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

ENGL 2332 – W01 (CRN 10094), Fall 2019, Online

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Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:50 am

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:

- Choose one Shakespeare text:

**Additional Reading:**

To reduce costs, some readings have been selected from free, electronic editions that are in the public domain. All 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.

**Major Course Requirements (How you will earn your grade)**

- **Blackboard Discussion Forum** 20%
  
  For each text, each student should contribute at least one entry to that text’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** 20%
  
  Every Monday a quiz will be posted in the Blackboard “Quizzes” section. It will cover the readings and lectures of that week. It will be available for one week. On the following Monday, that quiz will be closed, and the quiz for the next week will open. Once a quiz closes, it cannot be made up. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure close reading and a regular reading schedule throughout the semester. They also help to ensure the application of theoretical concepts to the act of reading. In the last half of the semester, there will be three units that offer a choice between two readings with two corresponding quizzes. You are only required to take one per unit, but you can take the other quiz for extra credit.

- **2 Essays** 30% (15% each)
  
  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 October 18 by 5pm. Essay 2 is due Dec. 12 at 5pm.

- **Midterm Exam and Final Exam 30%** (15% each)
  
  The midterm exam will consist of questions covering all readings and lectures assigned in the first seven weeks. The final exam will cover conceptual material from lectures from the entire semester, but it will only cover the readings assigned after the midterm. It will be available for all of Finals Week. 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 text once. The midterm is due October 18 by 5pm. The final exam is due Dec. 12 at 5pm.
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. The last day to drop a class is Friday, November 8.

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.C2.03_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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<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Due Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1 Aug 26</strong></td>
<td><strong>Unit 1: Introduction</strong></td>
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| | • Video lecture: *Introduction to English 2332*  
| | • Video lecture: *Narrative is not Reality*  
| | • Video lecture: *Context: historical vs. personal*  
| | • "War of the Ghosts" assignment Part 1 due Friday at 5pm. Write as much as you can remember from "The War of the Ghosts" narrative that I read at the end of lecture 1b "Narrative is not Reality"  
| | • Quiz 1 due Friday at 5pm. |
| **Week 2 Sept. 3** | **Unit 2: Atrahasis** |
| | • Video lecture: *Intro to Atrahasis: Broken tablets*  
| | • Video lecture: "War of the Ghosts" part II - Cultural schemas  
| | • Video lecture: *Metaphors*  
| | **Read:** *Atrahasis*, (Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia*, pages 1-34)  
| | • Video lecture: *Atrahasis part II: myth, iteration, and redaction*  
| | • Video lecture: *Atrahasis part III: analysis*  
| | • War of the Ghost assignment Part 2 due by Monday, Sept. 9, at noon. Complete the peer-review phase of the "War of the Ghosts" assignment (posted in Unit 1) |
| **Week 3 Sept. 9** | Quiz 2 and Discussion forum 2 due by Monday at 12 noon. [Note: There is no "Discussion Forum 1". We begin with D2 so that the numbers match the unit number to avoid confusion.]  
| | **Unit 3: Gilgamesh**  
| | Recommended order of readings and videos:  
| | • *Gilgamesh* SBV Tablets I-II.Iv (Dalley, pages 50-61),  
| | • *Gilgamesh* OBV tablets I-III.ii (Dalley, pages 136-142)  
| | • *Gilgamesh* SBV Tablets II.v-V.vi (Dalley, pp. 61-77)  
| | • *Gilgamesh* OBV Tablet III.iii-IV (Dalley, pp. 142-148)  
| | • Osama S. M. Amin, “The Newly Discovered Tablet V of the Epic of Gilgamesh”  
| | • F.N.H. Al-Rawi & A. R. George, “Back to the Cedar Forest” Section titled, "The New Tablet" (pages 72-84)  
| | • Video lecture: 3a *Gilgamesh Tablets I-V*  
| | • Gilgamesh SBV Tablet VI-XII (Dalley pp. 77-125)  
| | • Video lecture: 3b *Gilgamesh Tablets VI-XI* |
| **Week 4 Sept. 16** | **Unit 4: Genesis**  
<p>| | • Excerpts from <em>The New Oxford Annotated Bible</em>. All three readings are posted in a single PDF in the Blackboard section &quot;Unit 4: Genesis.&quot; |</p>
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<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Sept. 23</th>
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<td>Quiz 4 and Discussion Forum 4 due by Monday at 12 noon.</td>
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**Unit 5: Prometheus**

- Video lecture: [5a Prometheus - Evolution of the Myth](http://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodTheogony.html#10)
- Hesiod, *Theogony* (lines 507-616, "Prometheus")
- Hesiod, *Works and Days* (lines 42-105, "Pandora and the Jar")
- Video lecture: [5b Hesiod's Prometheus](http://www.theoi.com/Text/HesiodWorksDays.html#Pandora)
- Video lecture: [5c Aescylus' Prometheus](http://www.theoi.com/Text/AeschylusPrometheus.html)

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<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Sept. 30</th>
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<td>Quiz 5 and Discussion Forum 5 due by Monday at 12 noon.</td>
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**Unit 6: Homer's Iliad and Odyssey**

- Video lecture: [6a Homer's Iliad](http://www.theoi.com/Text/HomerIliad1.html)
### Week 7
**Oct. 7**
- Quiz 6 and Discussion Forum 6 due by Monday at 12 noon.

