



# HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**COURSE NAME:** Topics in Literature

**COURSE NUMBER:** ENG\*298

**CREDITS:** 3

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An opportunity to explore a variety of literary types in a less conventional setting than in the period courses. Topics will be varied by semester and by instructor's speciality. Among the special topics alternating by semesters are: Mythology, Enduring Themes in Literature, The Holocaust, Hispanic Literature, and Jewish Writing of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**PREREQUISITES:** ENG\*102

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

## **General Education Competencies Satisfied:**

**HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):**

None

**Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:**

None

**Embedded Competency(ies):**

None

**Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):**

HUM                      Humanities elective

**Course objectives:**

**General Education Goals and Outcomes:**

None

**Course-Specific Outcomes:**

- Read a work of literature and interpret it according to the principles of analysis in ENG\*102.
- Explain the significance of a work of literature in terms of the intellectual and cultural context from which it originated.
- Write essays which clearly explain works studied in accordance with the writing standards learned in ENG\*101.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

**Enduring Themes in Literature:** This course demonstrates the universality of the world's literature. While mentioning obvious cultural differences, it emphasizes the ideas and themes common to all humanity from ancient times to the present. It may deal with such themes as innocence, conformity vs. rebellion, love, and death. Students are shown the origins of these themes in mythology and religious motifs and then shown how they evolved into some of the world's best literature.

**Mythology:** This course presents major myths from around the world. Emphasis is on Greek mythology because of its important contribution to western thought, but the myths of Rome, the Middle East, Northern Europe, Britain, the Far East and Pacific Islands, Africa, and the Americas will also be studied. Comparing and contrasting the myths of different cultures demonstrates the unique role of such myths as creation, fertility, and the hero in defining a particular culture's value and the universal role of myth as a symbol of the human condition.

**Jewish Writing of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:** The experience of Jews of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as studied through their writings. Utilizing the short story, drama, essay, diary, and poetry among other genres, this course explores how modern Jewish writers expressed and represented their personal and national experience.

**Holocaust:** Drawing on fiction, poetry, memoir, and film of the period as well as contemporary representations of the Holocaust era, this course engages students in exploring some of the central issues and questions posed by Holocaust literature. The course also draws on primary source material and historical analysis.

**Hispanic Literature:** A survey literature course in which students read and write about Hispanic Literature. Emphasis is on the historical, linguistic, cultural, and literary aspects of past and current works. Students will be asked to respond critically, aesthetically, and personally to works by writers across the Hispanic experience. All texts are read in English.