Course Description
Welcome to this course on the Superheroes of the Ancient & Medieval World: Ancient Sumer and its legendary hero/king Gilgamesh, its powerful Goddess Inanna. The Greek tragedian Euripides will introduce us to Medea and Heracles, certainly, legendary if not heroic. 
*The History of William Marshal* chronicles the life of “the greatest knight who ever lived,” the superhero of all knights before and after.

We’ll be reading several literary works stemming from the Ancient World of Mesopotamia from around 3500-4000 BC. The worlds of Ancient and Classical Greece (900 BC or so to 500 BC or so) give us the legends of Medea and Heracles and the tragedies about them by Euripides. The European Middle Ages, particularly of the 1100s AD, is revealed through the “creative non-fiction” of an anonymous biographer as he focuses on the facts and stories of medieval knights, noble men and women, chivalry, and courtly love.

Required Movies and Textbooks

*Wonder Woman* (Gal Gadot); *Iron Man* (Robert Downey, Jr.); *Black Panther* (Chadwick Boseman); *Batman Rises* (Christian Bale). *Shrek*; Katniss Everdeen as the superhero of *The Hunger Games*. Available to view on Netflix, YouTube, etc.


*Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth: Her Stories and Hymns from Sumer*. Retold and Translated by Diane Wolkstein and Noah Kramer __ PDF version provide online.

*Medea* by Euripides; *Heracles* by Euripides __ PDF versions provided online.

*The History of William Marshal* __ E-book available through the Bell Library.

Required Assignments and Final Grade

1__American Superhero Movie__ Literary Analysis 10% of the Final Grade
2__Epic of Gilgamesh__ Literary Analysis 15%
3__Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth__ Visual Rhetoric Analysis 15%
4__Medea and Heracles__ Dramatic Dialogue 20%
5__The History of William Marshal__ Medieval Superhero Story 20%
6__Homework Assignments (1-20) 20%

Final grades for the course will be assessed as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (below 60).
Core Literature Course Objectives
1. To consider how ideas, values, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience by examining the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts
2. To use literature to explore ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures and nationalities
3. To recognize the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers
4. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts
5. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussions, and writing
6. To use writing a tool for learning

Student Learning Objectives
1. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four Core Objectives defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas:
   a. Critical Thinking
      i. CT1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.
   b. Communication Skills
      i. CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.
   c. Social Responsibility
      i. SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.
   d. Personal Responsibility:
      i. PR1. Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.

Attendance, Participation, and Professionalism

Consistent attendance is a necessity for success in this class. I will be recording attendance for each class period. Attendance policy is simple. You are allotted 2 absences without penalty. After 2 absences, your final grade will be penalized ½ letter grade for each absence.

Observing writing standards and deadlines. I expect that your writing assignments are polished pieces of writing (edited and proofread) which illustrate college-level thinking and writing.

Your first three assignments will use the genre of the literary analysis and the visual rhetoric analysis and use both evidence from the text and evidence you glean from your research on the context of the literary text. Your analyses 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. Each student will be required to have one consultation at the Writing Center during the revision stage of Assignment 1 or 2 or 3. I will meet with each student to discuss which area of writing needs the most revision. Verification of your WC consultation is required.

The last two writing assignments will be focused on your imaginative response to the literary works. Both these assignments will be written with introductions reflecting the mode of a “presenter” to a specific listening audience.

A few classes will focus on brief bits of research, for which we will be using phones/computers/tablets as research devices; however, electronic devices are not allowed for personal use during the class period.

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. The WC is 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.
Academic Honesty/Plagiarism. Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.)

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, 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. 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.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

Classroom/professional behavior. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct.

Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government.

We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

University Resources and Policies

Disabilities Accommodations. 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 at (361) 825-5816.

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 in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.
**Dropping a Class.** Friday, April 5th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me before you decide to drop this course.

Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, April 5th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Grade Appeals.** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*.

These documents are accessible online at:

For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Statement of Academic Continuity.** In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Reading Schedule and Assignment Due Dates**

*(Last day to drop a class: Friday, April 5th.)*

**Week 1**

**January 14-January 18**

*Tuesday Class Meeting*—First Day of Class; The American Superhero Movie

Wednesday—Homework 1 Due by 11:59pm__ Submit on Blackboard

*Thursday Class Meeting*—The American Superhero Movie

Sunday—Homework 2 Due by 11:59pm__ Submit on Blackboard

**Week 2**

**January 21 (MLK Day)-January 25**

*Tuesday Class Meeting*—The American Superhero Movie

*Thursday Class Meeting*—The American Superhero Movie

Thursday—Homework 3 Due by 11:59__ Submit on Blackboard
Week 3  January 28-February 1

Monday, January 28  Due: Assignment 1__American Superhero Movie__Literary Analysis
Submit on Blackboard by 11:59pm.

Tuesday Class Meeting__The Epic of Gilgamesh

Thursday—Homework 4 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Sunday—Homework 5 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Week 4  February 4-8

Tuesday Class Meeting__The Epic of Gilgamesh

Thursday—Homework 6 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Sunday—Homework 7 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Week 5  February 11-15

Tuesday Class Meeting__The Epic of Gilgamesh

Thursday—Homework 8 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Week 6  February 18-22

Monday, February 18  Due: Assignment 2__The Epic of Gilgamesh__Literary Analysis
Submit on Blackboard by 11:59pm.

Tuesday Class Meeting__Inanna: Queen of Heaven & Earth

Thursday—Homework 9 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Sunday—Homework 10 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Week 7  February 25-March 1

Tuesday Class Meeting__Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth

Thursday—Homework 11 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Sunday—Homework 12 Due by 11:59pm__Submit on Blackboard

Week 8  March 4-8

Tuesday Class Meeting__Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth

Thursday, March 7th  Due: Assignment 3__Inanna: Queen of Heaven & Earth__Visual Rhetoric Analysis;
Submit on Blackboard by 11:59pm.

SPRING BREAK—March 11-15

Week 9  March 18-22
Tuesday Class Meeting _Medea and Heracles_

Thursday—Homework 13 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard
Sunday—Homework 14 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard

**Week 10**  
March 25-29

Tuesday Class Meeting _Medea and Heracles_

Thursday—Homework 15 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard
Sunday—Homework 16 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard

**Week 11**  
April 1-5

Tuesday Class Meeting _Medea and Heracles_

Thursday—Homework 17 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard

**Week 12**  
April 8-12

_**Monday, April 8 Due:**_ Assignment 4 __Medea & Heracles__ Dramatic Dialogue; Submit on Blackboard by 11:59pm.

Tuesday Class Meeting _The History of William Marshal_

Thursday—Homework 18 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard
Sunday—Homework 19 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard

**Week 13**  
April 15-19

Tuesday Class Meeting _The History of William Marshal_

Sunday—Homework 20 Due by 11:59pm—Submit on Blackboard

**Week 14**  
April 22-26

Tuesday Class Meeting _The History of William Marshal_

Thursday Class Meeting _The History of William Marshal_

**Week 15**  
April 29-May 1 (Last Day of Class)

Tuesday Class Meeting _The History of William Marshal_

**Thursday Last Class Meeting** Final Exam Part I: Medieval Superhero Story Presentations

**Week 16**  
May 6-10 Final Exam Week

Final Exam Part II: Assignment 5 __Medieval Superhero Story Due Thursday, May 9th by 11:59pm—Submit to Blackboard