

South Plains College

ENGL 2332: World Literature I

Summer I 2026 | Asynchronous Online

Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Buffy Rattan, Professor of English and Chair, Department of English and Philosophy

Office Location: Communications-English Building, CME 106, SPC Levelland Campus

Office Hours: By appointment. Email me to schedule a Zoom or phone meeting. I will respond to appointment requests within 24 hours Monday through Thursday.

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Email Policy: Email is the best way to reach me. I check email regularly Monday through Thursday and will respond within 24 hours on those days. I do not guarantee responses to emails sent after 5:00 PM on Thursdays until the following Monday. Always email from your SPC student email account and include the course number (ENGL 2332) in your subject line.

Course Information

Department: English and Philosophy

Division: Arts and Sciences

Course Number: ENGL 2332

Course Title: World Literature I

Format: Asynchronous Online

Credit Hours: 3 | Lecture: 3 | Lab: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 Composition I

Course Description: This course is a survey of world literature from the ancient world through the sixteenth century, which helped to shape modern literature, language, and culture. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts, along with the principles of literary criticism appropriate to the literature. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors and traditions.

Core Curriculum

This course satisfies the Language, Philosophy, and Culture component area of the Texas Core Curriculum (Component Area 060).

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

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

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
- Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the historical, social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
- Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
- Apply critical thinking to the study of literature and to the writing of analytical essays.
- Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

Assessment: A proctored diagnostic essay administered in Week 1 via Honorlock establishes a writing baseline for the course. Student learning outcomes are assessed through Perusall annotations, unit study guides, a midterm exam, two hand-graded essays, and a final exam.

Required Texts and Materials

All required readings are provided at no cost through Blackboard, course reserves, or open-access digital editions. You do not need to purchase a textbook.

Provided texts by unit:

- **Unit 1 (Ancient World):** *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (excerpts: Tablets I, VI, XI); Sophocles, *Antigone*
- **Unit 2 (Medieval World):** Marie de France, "Bisclavret" and "Laustic"; *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Parts 1 and 4; summaries of Parts 2 and 3 provided)
- **Unit 3 (Late Medieval and Renaissance):** Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (General Prologue; Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale; Miller's Tale); Michel de Montaigne, "Of Cannibals"

Supplies: Reliable access to a computer and internet connection; SPC student email account; Google account (create for free); Adobe Reader (free download).

Technology Requirements

SPC Username and Password: Email helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-2600.

SPC Student Email: You must activate your SPC student email before the first day of class. Your address is yourSPCusername@southplainscollege.edu. All course communication must use your SPC email account. I will not respond to emails sent from personal accounts.

Blackboard: All assignments, readings, announcements, and grades are accessed through Blackboard at <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>. Log in with your SPC credentials.

Google Docs: Both hand-graded essays must be composed from start to finish in Google Docs. See the Written Assignments section for the full policy. Set up a free account at <https://docs.google.com> using your SPC credentials.

Perusall: Perusall is the social annotation platform used for all reading assignments. Access is through Blackboard.

Honorlock: Honorlock is the online proctoring platform used for the diagnostic essay, midterm exam, and final exam. Honorlock requires a webcam, a microphone, and Google Chrome with the Honorlock extension installed. Install the extension before June 1. Technical support: <https://honorlock.com/support>

Office 365: As an SPC student, you have free access to Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and 1TB of OneDrive storage. Access at <https://www.office.com> using your SPC credentials.

Computer Help

- SPC Help Desk: helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu | 806-716-2600
- Blackboard Help: blackboard@southplainscollege.edu | 806-716-2180
- Open computer labs are available on all SPC campuses for students with a valid SPC ID.

A note on technology failures: Computer and internet problems happen. It is your responsibility to identify backup resources now, before you need them. A technology failure is not an automatic extension. Contact me before a deadline if you are experiencing a problem that will affect your ability to submit on time.

Writing and Tutoring Help

Tutoring services are free to all SPC students.

- SPC Writing Center (Levelland, Downtown Lubbock, Plainview): writingcenter@southplainscollege.edu | 806-716-2538
- Tutoring appointments and drop-in schedule: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

- **Brainfuse:** 180 free minutes of online tutoring per week, available through the Blackboard menu. Available nights and weekends; hours reset every Monday morning.

Course Organization

The course runs five weeks, June 1 through July 2, 2026, organized into three units. Each unit has its own folder on the Course Content page in Blackboard containing readings, background notes, study guides, and assignment instructions. Log in to Blackboard frequently — I post announcements regularly, and in a five-week course, missing a day matters more than it would in a sixteen-week semester.