**Unit 7: Virgil's Aeneid**
- Video lecture: 7a Virgil's Rome - The historical context of the Aeneid
- Virgil's *Aeneid* pp. 47-212: Books 1-6
- Video lecture: 7b Virgil's *Aeneid*, Books 1-6

### Week 8
**Oct. 14**
- Quiz 7 and Discussion Forum 4 due by Monday at 12 noon.

**Midterm Exam & Essay 1 Due Oct. 19**

### Week 9
**Oct. 21**
- **Week 8 of Unit 8: The Medieval North**
  - Video lecture: 8a Barbarian Europe from the fall of Rome to the Viking Age

You're only required to read and complete the quiz for one of these two texts, but you may do both for extra credit.

*(option 8.1) The Saga of Hrolf Kraki*
- Video lecture: 8b *The Saga of Hrolf Kraki and Old Norse Literature*
  - *The Saga of Hrolf Kraki and His Champions*
    Translation 2005 by Peter Tunstall) Chapters 24-52. See Unit 8 for more text options.

- Video lecture: 8b *The Saga of Hrolf Kraki and Old Norse Literature* (You only need to watch the first 24 minutes of the video for general historical context of Old Norse literature.
  - Video lecture: 8c *Amleth, the Viking Hamlet*
  - *Saxo Grammaticus, History of the Danes, books 3&4*. See Unit 8 for more text options.

### Week 10
**Oct. 28**
- Quiz 8 and Discussion Forum 8 due by Monday at 12 noon.

**Unit 9: Beowulf**
- *Beowulf*, pp. xi-xiii, xxi-xxiii, 2-31 (introductory material and lines 1-870 of *Beowulf*)
- *Beowulf*, pp. 32-63 (lines 871-1939 of Beowulf)
- excerpts from *Grettir’s Saga* (in *Beowulf: Longman Cultural Edition* pp. 200-217)
- *Beowulf*, pp. 63-88: lines 1940-2801 of Beowulf
- Video lecture: 9a *Beowulf*
### Week 11
**Nov. 4**
- Quiz 9 and Discussion Forum 9 due by Monday at 12 noon.

**Unit 10: The Song of the Cid**
- Video lecture: 10a The Song of the Cid - Historical Context
- *The Song of the Cid*, pp. ix-xxv, 3-155: Introduction and Cantos 1-3
- Video lecture: 10b Identity and Conflict in The Song of the Cid

### Week 12
**Nov. 11**
- Quiz 10 and Discussion Forum 10 due by Monday at 12 noon.

**Unit 11: Arthurian Literature**
- Video lecture: 11a The Literature of King Arthur: Cultural Context
- Video lecture: 11b The Literature of King Arthur: Literary Origins
- Video lecture: 11c The Literature of King Arthur: The History behind the Legend

You're only required to read and complete the quiz for one of these two texts, but you may do both for extra credit.

**(option 12.1) Gawain and Ragnell**
- *The Marriage of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell*
- Video lecture: Gawain & Ragnell

**(option 12.2) Morien, The Black Knight**
- The Romance of Morien
- Video lecture: Morien, The Black Knight

### Week 13
**Nov. 18**
- Quiz 11 and Discussion Forum 11 due by Monday at 12 noon.

**Unit 12: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales**
- Video lecture: 11a Chaucer's Historical Context
- Video lecture: 11b *Canterbury Tales*, The General Prologue
- Video lecture: 11c *Canterbury Tales*, The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale

### Week 14
**Nov. 25**
- Quiz 12 and Discussion Forum 12 due by Monday at 12 noon.

**Unit 13: Shakespeare**
You're only required to read and complete the quiz for one of these two plays, but you may do both for extra credit.

**(option 13.1) Othello**
- Video lecture 12a: Shakespeare's *Othello*: Historical background
- Read: Shakespeare's *Othello* (Arden Shakespeare Edition or other edition)
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<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th>Dec. 2</th>
<th>Quiz 13 and Discussion Forum 13 due by Monday at 12 noon. Catch up on readings and begin 2nd essay.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final exam week</strong></td>
<td><strong>Essay 2 &amp; Final Exam due Dec 12 at 5pm</strong></td>
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