

Course Syllabus

ENG 3322

The European Novel

Instructor

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Course Description

Major continental novelists from Cervantes to the present, read in translation. (WI)

Required Textbooks

If you already have copies of the texts, or you can find them in a local library, you need not purchase new ones.

- Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
- Francois-Marie Arouet de Voltaire, *Candide*
- Francois-Rene de Chateaubriand, *Rene*
- Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*
- Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*
- Albert Camus, *The Stranger*
- Thomas Mann, *Death In Venice*
- Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
- Alain Robbe-Grillet, *Jealousy*
- Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- trace the development of the European novel as an art form;
- discuss the techniques of fiction; and
- articulate how the assigned novels reflect social history.

Organization & Lessons

For each literary work, I have provided a brief introduction and a series of questions designed to guide you in your reading. (Note that you are *not* required to submit the answers to these questions.) A good way to study the literary works is to keep a journal as you read. In this journal you can jot down notes about plot, characters, setting, etc., as well as responses to the questions I've posed. These notes can be very useful later as you compose the critical papers and write the essays for the midcourse and final exams (see Written Assignments section below).

In addition to the lessons on each literary work, I have also provided you with lesson content on literary terms, on theories of the novel, and on the history and development of the European novel. All of the lessons and texts should be read in the order in which they are presented.

Course Procedure

Taking a course by correspondence gives you the freedom to work on the course at the time you choose. The disadvantage of taking a correspondence course is that it is easy to procrastinate and possibly fail to make progress toward completing the course. The first time you see the books and lessons you may think the demands are overwhelming. Believe me, they are not!

Remember, you are submitting critical papers, not an article to be published! If you agonize over whether or not a critical paper is perfect, you may develop intellectual paralysis. Stick to the schedule you outline on the [Course Study Schedule](#) and complete the lessons in the course at a steady pace!

The course consists of sixteen lessons, two critical papers, a written midcourse examination, and a written final examination. Most lessons require that you read a substantial selection (or selections) from an assigned novel and answer several questions about that selection. (You will probably want to study these questions before you begin reading the assignments.) Some questions will require more effort than others, but all should be answered as clearly and concisely as possible. You do not need to turn these questions in, as they are for your personal use and preparation for the midcourse and final examinations.

Written Assignments

You will be required to complete two short critical papers of three to five pages in length on individual literary works. The first paper may be on any of the works read in Part I (Lessons 1-6) of the course; the second may be on any of the works read in Part II (Lessons 7-11) of the course. Topics for the papers are found in the topic lists at the end of each lesson. You may compose the critical papers once you have selected and read the literary work you wish to write about from a particular lesson.

Every lesson represents the equivalent of a roughly one-and-a-half-week commitment for a course taken in-residence. Consequently, when it comes to the critical papers, you must plan to spend from fifteen to twenty hours on each reading, organizing your answers, writing a first draft and correcting it, and crafting a final draft.

All written assignments should be your own work in your own words. If you wish to quote from any of the texts, you must document these, using the MLA style of parenthetical documentation. The two critical papers should be double-spaced and submitted via the Assignments tool. All submissions must be either .doc, .docx, or .rtf. (Additional instructions for submission are available in Lessons 6 and 12.)

The following are the procedures for submitting papers and taking exams:

1. Student should submit Critical Paper #1 and wait for its return with critique and grade before taking the midcourse exam. (Please indicate the title of the novel and the topic number in the heading of your paper.)
2. After the midcourse exam has been critiqued and graded by the instructor and returned to the student, the student may submit Paper #2. (Again, please indicate the title of the novel and the topic number in the heading of your paper.)

3. After Paper #2 has been critiqued and graded by the instructor and returned to the student, the student may then take the final exam.

Papers will be submitted via the *Assignments* link at left. Instructions for submission can be found in the course content.

Note: You must wait until a completed assignment is graded and returned to you before submitting a new assignment.

Examinations

In this course there are two essay examinations, a mid-course essay and a final essay. Each essay exam answer will be approximately 500-600 words in length per essay (two essays per exam). You will be given a blue book in which to write these exams using dark ink. Your handwriting should be legible. You will be given two and one-half hours to complete each exam. Exams must be taken at an approved testing facility. For more information on scheduling and taking exams, see the [Correspondence Course Information page](#).

As noted above, only after you have completed and received a grade for Critical Paper #1 may you schedule and take the midcourse exam. And only after you have completed and received a grade for Critical Paper #2 may you schedule and take the final exam.

Grading Criteria

Grades are based on the total number of points earned from the critical papers and the exams. Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Critical Paper #1: 25%
Midcourse Exam: 25%
Critical Paper #2: 25%
Final Exam: 25%

Grades will be given on an A-F scale. There are no plus or minus grades. **Students must make a cumulative grade of 60% or better on the midcourse and final exams to be eligible to pass the course.** Students must pass the Final Exam to pass the course.

Scheduling Your Time

To some extent you can set your own pace in a correspondence course, but it is important that you schedule your time effectively. Remember, you have a maximum of nine months to complete this course. Use the [Course Study Schedule](#) to help you proceed through the course effectively.

Faculty-Student Contact

According to Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education, faculty-student contact is very important. Even though this is a correspondence course, I encourage you to contact me if you have any concerns, questions, or problems. You are welcome to e-mail me by using the Mail tool in the left menu bar. (It is important to keep all mail related to this course contained within this Canvas site.) My policy is that during non-holiday breaks or announced

away times, any email I receive between Monday morning and Friday at noon will receive a reply within 48 hours. Emails received between Friday at noon and Sunday night will receive a reply on the next business day.

Free Tutoring Resources

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. You may access tutoring through Tutor.com by clicking on Tutor.com: 24/7 Online Tutoring in the left menu of this course. Then just respond to the questions to start tutoring. If you need help with writing specifically, then choose Writing as your topic.

Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the University Writing Center. For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning's Free Tutoring page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library

Canvas Technical Support

Texas State's Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) provides phone and LiveChat technical support for Canvas 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. To take advantage of these services, visit [ITAC online](#) or call 512.245.ITAC (4822). Note also that a number of online Canvas tutorials are available from [Canvas Facts](#).

University Honor Code

The [Texas State University Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standard of integrity in all actions related to the academic community.

Students with Special Needs

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we strive to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking. Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](#), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512.245.3451 (voice/TTY).

Students should then notify the [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) at corrstudy@txstate.edu of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.