Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi

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

Spring 2017

Tues. Thurs. 3:30-4:45pm

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Office Hours: Mon. 12-2pm; Wed. 12:30-3:30pm, other times available by appointment
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Required Readings


Euripides, *Medea*

Euripides, *The Children of Heracles*

Chretien de Troyes, *Four Arthurian Romances:* “*Erec et Enide,*” “*Cliges,*” “*Yvain,*” and “*Lancelot.*” Translated by W.W. Comfort. (PDF)

*The Tale of Taliesin* (PDF)

**Course Focus and Objectives**

- Welcome to this survey of significant literary texts (in English translation) from the Ancient World and Medieval Europe.
  - 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?
  - 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?
  - 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.
Composition I and II are prerequisites for this class.

Core Literature Course Objectives

- To consider how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience by examining the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts.
- To use literature to explore ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures and nationalities.
- To recognize 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.

Students who successfully complete ENGL 2332 will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four Core Objectives defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas:

- CT1. Critical Thinking Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.
- CS1. Communication Skills Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.
- PR1. Personal Responsibility Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.

Course Requirements

- You will be graded in the following areas of performance:
  - Storytelling Assignment: 10% of the final grade
  - Rhetorical Analysis of Storytelling: 10%
  - Literary Analysis Questions: 60%
  - Research Essay: 20%

- **Storytelling Assignment (10%)**—This assignment consists of a story that has been told to you by another person and which has not been recorded before. The story should be a minimum of 3 1/2 pages (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, title). More specific guidelines will follow.
- **Rhetorical Analysis (10%)** A short essay explaining the rhetorical situation in which the previous story was told. This essay should be around 2 pages (double-spaced, 1 inch margins, title). More specific guidelines will follow.
- **Literary Analysis Questions (60%)**—These LA Questions will consist of your written response to a particular question on the assigned readings (min. 2 ½ typed pages or so; minimum around 600 words).
These responses will form the basis of our class discussions and are due PRINTED OUT at the beginning of class. The due dates are listed on the class schedule.

- Literary Analysis Questions must be typed and will be accepted only on the day that they are due.
- There will be 9 reading responses.
- The LA Questions cannot be made up, nor can they be emailed for grading.
- The lowest grade will be dropped, and the top 8 responses will be averaged together to create your final Literary Analysis grade.
- Two of these may be re-written after a Writing Center tutorial for re-grading, and the re-write is due within 10 days of its return. The re-write grade takes the place of the first grade.
- More specific guidelines will follow.

- **Research Essay (20%)**—At the beginning of the semester, students will choose a research topic for a research essay.
  - The research essay will be a 5-page or so essay + MLA (or APA) works cited page (reference list).
  - Your topic will be due on a particular day along with 5 books or book chapters or scholarly articles listed in the form of a simple annotated bibliography.
  - Your preliminary main idea or thesis plus a basic outline with a refined annotated bibliography is due on a day that we arrange.
  - A basic introduction with refined outline and draft of paragraph one will be due on a day that is decided.
  - Final Completed Research Essay will be due on the date stated.

- **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, conclusion). 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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

- **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, Room #116.

- **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:** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf)). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

- **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](http://ses.tamucc.edu/grievances.html) and the Student Code of Conduct [http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/2013-2014StudentHandbook.pdf](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**

**Week 1 Introduction**

- Thurs., Jan. 19 Course Introduction; Storytelling Assignment;
  - Check Homework Assignment for next Tuesday and Thursday.

**Week 2 Sumerian Culture and Civilization**

- For Tues., Jan. 24
  - Storytelling Assignment Due
  - Research Paper Topics and Choices
- For Thurs., Jan. 26
  - Gilgamesh: Read Tablet I and Tablet II and Tablet III
  - Research Paper Topics and Choices

**Week 3 Sumerian Culture and Civilization**

- For Tues., Jan. 31
  - Gilgamesh: Read Tablet IV and Tablet V and Tablet VI
  - Final Version of Rhetorical Analysis is Due
- For Thurs., Feb. 2
  - Gilgamesh: Read Tablet VII and Tablet VIII
  - Intro. to Literary Analysis Questions Assignment/Writing Center
Week 4 Sumerian Culture and Civilization

• For Tues., Feb. 7
  ○ Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth

• For Thurs., Feb. 9
  ○ Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth
  ○ Literary Analysis Question #1 Due.

Week 5 Sumerian Culture and Civilization

• For Tues., Feb. 14
  ○ Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth

• For Thurs., Feb. 16
  ○ Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth
  ○ Literary Analysis Question #2 Due

Week 6 Sumerian Culture and Civilization

• For Tues., Feb. 21 Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth
• For Thurs., Feb. 23 Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth
  ○ Analysis Question #3 Due

Week 7 Classical Greek Culture

• For Tues., Feb. 28 The Children of Heracles by Euripides
• For Thurs., March 2 The Children of Heracles by Euripides
  ○ Analysis Question #4 Due

Week 8 Classical Greek Culture

• For Tues., March 7 Medea by Euripides.
  ○ 
• For Thurs., March 9 Medea by Euripides
  ○ Analysis Question #5 Due.

SPRING BREAK

Week 9 Literary and Historical Research Process

• For Tues., March 21 Research Essay Topic/Library Search Techniques
• For Thurs., March 23 Research Topic plus Tentative Bibliography
Week 10 Literary and Historical Research Process

- **For Tues., March 28**  Narrowed Research Topic plus annotated bibliography
- **For Thurs., March 30** Tentative main idea plus specific outline

Week 11 Literary and Historical Research Process

- **For Tues., April 4**  Refined Introduction and The First Two Complete paragraphs Due
- **For Thurs., April 6** Complete Draft of Research Essay Due

Week 12 Early Medieval Arthurian Romance

- **For Tues., April 11**  Research Essay Due
  - Chretien de Troyes, *Four Arthurian Romances*
- **For Thurs., April 13**  Chretien de Troyes, *Four Arthurian Romances*

Week 13 Early Medieval Arthurian Romance

- **For Tues., April 18**  Chretien de Troyes, *Four Arthurian Romances*
  - Analysis Question #6
- **For Thurs., April 20**  Chretien de Troyes, *Four Arthurian Romances*

Week 14 Medieval Celtic Epics and Writings

- **For Tues., April 25**  The Tale of Taleisin
  - Analysis Question #7 Due
- **For Thurs., April 27**  The Tale of Taleisin

Week 15

- **For Tues., April**  The Tale of Taleisin
  - Analysis #8 due
- **For Thurs., April 30**  The Tale of Taleisin

Week 16

- **For Tues., May 5**  The Tale of Taleisin
  - Analysis #9 due