

**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY: FALL 2015**  
**ENGLISH 115: LITERATURE**



**Instructor:**  
**Off. Hours:** TBA

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**Course Objectives:**

The course is intended to introduce you to different types of literature as well as the qualities which make a piece of writing into literature, and the value and place that literature has in everyday life. The course will also familiarize you with terms and concepts used in discussing literature, and with writing effectively and persuasively on literary texts and issues and ideas deriving from them.

**Requirements:**

**Examinations:** There will be two Midterm Exams and a *comprehensive* Final Exam.

**Quizzes:** These are short essays written in class on topics based on the texts being covered in the course.

**Class Writing and Activities:** There will be occasional brief writing assignments, usually responses to particular examples of literature, as well as other activities such as presentations or readings/performances.

**Attendance and Participation:**

You will be required to attend all classes, and to participate fully in classroom discussion and activities. It is thus particularly important that you read each day's assigned text/texts before the class.

**Attendance Policy:** According to NSU policy, if you have THREE consecutive absences, or FIVE absences over the course of the semester, you will be automatically dropped from the course. You should also come to class in time: every three late appearances will count as one absence.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism or copying/cheating of *any kind* is a very serious offense, and will be penalized accordingly. Remember that if you use the words (even just a few words) *and/or ideas* of another writer in your own work, and do not document it in the approved format, then you are plagiarizing.

**Grading:**

Your final grade will be decided as follows:

Midterm & Final Exams:	50% (15+15+20)
Quizzes:	25% (5X5)
Class Writing/Activities:	15%
Attendance & Participation:	10 %

**Required Texts:**

An *English 115 Course Reader* for the current semester will be available at NSU photocopy center – note that the contents of the reader will be changed regularly.

- Additional texts/readings as well as other material will be given to you as handouts in class, and should be considered as part of the required texts of the course.

**Official Grade Conversion Scale**

*This scale is used in English courses to convert numerical scores to letter grades.*

	76-77% = C+
90-100% = A	70-75% = C
88-89% = A-	68-69% = C-
86-87% = B+	66-67% = D+
80-85% = B	60-65% = D
78-79% = B-	Below 60% = F

**Cellphone Policies:**

All cellphones must be switched off or muted and put away during class as a matter of policy. After the first warning, any infractions WILL BE PENALIZED with reduced or negative marks, with NO EXCEPTIONS.

## **English 115 Course Schedule**

We will generally follow this schedule, but keep in mind that it is provisional, and may be changed.

- Class 1 – Course introduction; Writing sample
- Class 2 – Writing Basics: Topics, Theses, Paragraphs, Persuasive Essays.
- Class 3 – What is Literature: Terms and Concepts
- Class 4 – Terms and Concepts continued: What is Fiction.
- Class 5 – Story 1
- Class 6 – Story 2
- Class 7 – Story 3
- Class 8 – Story 4
- Class 9 – Writing on Literature and Fiction: Story 5
- Class 10 – Story 6

### Midterm 1

- Class 11 – What is Poetry; Poems
- Class 12 – Poems
- Class 13 – Poems
- Class 14 – Poems
- Class 15 – Poems
- Class 16 – Writing on Poetry: Poems
- Class 17 – Poems

### Midterm 2

- Class 18 – What is Drama
- Class 19 – Play
- Class 20 – Play
- Class 21 – Play
- Class 22 – Play
- Class 23 – Other/Modern forms/developments which are cognate with literature – film, video-games, etc.
- Class 24 – Wrap-up

### Final

### **Notes on tentative English 115 syllabus:**

- The assumption is that the texts in the course reader and the major exams will be common to all sections.
- The selection of stories and poems should be changed every 2 or three semesters.
- These should be a mix of classic and contemporary texts (with a few non-English ones)
- Quizzes should be on the read texts on standard topics like character, conflict, etc. The number should be preferably 6, with the lowest score being dropped, and each should be for 20-30 minutes, the time for a short 4/5 para essay.
- Class writing/activities is meant to give individual teachers some freedom in designing their own short writing tasks and activities (including readings, performances, presentations, posters, etc.), but should include responses (to samples from studies texts, or to unknown/unseen short texts or parts of texts).
- Major exams should include questions on texts read in class, and fresh stories and poems (or parts of the same) in which students would identify and /or explain various features or devices such as metaphors and imagery.
- The inclusion of formal presentations (on major authors or works, perhaps) and papers are possible options, but might pose problems in terms of plagiarism.