Literature of the Western World: From the Bronze Age to the Renaissance

ENGL 2332 – W01 (CRN 95539), Summer II 2019, Online

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Office: Classroom East 213-D
Office Hours:

Textbooks:

The first text below is the only one that is required. All other texts are highly recommended, though other editions may suffice. Free, online editions are available, but these are usually much more difficult to read because they are very old translations. All required and recommended texts are available through TAMU-CC’s bookstore.

Required:

Recommended editions of readings for optional units:

Additional Reading:

To reduce costs, some readings have been selected from free, electronic editions that are in the public domain. These readings are available in PDF form and/or as URL links on Blackboard in the relevant unit.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of Western literature from the earliest surviving literary texts to the Renaissance. Its primary goal is to foster the rigorous methodology of academic literary scholarship. It will also explore issues such as the origins of literature in oral storytelling, the
processes by which narratives are transformed through transmission, the role of explicit and implicit metaphors in shaping thought, and literature’s role in exercising social intelligence.

Course Requirements

All class activities will be done through the class Blackboard page. There you will find announcements, the schedule of readings, links to texts, lecture videos, discussion forum, quizzes, and the place to submit your essay and final exam.

Because the summer semester is 1/3rd the length of a normal semester, you will not have to complete all of the readings normally assigned in English 2332. Instead, you will be able to choose three out of nine reading units. Each unit contains its own readings, lecture videos, discussion forum, and quiz. Everyone in the class will complete the “Intro Unit” (including discussion forum and quiz) by Wednesday of Week 2 (July 17). After that you will choose one unit for each week, with readings and assignments due every Wednesday (July 24 & 31, and August 7). The last two days (August 8 & 9), you will complete a final exam that covers only the units you selected.

Intro Unit: Introduction to narrative theory. Text required: *Myths from Mesopotamia.*

Readings:
- a. *Atrahasis*
- b. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- c. *Genesis*, chapters 1-11

Optional units:

A. Prometheus: Greek poetry & drama
   - a. Hesiod’s *Works and Days* (lines 42-105)
   - b. Hesiod’s *Theogony* (lines 507-616)
   - c. Aeschylus’ *Prometheus Bound*

B. Homer: Greek epic
   - a. *The Iliad* (books 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)
   - b. *The Odyssey* (books 1, 5, 6, 7, 8)

C. Virgil’s *Aeneid* (books 1-6): Roman epic

D. Old English & Old Norse.
   - a. *Beowulf*
   - b. *The Saga of Hrolf Kraki and his Champions* (chapters 24-52)

E. *The Song of the Cid*: Medieval Spanish epic.

F. Chaucer: Medieval meta-romance
   - a. *Canterbury Tales*: General Prologue
   - b. *Canterbury Tales*: The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale
   - c. *The Marriage of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell*

G. *Morien* and the Literature of King Arthur

H. Shakespeare’s *Othello*

I. Hamlet’s Viking origins:
   - a. Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*
- **Blackboard Discussion Forum** (due Wed. July 10, 17, 24, 31 and Aug. 7 at 11:59pm) 20%

  For each unit, each student will contribute at least one entry to that unit’s discussion forum. This entry could pose a question, add a bit of historical or literary context gleaned from personal research, suggest an interpretation of one or more specific parts of the text, discuss an adaptation or cultural allusion to the text, or discuss any other element of potential interest to the rest of the class. The entry must be at least 150 words—long enough to explain the question or comment, put it in context, refer to the specific portions of the text, etc. Responses to the posts of other students is highly encouraged.

- **Quizzes** (due Wed. July 10, 17, 24, 31 and Aug. 7 at 11:59pm) 20%

  On each Wednesday, beginning on June 6, a quiz will be due. On June 6, the quiz for the introductory unit will be due. After that, you may choose which unit to do each week. You must complete one quiz per week. If you don’t complete a quiz that week, you won’t get credit for that week. There will be 4 quizzes total, so each quiz is worth 5% of your final grade.

- **Essay** (due Friday, August 9, at 11:59pm) 30%

  Essay prompts will be posted in the “Essays” section of Blackboard. Each essay should be 5 pages, double-spaced, posted digitally as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf in the “Essays” section of Blackboard. Submission uses Blackboard’s SafeAssign plagiarism check. Plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the essay on the first attempt. Subsequent attempts will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. Essay 1 is due Friday, March 10. Essay 2 is due Wednesday, May 10.

- **Final Exam** (available Aug 8 & 9; due Aug 9 at 11:59pm) 30%

  The final exam will consist of several smaller tests covering the introductory unit and all of the optional units. You will only need to take the component tests for the intro unit and the 3 units that you worked on during the semester. Some questions will be multiple choice, similar to the quizzes. There will also be short-answer questions that require you to explain an answer in 4-8 sentences. Read instructions carefully, ensure that you have a reliable internet connection, and check the computer hardware and software requirements posted in the “Exams” section of Blackboard before you begin the exam. Once you begin the exam, you will have a limited time to complete it. The test timer will continue to run even if you log off or become disconnected. You will only be able to take the test once.

**Course Objectives:**
1. 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.
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 discussion, and writing.
6. To use writing as a tool for learning.
Student Learning Objectives:

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:

1. Critical Thinking
   - CT1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.
   - CT3. Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.

2. Communication Skills
   - CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.

3. Personal Responsibility:
   - PR1. Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.

4. Social Responsibility:
   - SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.

Course Policies and Further Information

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.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of zero. All essays are electronically tested for plagiarism by SafeAssign.

Dropping a Class: 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. July 29 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: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. 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.

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.

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 will continue its normal schedule through the use of Blackboard. As a fully-online class, no delay is expected, but alterations to the schedule may be made and announced if needed. 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.

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.

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.

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*These are examples of assignment due dates. Please consult the course syllabus for specific dates.*