Course weeks run Monday through Sunday. The standard assignment deadline is 11:59 PM unless otherwise specified in the assignment. Check the Course Calendar for all due dates. There are multiple due dates per week in a summer course.

Campus closure: Campus is closed Friday, June 19 (Juneteenth). No assignments are due on that date. The Honorlock Midterm Exam window opens June 19 but does not close until June 20, so the closure does not affect your ability to complete it.

Official Census Day: If you have not submitted any assignments by the Official Census Day, your access to the course will be blocked and the Registrar's Office will remove you from the class roll. The census day falls at the end of Week 1. Do not wait to get started.

Grade Calculation

A final letter grade will be assigned based on the following scale: A (90–100), B (80–89), C (70–79), D (60–69), F (59 and below).

Assignment	Weight
Perusall Annotations (all units)	20%
Unit Study Guides (all units)	10%
Honorlock Midterm Exam	15%
Midpoint Essay	15%
Final Essay	20%
Honorlock Final Exam	20%

View your current grade at any time by clicking **My Grades** in the Blackboard menu. There is no extra credit in this course.

Assignment Descriptions

Perusall Annotations (20%)

You will complete a Perusall annotation assignment for each major text in the course (one per text, six total). Perusall scores your annotations automatically based on the quality and depth of your engagement — not simply the number of annotations you post. Depositing low-effort comments to hit a minimum will not earn full credit.

Each assignment requires: a minimum annotation count (set in Perusall); a substantive response to at least one instructor anchor question embedded in the text (minimum three sentences that make a claim and support it with reference to the text); and a direct response to at least one classmate's comment that pushes the conversation rather than simply agreeing. Annotations spread across the full reading score better than annotations clustered at the beginning.

Perusall assignments are graded complete/partial/incomplete based on meeting these thresholds. Start early. Perusall tracks when you begin and rewards reading in sessions rather than in one sitting.

Unit Study Guides (10%)

Each unit has an instructor-prepared study guide covering background notes and reading questions for the assigned texts. Study guides are submitted to Blackboard and graded complete/incomplete on submission. Complete means every question is answered in full sentences; a question left blank or answered in fragments will result in an incomplete for the entire guide. Study guides are not graded for quality — they are accountability and preparation tools. They are also your primary study resource for the exams.

No late work is accepted for study guides. See the Late Work Policy.

Honorlock Diagnostic Essay (ungraded)

The diagnostic essay is administered in Week 1 via Honorlock (opens Wednesday, June 4 at 8:00 AM; closes Thursday, June 5 at 11:59 PM). You have 45 minutes. A short passage will be provided in the exam window; you will write a close reading of that passage. No prior knowledge of the text is required.

This essay does not receive a grade or appear in Blackboard's gradebook. Its purpose is to establish a clear record of your unaided writing before the course is underway. This baseline matters, and you will not be able to proceed with the course if you do not complete it. If your graded essays look dramatically different from your diagnostic, I will request a conversation about it. Take it seriously and write as well as you can.

Honorlock Midterm Exam (15%)

The midterm exam covers Units 1 and 2 (*Gilgamesh*, *Antigone*, Marie de France, *Sir Gawain*). It opens Thursday, June 19 at 8:00 AM and closes Saturday, June 20 at 11:59 PM. You have 60 minutes. Format: passage identification, short-answer context questions, and one analytical

paragraph (8–10 sentences) arguing a specific claim about one assigned text. You may not use notes or outside resources.

Midpoint Essay (15%)

A 1–2 page analytical essay due Monday, June 22 at 11:59 PM. Submit to Blackboard as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file. Must be composed from start to finish in Google Docs. Three prompts are available in the Course Calendar document; choose one. MLA 9th edition format required.

The 24-hour late extension policy applies to this assignment.

Final Essay (20%)

A 2–3 page analytical essay due Sunday, June 28 at 11:59 PM. Submit to Blackboard as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file. Must be composed in Google Docs. Prompts are available in the Course Calendar document. This essay requires you to put two texts from different units in genuine conversation around a shared problem of your choice. MLA 9th edition format required.

The 24-hour late extension policy applies to this assignment.

Honorlock Final Exam (20%)

The final exam covers all three units. It opens Wednesday, July 1 at 8:00 AM and closes Thursday, July 2 at 8:00 PM. You have 75 minutes. Format: passage identification, short-answer context questions, and one analytical paragraph on a text from Unit 3. You may not use notes or outside resources.

