

M, January 13th – Welcome to 2341! Plagiarism Review, Ways to Contact Me

W, January 15th – Overview of Fiction, History of Young Adult Literature, Summary and Analysis, Introduce *The Outsiders*

Week 2

M, January 20th – MLK Holiday – No Class

W, January 22nd – Shapes of Stories, Bildungsroman, *The Outsiders*

Week 3

M, January 27th – *The Outsiders* (continued)

W, January 29th – *The Outsiders* (continued) and Introduce *The Catcher in the Rye*

***The Outsiders* Reading Response due Sunday by 11:59pm**

Week 4

M, February 3rd – *The Catcher in the Rye* (continued)

W, February 5th – *The Catcher in the Rye* (continued)

Week 5

M, February 10th – *The Catcher in the Rye* (continued)

W, February 12th – *The Catcher in the Rye* (continued)

***The Catcher in the Rye* Reading Response due Sunday by 11:59pm**