

LIBE 150
Critical Perspectives in World Literature
2025 SPRING - SYLLABUS

Course Information				
Course Code	Course Name	Location	Time	Instructional Modality
LIBE 150	Critical Perspectives in World Literature	TBA	TBA	F2F with Asynchronous-Online components



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

Instructor Information	
Name:	
Office:	
E-mail:	
Office Hours:	

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Description

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

Prerequisites: None, but you 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 and videos (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, case studies, in-class quizzes, debates, and group discussions.
- Group work will be an essential part of participation.

Class Readings and Office Hours

- Regularly complete the assigned readings and videos.
- Weekly office hours will be available to discuss questions and ideas about the material.

Assessment Methods

1. **Attendance** (4% of final grade)
 - Regular attendance and participation are mandatory. More than 12-hour absence will result in an automatic FX grade.
2. **Active Participation** (6%)
 - Active participation in discussions, debates, and activities.
 - Weekly critical journals (handwritten, 2 submissions: before midterm and final exams, 3 points each) documenting reflections on readings and class discussions.
3. **Quizzes** (20%)
 - Two quiz-like pop checkpoints during the semester (10 points each).
4. **Exams**
 - Midterm Exam (30%)
 - Final Exam (40%)
 - Dates for both exams will be announced ahead of time.

Grading

- **Attendance & Active Participation:** 10%
- **Quizzes:** 20%
- **Midterm:** 30%
- **Final Exam:** 40%

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 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: A Brief Survey of World Literature / From Epic Literature Onwards

WEEK 7: From Epic Literature to Tragedies and Comedies

WEEK 8: Ramadan Holiday - Spring Break - No Class

WEEK 9: The Lyric: From Ancient to Early Modern Poetry

WEEK 10: The Medieval Mind: Allegory and Meaning in Literature

WEEK 11: From Medieval to Early Modern: Frame Stories and Fairy Tales

WEEK 12: The Rise of the Individual in Early Modern Literature

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

WEEK 14: Contemporary Voices: Modernism, Postmodernism, and Beyond

WEEK 15: Happy May 19, Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day! - No Class

Week 16: Drama (From Realism to Postmodernism) // Course Overview and Review Week