

To: ENG 255L-721 Literature and Gender Students
From: Professor Lisa R. Neilson
Date: November 24, 2025

Re: Welcome

Welcome to Introduction to Literature, ENG 255-721 26W. The course begins on Saturday, December 13, 2025 and ends Friday, January 16, 2026.

During this Winter Session we will be examining a variety of genres in literature, such as poetry, short fiction and the novel, and we will be analyzing major elements of literature, including plot, character, style, symbol and theme. Please realize that we are squeezing work that is usually covered in a 15-week semester into 4 weeks. You will be earning three credits upon the completion of this course with the same quality and amount of content taught. You will need to log in often and participate frequently.

Because this is a 4-week course, we will dive right in, exploring texts and posing questions regarding captivating pieces of literature. You will have access to the course site on the first day of the Winter Session. At that time, please take a few moments to explore our class site. Review the **Syllabus and the Schedule of Assignments** as well as each week's page. This class is organized by week. Weeks open on Saturdays at 8:00 AM and close on Fridays at 11:59 PM. Each week, you will have a Tuesday 11:59 PM deadline for some of the work and the rest will be due by Friday at 11:59 PM. Paying attention to details and thoroughly reading instructions are vital to your success in this course.

Many of the texts will be available on our course site on each week's page. One additional text you are required to purchase is (PDFs may be available):

- Nguyen, Trung Le. *The Magic Fish*. ISBN-13: 978-1-9848-5159-8

This can be purchased from the Marist bookstore or other online vendors. Please make sure you have this by the time class begins. You will also need full internet access and a working device (laptop/tablet, smartphone or computer).

You can learn more about me on our course site. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time at lisa.neilson@marist.edu.

I look forward to working with you this winter. I think it will be a great mini-semester!