Syllabus

English 2332.005: Literature of the Western World: From Classics to the Renaissance
Fall 2012, TR 2:00-3:15

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Office Hours for Fall 2012: T 3:30-5:00, W 10:00-12:00, Th 3:30-5:00

Students enrolled in English 2332 may access full course information at the beginning of the semester by logging on to Blackboard.

Course Description
Welcome to this survey of significant literary texts (in English translation) from the Ancient World through the Renaissance!

Studying the literature of a culture or time period tells us much about how those living in that time and place thought about the human condition. Through the study of ancient literature, we’ll examine how writers in ancient civilizations, particularly those civilizations that laid the foundation for the Western intellectual tradition, expressed a sense of individual and communal identity. How did they view themselves and the world and how did they attempt to explain it through their writings? We will, of course, discover differences between these ancient peoples and our modern world, but we will also find a surprising number of similarities in how humans of all times and places think, feel, and react. Thus, we will learn much about ourselves as well.

Central Questions
Here are some of the issues we will be discussing and debating throughout the semester. As you read the assigned texts, think about the following:

- Why should we care about this text? What does it have to do with us today?
- What was life like for the person who wrote this text? How was his/her life, their thinking, similar and different to ours?
- What do humans most desire? Fear? Love? How can reading this text, which comes from long ago and far way, help us to understand more about ourselves, about what being human means?
- Why do people tell stories, write poetry, and/or create written text? What makes a particular story worth telling and passing on? Why might this text be worth it?

Sophomore Literature Course Objectives
- To examine the connection between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts by reading texts by authors from a range of cultures and nationalities;
- To explore the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers;
- To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts;
- To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing;
- To use writing as a tool for learning.
Student Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to:
- recognize the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts;
- respond critically to literary works.

Required Texts
- A few short texts will be available for download on Blackboard (specified on schedule)

Grade Distribution
1. Exams: midterm and final (40%). Both will include an identification section and short essays.
2. Writings (40%): two out-of-class formal writing assignments. Specific instructions will be posted on Blackboard.
3. Quizzes (10%): every reading assignment is subject to a quiz. The quizzes take various forms: some will be traditional reading quizzes, others will be a little more creative in approach. All, however, require you to have read the assignment before class and be ready to explain and apply what you have learned.
4. In-class assignments (10%): there will be some kind of informal writing and/or group work almost every class day. These assignments will be graded solely on your making a credible attempt at completing them.

Submitting assignments:
All final drafts of the writing assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. Exams and in-class assignments, including quizzes, are submitted directly to the instructor or grader.

If you do not have a Blackboard account, please go to Island Online (http://iol.tamucc.edu) and select "I am a new user" for instructions on obtaining your Blackboard userid & password. If you have problems with Blackboard while attempting to submit your assignments, contact the Island Online help desk (361-825-2825)—not your instructor. They are open 8:00 am until midnight every day.

Unless directed otherwise, please do not send coursework to the instructor via email. The only exception is if you have technical difficulties with Blackboard. You may then email the work to the instructor to make sure it is in by the due date. However, the instructor will not respond to your work until it is uploaded to Blackboard, so contact the Help Desk immediately to resolve the problem.

Before uploading your assignment to Blackboard, make sure it is saved in a readable format. Acceptable formats are Microsoft Word, Open Office, and Rich Text Format (.doc, .docx, .rtf, .odt). If you are a Mac or Ipad user, this is especially important to remember—Macs and PCs will play nicely together, but only if you remember to save files correctly.

If you upload a file that is not saved in a readable format, the file will be deleted, you will be asked to resubmit the assignment in the correct format, and be subject to any resulting late penalties.
Course Policies

Attendance
You have six (6) “sick leave” days, meaning a maximum of six absences without penalty. No documentation or explanation is needed—or wanted. It’s not my place to judge the validity of your reasons—that decision is yours. Just know that: 1) there are consequences to missing class because of missed content, participation credit, and in-class work; and 2) that if you use up your sick leave, your final grade may be lowered by half a letter grade for each day over six missed.

There is no such thing as "excused" or "unexcused" absences; these policies will apply no matter what the reason. You do not have to show documentation to the instructor. To be considered present, you must be on time, participate in all class activities, and remain in class for the entire period. Leaving early, coming in significantly late, or refusing to participate in in-class work will result in an absence and zero credit for any in-class work that day.

Late Work
Late papers are docked one letter grade for each day late, no matter what the reason. No late work will be accepted for any reason more than one week past the due date.

Make-Up work
Exams may not be made up unless arrangements are made in advance, such as for University-sponsored activities.

Quizzes and in-class work may not be made up for any reason. However, one quiz grade and one in-class grade will be dropped to give you some leeway in case of emergencies.

