Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi

English 2332: Literature of the Western World: The Ancient World through the Renaissance

Spring 2014

CI 102

Mon Wed 2:00-3:15pm Section .001
Mon Wed 3:30-4:45pm Section .002

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Required Materials

• 3-ring Binder

Course Focus and Objectives

• Welcome to this survey of significant literary texts (in English translation) from the Ancient World and Medieval Europe.
  o The main focus of this course will be to consider the questions:
    ▪ Why do we read these stories?
    ▪ Why have these stories been handed down to us?
    ▪ What could be valuable about these particular works for a 21st century reader?
  o A second aspect to our work this semester will be to examine the rhetorical context that created and valued these stories:
    ▪ Who wrote them? Where and when were they written?
    ▪ Who were their audiences? Why have they been written down and recorded?
  o Thirdly, we will consider the literary and narrative techniques which enhance the quality of the work itself, techniques such as imagery, symbol, metaphor, the story within a story, the frame story.
  o Composition I and II are prerequisites for this class.
Sophomore Literature Course Objectives

- To examine the connections 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 Objectives

- Students will be able
  - to recognize the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts;
  - to respond critically to literary works.

Course Requirements

- You will be graded in the following areas of performance:
  - Storytelling Assignment: 10% of the final grade
  - Reading Quizzes: 10%
  - Literary Analysis Questions: 50%
  - Research Essay: 15%
  - Final Exam Essay: 15%

- **Storytelling Assignment (10%)**—This assignment consists of two parts: a story that has been told to you by another person and which has not been recorded before plus a cover letter explaining the rhetorical situation in which the story was told. The story itself should be a minimum of 3 1/2 pages (double-spaced), and the cover letter should be around 1 1/2 pages (single-spaced). More specific guidelines will follow.
- **Reading Quizzes (10%)**—Identification of 4 quotes from the required reading.
- **Literary Analysis Questions (50%)**—These will consist of your written response to a particular question on the assigned readings (min. 2 1/2 typed pages or so; minimum around 600 words). These responses will form the basis of our class
discussions and are due at the beginning of class. *The due dates are listed on the class schedule.*

- Literary Analysis Questions must be typed and will only be accepted on the day that they are due. They cannot be made up, nor can they be emailed for grading. Two may be re-written after a Writing Center tutorial for re-grading, and the re-write is due within 10 days of its return. There will be 8 reading responses. The lowest grade will be dropped, and the top 7 responses will be averaged together to create your final Literary Analysis grade. More specific guidelines will follow.

- **Research Essay (15%)**—At the beginning of the semester, students will choose a research topic for a research essay.
  - The research essay will be a 5-page essay + MLA (or APA) works cited page (reference list). More specific guidelines will follow.

- **Final Exam Essay (15%)** The final exam will be in the form of a take-home essay which will be due during the scheduled final exam period. Questions and directions will be given out on the last day of class.

- **Final grades** for the course will be assessed as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (65-69); F (below 65)

**Attendance, Participation, and Professionalism**

- The major part of your grade in English 2332 is directly connected to your class participation and preparation; thus **regular attendance** is a rather obvious necessity for success in this class. **I will be recording attendance for each class period.** Part of your attendance is that you have brought the class textbook with you. You will need your book for each class since we will be examining the texts in a detailed manner during the class period.
  - After 3 missed classes, 2 points will be deducted from the final grade for each absence.
  - The same situation applies to late arrivals. After 3 late arrivals, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade for any subsequent late arrivals.

- When we talk as a class, the time is meant to be used in discussing our understanding and reading of literary texts. This kind of interaction will demand a **professional learning environment** wherein we take turns speaking and listening, always with courtesy and respect.

- In addition to courtesy and respect, being professional in the academic world entails other types of behavior:
  - **observing writing standards and deadlines.** Since Engl 1301 and 1302 are prerequisites for this course, I will expect that your writing assignments are polished pieces of writing (edited and proofread) which illustrate college-level thinking and writing. They will be arranged in “essay form” (i.e., introduction with thesis, organized paragraphs,
They will demonstrate the ability to use concrete, specific detail in support of your ideas. If you cannot write on this level, I will request that you attend the writing center for tutorials.

- Cell phones are incredibly annoying when they go off in class. Before coming in the classroom, turn the ringer of your phone to the OFF position. We will be using phones/ computers/ tablets as research devices; however, electronic devices are not allowed for personal use during the class period.

**University Resources and Policies**

- **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.

- **Notice to Students with Disabilities**
  The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. You can also visit their website at [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/) and contact them via e-mail at disability.services@tamucc.edu. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

- **The Center for Academic Student Achievement:** The Writing Center of CASA provides free writing instruction to any student interested in improving his/her writing abilities. Tutors will assist you with all aspects of writing. The Writing Center’s purpose is not to correct or proofread your drafts but to help you learn strategies that good writers use during the processes of writing. You may visit the Center for assistance with a writing project for any of your classes. It is located in the Glasscock Center (825-5933). On occasion, I may require that you seek additional help from the Center on a specific project, which means that I will ask the Center for verification that you visited them.

- **Grade Appeals Process:** Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website,
For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

- Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
  
  The University will not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of intellectual or academic dishonesty. Violations of academic honesty will be processed under the Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases 13.02.99.C3.01 (see http://ses.tamucc.edu/grievances.html and the Student Code of Conduct http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/2013-2014StudentHandbook.pdf). All cases of academic misconduct are recorded in the student’s file. Consequences are determined by the faculty member and/or the Academic Integrity Hearing Panel. It is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Students sometimes commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:
  
  - using the work of another as your own,
  - downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
  - using resource materials without correct documentation,
  - using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation, or
  - turning in a researched paper without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

  Be aware that there are many ways to plagiarize. English 1301 and 1302 courses and the Writing Center at CASA will review rules of academic citation. Information academic citation is available at the Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/ and/or from our local Writing Center at CASA.