Essay Assessment Guidelines

Essays are assessed on four criteria: thesis, evidence, analysis, and prose. The rubric for each essay is included with the assignment prompt in the Course Calendar document. The following general guidelines describe the qualities that distinguish each letter grade. Not every essay will fit a single grade's description exactly; the overall quality of all four criteria determines the final grade.

"A" Essay (Superior)

Fulfills all requirements of the assignment. States a specific, arguable thesis that is neither obvious nor predictable. Body paragraphs develop the thesis with specific, concrete textual evidence that is accurately quoted and correctly cited in MLA format. Analysis explains what the evidence means rather than summarizing it. Organization is logical and purposeful; transitions are sophisticated. The essay contains no major grammatical errors and is virtually free of other errors. Sentence variety and word choice are effective.

"B" Essay (Strong)

Fulfills all requirements. States a clear thesis. Evidence is specific and well-chosen; sources are correctly documented. Analysis connects evidence to the thesis. Organization is clear;

transitions are helpful. No more than two major errors; few other errors. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

"C" Essay (Acceptable)

Fulfills requirements. Thesis is stated but may be obvious or lack a strong claim. Evidence is present but may need more specificity. Analysis is present but may describe more than it explains. Organization is satisfactory. No more than four major errors; some other errors present but not distracting.

"D" Essay (Developing)

Partially fulfills one or more requirements. Thesis may announce a topic without making a claim, or may be too vague or broad. Evidence is sparse or general. Analysis is limited; the essay may summarize more than it argues. Organization is attempted but disjointed. No more than six major errors; multiple other errors distract from content.

"F" Essay (Unacceptable)

Fails to fulfill one or more basic requirements. Thesis is missing, illogical, or incomplete. Evidence is absent, inaccurate, or fabricated. Analysis is missing or irrelevant. Organization is incoherent. Seven or more major errors, or errors of any kind that make the paper difficult to read. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including AI-generated content, results in an automatic F for the assignment.

General Guidelines for Written Assignments

All major essays must meet the requirements of the assignment prompt and be formatted in MLA 9th edition. A quick formatting overview is available at <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>. Final drafts must be double-spaced, written in a 12-point readable font, with one-inch margins on all sides. The essay title should be centered; the body should be left-aligned. A correct MLA heading and running header are required. Formatting errors will result in a point deduction.

Google Docs requirement: Both hand-graded essays must be written from start to finish in Google Docs to preserve a complete draft and edit history. When submitting, download from Google Docs as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf and upload to Blackboard. Incorrect file types are considered late until the correct file is submitted. It is your responsibility to confirm that your submission uploaded correctly and is readable in the Blackboard preview. Blank or corrupt files are considered late until properly resubmitted.

Student Responsibilities

- Log in to Blackboard frequently — at minimum every two to three days. In a five-week session, missing several days means missing significant course content.

- Be responsible for the learning process, including completing all readings before annotation deadlines, submitting assignments on time, and accepting responsibility for your own performance.
- Use appropriate academic language in all written work and course communications.
- Behave respectfully toward the instructor and classmates in all course interactions.
- Track your own grades in Blackboard and contact me if you have questions about your progress.
- Submit all assignments in the correct format by the stated deadline.
- Avoid all forms of cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized AI usage.
- Ask questions when something is unclear. I would always rather answer a question than grade a misunderstanding.

Attendance

There is no on-campus attendance requirement for this course. However, consistent and frequent engagement with Blackboard is the equivalent of attendance in an asynchronous course. I post announcements, clarifications, and supplementary material throughout the week. If you are not logging in regularly, you will miss information that affects your work.

If you have not submitted any assignments by the Official Census Day, your access to the course will be blocked and the Registrar's Office will remove you from the class roll. The census day falls during Week 1 — this is not a distant deadline. Engage with the course from day one.

Late Work Policy

A 24-hour, no-questions-asked extension is available once per student for the Midpoint Essay and the Final Essay only, with a 10-point penalty applied to the final score for that assignment. To use your extension, email me before the original deadline. You do not need to explain; you just need to notify me.

No late work is accepted for any other assignment: Perusall annotations, unit study guides, the introductory discussion post, the syllabus quiz, or any Honorlock assessment. These assignments have fixed windows for a reason, and the compressed timeline of a five-week session does not allow for individual extensions beyond the policy above.

If you are dealing with a documented emergency — illness, family crisis, or other serious circumstances — reach out to Student Services and contact me as early as possible. I am a reasonable person, but I cannot help you retroactively.