In-class Conduct
In general, treat each other and the instructor with respect and follow simple standards of common courtesy. Here are a few specifics:

- Please turn off all cell phones or other electronic communication devices and place them out of sight (in a bag, purse, pocket) while in class. You may think quietly texting someone is not distracting to the instructor or fellow students, but it is. Frequent violators will be asked to leave and will lose any quiz or in-class credit for the day.
- Do not use laptops or tablets for taking notes unless you have the instructor’s permission. If you have that permission and are caught doing work unrelated to class, you will be asked to leave and will lose any quiz or in-class credit for the day.
- Do not talk or make excessive noise while the instructor or another student is speaking to the class as a whole.
- We will do small group work in this class. When group work is assigned, you must work in a group, not as an individual. Read the assignment before class and be prepared to participate actively. Do your share—don’t force others to make up for your irresponsibility.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
The University will not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of intellectual/academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is a serious violation of departmental and University policies, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Regardless, work that is turned in for the course that is plagiarized will be failed. If you are unsure about your use of
sources, please consult with me or visit the writing center (in the Glasscock building) for advice on source documentation BEFORE the item is due. For this course, you must use MLA citation style. Click here for site on MLA documentation rules.

Reminder to English Majors
As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should keep a copy of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.

Notice to Student with Disabilities
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in CCH 116, at 825-5816, or text at 850-3180. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

If your major is in another College (e.g., Education), please contact that college for information and requirements about advising.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Questions?
If you have any questions or concerns regarding this syllabus, please speak with me as soon as possible. You are responsible for understanding and adhering to the policies of this course and the University.
**Provisional Course Outline**

For daily reading assignments, please see the full schedule, available on Blackboard at the beginning of the semester. In addition to the textbook readings, there will also be short online readings available through Blackboard. In-class assignments will be given in class. Schedule is subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>In-class: read “Hymn to Inanna” (handout)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 23</td>
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| Week 2 | Genesis 1-11 (p. 68-77)  
From *Enuma Elish & Kalevala* (Blackboard) |
| Aug 28/Aug 30 |  |
| Week 3 | *Gilgamesh* (p. 16-42)  
*Gilgamesh* (p. 42-64) |
| Sept 4/Sept 6 |  |
| Week 4 |  
From *Enuma Elish & Kalevala* (Blackboard) |
| Sept 11/Sept 13 |  |
| Week 5 | *Odyssey*, Book 1 & 9 (p. 273-284; 373-386)  
*First Writing Due*  
*Odyssey*, Book 21-23 (p. 535-579) |
| Sept 18/Sept 20 |  |
| Week 6 | *Jason & the Argonauts* (Blackboard)  
*Medea* (p. 844-876) |
| Sept 25/Sept 27 |  |
| Week 7 |  |
| Oct 2/Oct 4 |  |
| Week 8 | *Medea* (p. 844-876, continued)  
*October 16: Midterm*  
Blackboard: readings from *Song of Songs*, Sappho, Catullus, others TBA |
| Oct 9/Oct 11 |  |
| Week 9 |  |
| Oct 16/Oct 18 |  |
| Week 10 | *1001 Nights* (Blackboard)  
*1001 Nights*, continued  
Blackboard: readings from Akhenaten, Psalms, Koran, Rumi, others TBA |
| Oct 23/Oct 25 |  |
| Week 11 |  |
| Oct 30/Nov 1 |  |
| Week 12 |  |
| Nov 6/Nov 8 |  |
| Week 13 | Poetry selections from the text (TBA)  
*Second Writing Due*  
Poetry selections from the text (TBA)  
(Nov. 22 is Thanksgiving Break) |
| Nov 13/Nov 15 |  |
| Week 14 | *Don Quixote* (p. 1990-2009) |
| Nov 20/Nov 22 |  |
| Week 15 | *Don Quixote* (p. 2009-2030) |
| Nov 27/Nov 29 |  |
| Week 16 |  |
| Dec 4 |  |
| Final Exam Thursday, Dec 6 | *Final Exam time is from 1:45-4:15* |

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**Schedule:**

- **Week 1:** August 23 - In-class: read “Hymn to Inanna” (handout).
- **Week 2:** Aug 28/Aug 30 - Genesis 1-11 (p. 68-77) from *Enuma Elish & Kalevala* (Blackboard).
- **Week 3:** Sept 4/Sept 6 - *Gilgamesh* (p. 16-42).
- **Week 4:** Sept 11/Sept 13 - *Gilgamesh* (p. 42-64).
- **Week 5:** Sept 18/Sept 20 - *Odyssey*, Book 1 & 9 (p. 273-284; 373-386).
- **Week 7:** Oct 2/Oct 4 - *Jason & the Argonauts* (Blackboard), *Medea* (p. 844-876).
- **Week 8:** Oct 9/Oct 11 - *Medea* (p. 844-876, continued).
- **Week 9:** Oct 16/Oct 18 - *October 16: Midterm*.
- **Week 10:** Oct 23/Oct 25 - Blackboard: readings from *Song of Songs*, Sappho, Catullus, others TBA.
- **Week 11:** Oct 30/Nov 1 - *1001 Nights* (Blackboard).
- **Week 12:** Nov 6/Nov 8 - *1001 Nights*, continued.
- **Week 13:** Nov 13/Nov 15 - Poetry selections from the text (TBA).
- **Week 14:** Nov 20/Nov 22 - Poetry selections from the text (TBA) (Nov. 22 is Thanksgiving Break).
- **Week 15:** Nov 27/Nov 29 - *Don Quixote* (p. 1990-2009).
- **Week 16:** Dec 4 - *Don Quixote* (p. 2009-2030).
- **Final Exam Thursday, Dec 6** - *Final Exam time is from 1:45-4:15*.