

LIBE 150 Critical Perspectives in World Literature

2026 Spring - SYLLABUS



Illustration of *Alice in Wonderland* by John Tenniel, 1865.
[Image Source: Wikimedia Commons]

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Description

(3+0+0) 3 Credits / 5 ECTS

Prerequisites: None, but students must be committed to completing readings and improving critical thinking.

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to literature and literary analysis, focusing on key texts from various historical and cultural contexts.

We will explore different literary genres (epic, lyric, tragedy, allegory, satire, and more) and examine their connection to historical, political, and cultural shifts. We will look at the themes of 'nature,' 'society,' and 'the individual' through critical discussions, readings, and group activities.

The course includes a survey of world literature, covering ancient, medieval, early modern, and contemporary periods, and uses videos and class activities to deepen our understanding of literature's role in shaping and representing human experience.

Course Objectives

- Introduce you to literary and rhetorical devices used in literature and everyday language.
- Engage in critical readings and discussions of key texts from various historical and cultural contexts.
- Help you recognize the influence of historical events on literature.
- Explore literary genres and evolving techniques, such as epic, lyric, tragedy, allegory, and satire.
- Analyze themes like 'the individual,' 'society,' and the relationship between humanity and nature in literature across different periods.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Connect major historical and cultural shifts with changes in literary styles and themes.
- Understand how literature reflects broader historical, social, and political contexts.
- Assess how different literary forms address ideas of ‘nature,’ ‘society,’ and ‘the individual.’
- Discuss how literature’s themes evolve across time, especially in relation to gender, identity, and reality.

Course Materials

- Weekly readings, videos and handouts (provided via LMS).
- Supplementary materials, including online video sources for historical background.
- You must complete all readings and videos before class to actively participate.

Student Workload

- The course will emphasize regular readings, discussions, and critical engagement.
- Expect assignments like journals, quizzes, and participation in group activities.

Planned In-Class Activities

- Lectures, brainstorming, Q&A sessions, in-class quizzes, debates, and group discussions.
- Group work will be an essential part of participation.

Class Readings and Other Course Material

Students must

- regularly complete and think over the assigned readings and videos before each week’s classes through the LIBE 150 SecAll LMS site. Additionally, section-specific announcements and activities will be conducted through the section-based LMS site.

Students are welcome to

- regularly refer to the AI chatbot tool specifically designed for this course on our LIBE 150 SecAll LMS site when they have questions on the assigned readings, videos and topics covered in this course material.
- make appointments for weekly office hours to discuss questions and ideas about the course material whenever necessary.

Assessment Methods

1. Attendance

- Regular attendance and class participation are recommended. Regular attendance **above %80** will be awarded with **extra 5 points**.

2. Class Assignments (15%)

- There will be 3 creative assignments given throughout the term, student will be notified both in-class and on LMS (5 points each).

3. **Quizzes** (20%)
 - Two pop quizzes during the semester (10 points each).
4. **Exams**
 - Midterm Exam (30%)
 - Final Exam (35%)

Grading

- **Class Assignments:** 15%
- **Quizzes:** 20%
- **Midterm:** 30%
- **Final Exam:** 35%

Total: 100%

Course Policies

- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism or copying others' work will not be tolerated.
- **Generative AI:** We will together use and refer to AI sources in our class sessions. Proper attribution for AI-generated content is required. Never use AI in exams.

Professionalism

- Please attend classes regularly, complete reading and viewing assignments on time, and aim to participate in course sessions actively.

Student Services

Psychological Counseling: Available for students in need of support.

Disability Services: Contact the Specialized Support Coordinator if you require accommodations.

WEEKLY TOPICS

WEEK 1: Getting to Know One Another / Introduction to the Course: What is Literature?

WEEK 2: Introduction to Poetry

WEEK 3: Reading Poetry (continued)

WEEK 4: Stories, Storytelling, and Storytellers: Introduction to the Narrative

WEEK 5: Reading and Discussing Stories / Narratives (continued)

WEEK 6: Epic Literature

WEEK 7: Ancient Theatre, Tragedy and Comedy

WEEK 8: The Lyric: From Ancient to Early Modern Poetry

WEEK 9: The Medieval Mind: Allegory and Meaning in Literature

WEEK 10: From Medieval to Early Modern: Frame Stories

WEEK 11: The Rise of the Individual in Early Modern Literature

WEEK 12: Satire and Other Voices in Society

WEEK 13: The 19th Century: Romanticism, Realism, and the Shaping of Modern Identity

WEEK 14: Contemporary Voices: Modernism

WEEK 15: Contemporary Voices: Postmodernism, and Beyond