Dropping the Class

The last day to drop this course is listed on the SPC academic calendar at <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>. It is your responsibility to withdraw if you decide not to complete the course. Students who stop submitting work without withdrawing will receive the grade they earned, which may be an F. Course grades are available in Blackboard at all times. For more information about drops and withdrawals, visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>

Plagiarism and Cheating

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Do not use words you did not write in any essay or assignment without proper documentation. If you are unsure about what constitutes proper documentation, contact me before the deadline.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to:

- Using AI tools to generate or revise all or part of any assignment (see AI Statement below)
- Submitting work that was purchased, borrowed, downloaded, or produced through unauthorized collaboration
- Cutting and pasting from any source without proper documentation
- Using direct quotations without quotation marks and citation
- Submitting work previously submitted to another course without express approval
- Missing in-text citations and/or works cited entries

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to:

- Using unauthorized resources during any Honorlock assessment
- Sharing exam content with other students
- Taking an assessment for another student or having another student take an assessment for you
- Altering grade records
- Taking pictures of exam content

Plagiarism or cheating will result in an automatic F for the assignment and may result in being dropped from the course with an F. An Academic Dishonesty Report may be filed with the Dean of Students.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

The learning outcomes of ENGL 2332 depend on your own original reading, writing, and thinking. It is not possible to use generative AI and accomplish these goals. You are expected to refrain from all use of generative AI in the production of your work. This includes tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, or other large language models, as well as software like Grammarly, Chegg, or Quill that uses AI to edit your work. These tools are not permitted for any of the following:

- To generate words, phrases, or sentences used in any assignment
- To generate ideas, claims, or interpretations in place of your own thinking
- To outline, organize, or otherwise direct the composition of your own work
- To revise, elevate, enhance, or rewrite your own originally produced work

Any work containing indications of AI involvement must be verified as original via Google Doc edit history, verbal review, and language analysis. If authorship cannot be verified after exhausting all methods available, the work may be determined to be unethically produced and assigned a zero. **As a student writer in the age of AI, it is your responsibility to protect the integrity of your work and ensure complete ownership of the ideas and language therein.**

Students have the right to decline a verbal review request. If a request for verbal review is not answered within **48 hours** — the compressed timeline of this course requires a faster turnaround than a standard semester — it will be assumed that the student has declined. In doing so, the assignment may be determined in violation of the integrity standards of the course and assigned a zero.

Fabrication and Misrepresentation of Sources

Fabricating, altering, or misrepresenting quotations or evidence from assigned readings or outside sources constitutes academic dishonesty and will be treated as plagiarism. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Inventing quotations that do not appear in the assigned text or source
- Altering the wording of a quotation while presenting it as a direct quote
- Citing a passage inaccurately or attributing ideas, language, or page numbers to a source where they do not exist
- Paraphrasing so closely that the original language or structure is preserved without proper quotation and citation
- Using secondary summaries — including AI-generated summaries — in place of reading and citing the original assigned text

All quotations must be accurate, verifiable, and clearly connected to the assigned reading or approved source. Any instance of fabricated or misrepresented evidence will result in an F for the assignment and may result in additional academic penalties.

Perusall

You will complete annotation assignments through Perusall for each major text in the course. Perusall is a social annotation platform where you read, annotate, and respond to classmates' comments as part of your ongoing engagement with the texts. These assignments are scored automatically by Perusall based on the quality and depth of your engagement, including some or all of the following criteria:

- Contributing thoughtful questions and comments distributed throughout the entire reading, not clustered at the beginning

- Starting assignments early and reading in sessions rather than all at once
- Reading all the way through to the end of the assigned text
- Responding substantively to at least one instructor anchor question embedded in the text
- Responding to at least one classmate's comment in a way that advances the conversation
- Posing questions that generate responses from classmates
- Upvoting thoughtful questions and helpful responses

Reading carefully and thinking critically about what you read is the foundation of this course. Start Perusall assignments early. The platform tracks your engagement patterns, and a single rushed session scores significantly lower than reading done across multiple sittings.

Institutional Policies and Statements

For official South Plains College policies on the following topics, visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/> :

- Intellectual Exchange Statement
- Disabilities Statement
- Non-Discrimination Statement
- Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations
- CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team
- Campus Concealed Carry

Health and Wellness

Any student needing individual counseling for issues such as depression, anxiety, stress management, or substance abuse may visit the Health and Wellness Center to speak confidentially with licensed mental health professionals. Services are free to current SPC students. Levelland Campus: 806-716-2529, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Face-to-face and virtual appointments are available.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies and will notify students of any changes via Blackboard announcement. In a five-week course, changes — if any — will be communicated immediately. It is your responsibility to read Blackboard announcements.