



## ENGLISH 2040: GREAT BOOKS

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This section of English 2040 studies four classic works of speculative fiction. In this genre, authors stretch the boundaries of reality by extrapolating present-day circumstances into imagined futures, revisionist histories, and alternate realities. By way of narrative identification, literary analysis, and writing about secondary criticism, you will view these short novels in their social and historical contexts while engaging with them as pieces of literature.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are clear deadlines for all assignments; as long as you are attentive to these deadlines, you may work at your own pace. Also, bear in mind that this is an A-term summer course and the workload is compressed from 15 weeks into six weeks.

### HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

In general, I expect three simple things from students: [1] follow the directions for all assignments; [2] turn in all assignments on time; [3] demonstrate that you have put effort into your work. If you follow these rules, it is unlikely that you will receive less than a B in this course. In many cases, following these rules will render an A.

### TEXTS

H.G. Wells. *The Time Machine*. 1895.  
Mark Twain. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. 1889.  
Robert Louis Stevenson. *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. 1886.  
Franz Kafka. *The Metamorphosis*. 1915.

NOTE: All texts are the latest **Norton Critical Editions** and include ample supplementary criticism. It is essential that you use these editions because some of your assignments will ask you to read and write about the criticism.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

In this section of English 2040, you will complete multiple reading and writing assignments for each text. Be sure to read the directions for each assignment slowly and carefully, digesting the material before taking action.

You can email me with questions at any time. I always answer within 24 hours, usually sooner, on the condition that your emails are written in complete sentences and free of mechanical errors. This is a college writing course. Make sure your queries are polished and professional, and I will promptly address your concerns. I want to see everybody excel and I'm here as a resource, but too frequently, students in my online courses don't contact me when they encounter difficulties. Students who do make an effort to connect with me, however, invariably get better grades.

You are responsible for monitoring the completion and upload of all assignments. Assignments submitted after their due dates have elapsed (be it one day, ten days, or one minute) will not be accepted. All due dates are available from the beginning to the end of the course on Pilot so that you can organize and manage your time. Never wait until the last minute to submit work in case of computer glitches, personal emergencies, or other unforeseen issues. Always give yourself enough time to upload your work.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Course grades are based on a points system. As I grade your work, Pilot tallies the points so that you may gauge your performance at any time during the semester. At the end of the semester, points will be converted to percentages, and percentages will be converted to letter grades. Here is the grading rubric:

90.0-100%	A
80.0-89.9%	B
70.0-79.9%	C
60.0-69.9%	D
0-59.9%	F

## WRITING STANDARDS

- A** The student's writing is consistently superior and expresses independent thought with grace, clarity and force. Words are used with precision and suited to the purposes of the assignment. Writing is free of mechanical errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- B** The student's writing is above average in thought and expression, demonstrating a clear understanding and execution of the assignment's directions; however, it is not consistently superior in depth of thought, effectiveness of development, and mechanical savvy.
- C** The student's writing is acceptable as college work but lacks an original, significant purpose or point-of-view. It exhibits inadequate support of generalizations, slipshod or hurried style, poor attention to detail, straying from directions, or mechanical errors.

- D** The student's writing meets minimum standards. Work is often underwritten and/or marred by confused purpose, lack of organization, repetition of ideas, improper use of words, and frequent grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors.
- F** The student's writing does not meet minimum standards.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

English 2040 is part of the Wright State Core. The elements of the Core are the foundational skills, the broad areas of knowledge and practice, and the global, historical, and cultural perspectives that together provide WSU students with the ability to negotiate their roles successfully and constructively in a changing world. In this course, students can expect to do the following: [1] critically analyze significant creative, literary, philosophical or religious works; [2] understand and discuss the complex blend of imaginative vision, socio-cultural context, ethical values, and aesthetic judgment in creative, philosophical or religious works; [3] recognize, evaluate and respond to creative, philosophical or religious works; and [4] develop appropriate and ethical applications of knowledge in the humanities or the arts.

### **INTEGRATED WRITING OUTCOMES**

English 2040 is an Integrated Writing course. After completing it, students should be able to produce writing that demonstrates their understanding of course content, is appropriate for the audience and purpose of a particular writing task, demonstrates the degree of mastery of disciplinary writing conventions appropriate to the course (including documentation conventions), and shows competency in standard edited American English.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Over the span of six weeks, you will complete three assignments per text, which amounts to **two assignments per week**. These will generally involve the following: identifying central elements, events, or themes in a text; composing short essays or responses to writing prompts; and writing about secondary articles and reviews.

Every **Friday at 8 a.m.**, assignments for the week are due. Go to the **Dropbox** (beneath the **Assessment** tab) and upload your work as a **.doc** or **.pdf** file.

While it is not required, I recommend emailing me drafts of your work prior to the due date. I will provide extensive feedback. You may not revise and resubmit work once it has been uploaded to Pilot. Be sure to send me drafts at least **48 hours** before the due date so that you have ample time to think about and integrate my editorial input. Students who take advantage of this opportunity always get better grades.

Writing assignments in the form of short essays and summaries should be formatted according to **MLA Style**.

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: [1] copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; [2] paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; [3] turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, you are required to submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism of any material is a serious offense and, if established with sufficient evidence, can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

## STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (SSC)



The Student Success Center offers FREE services to help students meet their full potential. Students can find tutoring in any subject, study buddies, one-on-one technology workshops, feedback on writing assignments, and general academic skills coaching. Web: [lake.wright.edu/ssc](http://lake.wright.edu/ssc). Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **182 Andrews**.

## OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES (ODS)

If a student has a disability that requires special accommodations, it is essential that he or she discuss it with the instructor and the Office of Disability Services before or during the first week of the semester. ODS will work with these students on an individual basis to determine what services, equipment and accommodations would be appropriate regarding their documented needs. Students who qualify for these types of service should initiate contact with the instructor and/or ODS as soon as possible to enable the university to meet their needs. Please call Deanna Springer at **419.586.0366** or email her at [deanna.springer@wright.edu](mailto:deanna.springer@wright.edu). For more information, visit the ODS in **182 Andrews**.

## LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (LTC)

The Library and Technology Center provides free access to scholarly resources in all formats. Students can also visit the LTC for assistance with creating or editing multimedia projects (i.e., PowerPoint, voiceovers, website development, etc.). Phone: **419.586.8400**. Location: **197A Andrews Hall**.

## CLASS CALENDAR

Below is a weekly breakdown of assignments. Refer to the modules and the Dropbox on Pilot for specific details.

**1** *The Time Machine* (Identification: Character Analyses)

*The Time Machine* (Summaries: "Eat or Be Eaten" and "The Scientific Romance and the Evolutionary Paradigm")

**2** *The Time Machine* (Short Essay: Argumentative Response)

*A Connecticut Yankee* (Identification: Book Review)

- 3** *A Connecticut Yankee* (Summaries: “Mark Twain’s New Book: A Satirical Attack on English Institutions” and “The Idea in a Dream”)

*A Connecticut Yankee* (Short Essay: Film vs. Novel)

- 4** *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Identification: Reactions and Responses)

*Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Summaries: “An Unconscious Allegory about the Masses and Mass Literacy” and “Sex, Secrecy and Self-Annihilation in *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*”)

- 5** *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Short Story: Creative Writing)

*The Metamorphosis* (Identification: Dominant Elements)

- 6** *The Metamorphosis* (Summaries: “Kafka’s ‘Metamorphosis’: Rebellion and Punishment” and “Transforming Franz Kafka’s ‘Metamorphosis’”)

*The Metamorphosis* (Short Essay: Cover Image Analysis)