

Mr. Francis  
European Literature

### Course Description

European Literature is a chronological survey of European literature from the classical period to the twentieth century. Students will read, interpret, and write about texts from a wide-range of genres, each widely considered representative of its era.

The core thematic goal of this course is to explore a portion of the wide-range of cultural phenomena that have had significant intellectual impact in Europe during the past three millennia. It seeks to determine how art reflects the culture producing it. Its main secondary purpose is to challenge and develop student's analytical skills, both as readers and as writers, in pursuit of a higher mastery of language arts skills.

Students will demonstrate proficiency in writing, especially the literary essay. They will show an awareness of audience while each working to develop his or her own unique voice.

### **Attendance**

Since class participation and demonstrable mastery of the material are criteria for assessing performance, attendance is critical. Students are expected to be in class every day. If you know that you will be absent ahead of time, please notify me as soon as possible. Students will not be excused from class for oversleeping or taking a long lunch, to study for other courses, to complete assignments, to compensate for extracurricular activities, or to prepare for standardized exams.

You must manage your own academic, extracurricular, and personal pursuits. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to copy class notes, to acquire missed assignments, and to catch up on the material in a timely manner. Unexcused absences will be considered cuts and will affect your final grade for class work. Students who violate the school's cutting policy will incur serious grade penalties.

Final grade:

Class work: 20%

Assignments: 80%

N.B. I have zero tolerance for cheating, plagiarizing, and cutting.

## Class Work

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**Discussion (approx. 10%):** Contributions to discussion should reflect first-hand knowledge of the texts being considered, a solid understanding of the course material, and an awareness of the contributions of other class members. In order to receive full credit for class participation, you should participate about once per class period. A student will not receive a final grade above 88 if he or she never contributes to discussion.

- extemporaneous contributions to discussion
- reading from classroom writing activities
- asking appropriate questions

**Engagement (approx. 10%):** Students must obtain and maintain a notebook devoted to taking notes during class and a folder devoted to storing handouts and protecting assignments. You are expected to participate actively in all classroom discussions and activities. Do not make a habit of visiting the rest room with excessive regularity.

- active listening and note-taking
- writing activities and small group discussions
- reading aloud and general helpfulness

**The following expectations may also affect the grades a student earns for discussion or engagement.**

**1. Preparedness:** Habitual lateness will affect your final grade. You are expected to be ready to begin class when the bell rings: this includes having your materials in class and being prepared to discuss the homework for the previous night. You must bring your notebook and any assigned readings to class, and students will be forgiven for forgetting the text only once per marking period. Do not make a habit of asking to return to other classrooms, your locker, etc.

- being punctual
- bringing assigned texts and other materials
- bringing rough drafts for peer editing
- returning books

**2. Homework:** Students should expect 20-30 minutes of reading most nights. A complete list of course readings is available on the class Web-site. Specific details for written homework will be provided on the class Web-site as the semester progresses.

- assigned reading
- proposals, writing samples, and other written homework
- on-line postings (if appropriate)

**3. Class tone:** There will also be an informal “community score” for the overall tone of the class. Students are expected to encourage each other to engage in appropriate academic behavior.

## Assignments

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**Projects (approx. 10%):** Students will be responsible for collaborating on one or more group projects and for completing one or more oral presentations each semester. Specific details will be provided on the class Web-site.

- group assignments
- oral presentations
- peer editing

**Writing Assignments (approx. 70%):** Specific details for each writing assignment will be provided on the class Web-site as the semester progresses. Each assignment must be accompanied by a declaration or a works cited list for assessment.

- graded drafts of take-home writing assignments
- in-class writing assignments

All written assignments must be uploaded at [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com). Submitting an assignment to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) will be construed as a student asserting that he or she understands the Stuyvesant High School academic honesty policy. Please confirm that your documents have been added to your portfolio, as the instructor will only assess work that has been uploaded in a timely manner.

Major writing assignment grades will be assigned according to the SHS English Department grading rubric.

For each major writing assignment, students may be responsible for submitting to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) an abstract, one or more rough drafts for peer review, and a draft with appropriate citation for assessment.

Essays will be assessed based on clarity, specificity, accuracy, fluency, and development, as well as grammar, punctuation, style, tone, organization, effective use of evidence, and effective use of vocabulary. When appropriate, assignments should be firmly grounded in the texts and other material addressed in class.

Extensions may be granted under extenuating circumstances, but must be negotiated in advance. If necessary, students are encouraged to make appointments with me during free periods to discuss writing assignments or writing practices.

If you will be absent when an assignment is due, you must submit it electronically to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) by 7:59 a.m. to avoid lateness. Any excuses intended to circumvent my expectations will be ignored. Students found to be engaging in any form of academic misconduct will receive a zero for that assignment.