English 2332.003: Literature of the Western World:
The Ancient World Through the Renaissance

Fall 2013
Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:15, CI-112

Instructor: Dr. Benedict Whalen
Email: To Be Determined
Office: Faculty Center 255
Office Phone: To Be Determined
Office Hours: M: 12:30-1:30; T/TR: 10:00-12:00

Required Materials

Course Description
In this course, we will study a wide range of texts and traditions from the Ancient World to the Renaissance. We will read epics, dramas, prose stories, and lyric poetry. Part of the purpose of this course is to hone our abilities to think and write critically, but we will also discuss several fundamental questions about human experience that are raised in these texts. We
will discuss past cultures as they are presented in their literature, and investigate the degree to which they address timeless questions, including those related to beauty, virtue, and the imagination. Composition I and II are prerequisites for this class.

Course Objectives

1. 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.

2. To explore the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers.

3. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts.

4. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.

5. To use writing as a tool for learning.

Student Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete ENGL 2332 will be able to:

1. recognize the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts;

2. respond critically to literary works.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Daily Reading Quizzes: 10%

Paper 1: 20%

Mid-Term Exam: 15%

Paper 2: 25%

Final Exam: 20%
***Meaning of Grades:

A=Excellent  
B=Above Average  
C=Average  
D=Below Average  
F=Unacceptable

Nota Bene: Grades are something you earn, something you work up to. Grades are not something you fall from. What does this mean? Do not ask me what took your grade down; rather, ask what you can do to earn a yet higher grade. The latter question does not presuppose that you started with an “A” and fell from it, whereas the former question does. You must earn each increment in the grading scale aside from an “F”.

Attendance Policy

You are allowed three free absences. A fourth absence will result in your final grade being deducted by a half letter grade (so, for example, a “B” becomes a “B-”). A fifth absence results in failure of the course. Please note that I do not make a distinction between excused and unexcused absences. This means that you never need to give me an excuse; there is no need for doctor’s notes, mechanic’s notes, veterinary notes, etc. Save your free absences for the unexpected/unavoidable problems that arise over the course of the semester. Two late arrivals or early departures constitute an absence.

Please note that if you miss class, you may not make up the quiz. Similarly, if you are late to class, you may not make up the quiz. If you arrive late to class while the quiz is being taken, you are free to take it, but will have no extra time given to you. So arrive at class punctually, and do not ask me if you can make up a quiz.

Unless you make prior arrangements with me, you may not make up a missed exam. If you arrive late on the day of the exam, you will not be given extra time to complete the exam.

For each class period that an assignment is late, your final grade on that assignment will drop one letter grade. I do not grant extensions, so plan ahead, and complete your work early in case there is an unforeseen problem.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the submission of another’s work as your own. If you plagiarize, which includes cheating on a quiz, you will fail the entire course. There are no exceptions to this rule.
(even if you promise that it was an accident...so be careful, and always provide documentation as you are writing). If you are ever in doubt about a citation, or whether something must be cited, err on the side of caution, and provide the citation. You may also always email me if you are confused.

**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. 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.

**Academic Advising:**

It is imperative that all students visit regularly with an academic adviser. Each college within the university has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisers to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. To find out how to contact the right adviser, go to: [http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php)

Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information, go to: [http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac](http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac)

**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](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.

**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.
Assignments (The assignments and readings are due on the date that they are listed next to.)

Wednesday, Sept. 4: Introduction, Syllabus

Monday, Sept. 9: *The Odyssey* Books 1-4

Wednesday, Sept 11: *The Odyssey* Books 5-7

Monday, Sept. 16: *The Odyssey* Books 8-10

Wednesday, Sept. 18: *The Odyssey* Books 11-13

Monday, Sept. 23: *The Odyssey* Books 14-17;

Wednesday, Sept 25: *The Odyssey* Books 18-20

Monday, Sept. 30: *The Odyssey* Books 21-24

Wednesday, Oct. 2: *Oedipus the King*, to line 893 (when Jocasta exits)

Monday, Oct. 7: **Paper 1 Due In Class**; *Oedipus the King*, to the end.

Wednesday, Oct. 9: *Antigone*, to line 721 (up to Haemon’s entrance)


Wednesday, Oct. 16: Review for Midterm

Monday, Oct. 21: **Midterm Exam**

Wednesday, Oct. 23: Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, Selections from Books I & II

Monday, Oct. 28: Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, Selections from Books V, IX, and X

Wednesday, Oct. 30: *Beowulf*, Part 1

Monday, Nov. 4: *Beowulf*, Part 2

Wednesday, Nov. 6: Marie de France (Selections in Anthology)


Wednesday, Nov. 20: Marguerite de Navarre, *The Heptameron*, Introduction, Prologue, Story 3

Monday, Nov. 25: Marguerite de Navarre, *The Heptameron*, Story 8, Story 10

Wednesday, Nov. 27: Lyric Poetry: Carpe Diem Poems, **Paper 2 Due**


Wednesday, Dec. 4: *Hamlet* Acts 3-4

Monday, Dec. 9: *Hamlet* Act 5,

Wednesday, Dec. 11: **Reading Day**

Monday, Dec. 16: **Final Exams**

Wednesday, Dec. 18: **Final Exams**