- 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.
Reading Schedule and Due Dates

(your textbook is required for each class period)

Week 1

- **Wed., Jan. 22** Course Introduction; Storytelling Assignment; Research Presentation Topics, **Check Homework Assignment for next Monday and next Wednesday.**

Week 2

- **For Mon., Jan. 27** Read the introduction to “Gilgamesh” pages 16-19 (in Literature of the Western World) On Blackboard (Under Content) if your book has not arrived. Bring your book to class and every class thereafter.
  - Choice of Research Essay Topics
- **For Wed., Jan. 29** Research Methods and Academic Sources/Research Essay. Bring your book to class and every class thereafter.
  - Academic Sources for Research Essays on Literary Topics/Bell Library
  - Final Version of Story & Cover Letter Due

Week 3

- **For Mon., Feb. 3** Research Essay Materials Due: Author, Time Period, Geographical Location, Genre; Bring your book to class and every class thereafter.
  - Writing Center/Intro. for Research Essays/ Paraphrase/Summary/Direct Quotation/ In-text Citations for Introductions to Essays
  - Due: Draft of Works Cited/Reference List for Research Essay: Author, Time Period, Geographical Location, Genre
- **For Wed., Feb. 5** Bring your book to class and every class thereafter.
  - Due: Introduction to Research Essay Topic and Revised Draft of Works Cited or Reference List

Week 4

- **For Mon., Feb. 10** Read Tablets I-V of “Gilgamesh” pages 20-34 (in Literature of the Western World) On Blackboard (Under Content) if your book has not arrived. Bring your book to class and every class thereafter.
  - Reading Quiz #1: Quotations Connected to Characters (I-V)
  - Intro. to Literary Analysis Questions Assignment/Writing Center
- **For Wed., Feb. 12** Read Tablets VI-VIII (pp. 35-46)
Week 5

- **For Mon., Feb. 17** Read Tablets VI-VIII of “Gilgamesh” (in Literature of the Western World) On Blackboard (Under Content) if your book has not arrived
  - Reading Quiz #2: Quotations Connected to Action (VI-VIII)

- **For Wed., Feb. 5** Gilgamesh and the Mesopotamian World *Bring Book to Class*
  - Literary Analysis Question #1 Due

Week 4

- **For Mon., Feb. 10** Gilgamesh and the Mesopotamian World: Read Tablets IX-XII.
  - *Bring Book to Class and Every Class thereafter.*
  - Reading Quiz #3: Quotations Connected to Setting (IX-XII)

- **For Wed., Feb. 12** Hebrew Bible Psalms; Poetry Terminology

Week 5

- **For Mon., Feb. 17** Hebrew Bible Psalms; Poetry Terminology
  - Reading Quiz #4: The Psalms and Poetry Terminology

- **For Wed., Feb. 19** Hebrew Bible Psalms; Poetry Terminology

Week 6

- **For Mon., Feb. 24** Hebrew Bible Psalms;
  - Analysis Question #2 Due

- **For Wed., Feb. 26** The Poetry of Sappho and Poetry Terminology

Week 7

- **For Mon., March 3** The Poetry of Sappho and Poetry Terminology
  - Reading Quiz #5: The Introduction to Sappho in the textbook
- **For Wed., March 5** The Poetry of Sappho and Poetry Terminology
Week 8

- **For Mon., March 17** Introduction to Classical Greek Culture, Greek Tragedy, *Medea* by Euripides
  - Analysis Question #3 Due

- **For Wed., March 19** Introduction to Classical Greek Culture, Greek Tragedy, *Medea* by Euripides

Week 9 Classical Greek Culture, Greek Tragedy, *Medea*

- **For Mon., March 24** The Early Medieval Period of the Islamic World
  - *The Thousand and One Nights*: Read the Introduction to “The Story of Sinbad the Sailor.” Voyages 1-3

- **For Wed., March 26** Read “The Story of Sinbad the Sailor.” Voyages 4-7

Week 10

- **For Mon., March 31** “The Story of Sinbad the Sailor.”
  - Analysis Question #5 Due

- **For Wed., April 2** The European Middle Ages and Marie de France, "Bisclavret"

Week 11

- **For Mon., April 7** The European Middle Ages and Marie de France, “Bisclavret” and "Yonec"

- **For Wed., April 9** The European Middle Ages and Marie de France, "Yonec"
  - Analysis Question #6 Due
Week 12

- **For Mon., April 14** Chaucer, “The Pardoner’s Prologue”
- **For Wed., April 16** Chaucer’s World and *The Canterbury Tales*. “The Pardoner’s Prologue”

Week 13

- **For Mon., April 21** "The Pardoner’s Prologue”
  - Analysis Question #7 Due
- **For Wed., April 23** The Medieval World of Christine de Pizan and selections from *The Book of the City of Ladies*

Week 14

- **For Mon., April 28** The Medieval World of Christine de Pizan and selections from *The Book of the City of Ladies*
- **For Wed., April 30** The Medieval World of Christine de Pizan and selections from *The Book of the City of Ladies*
  - Analysis Question #8 Due
  - Analysis Question #8 Due

Week 15

- **For Mon., May 5** Preparation for the Final Exam Essay

Final Exam TBA