

Syllabus, English 2331: World Literature, Fall 2014, M-W 12:30-1:45

Instructor: Professor Nelson Sager email: nsager@sulross.edu

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Eng. 2302 [World Literature I (beginnings into the 19th century)] is taught as a course in the English literature curriculum of the Department of Languages and Literature; its content this semester (fall 2014) will be a survey of selected major works of world literature which have served as precursors of works to follow in Western literature, in English. Major emphases in this course will be the following: applying techniques of critical literary evaluation and recognizing the importance of culture in the development and understanding of literature—particularly, the origins of literary generic formats and the treatment of cultural themes prevalent in Western civilization. We will also discuss the bases for explicating various generic forms of literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will

- read representative masterpieces of world literature from the beginnings to 1600 and identify the genre specific to each work read.
- demonstrate their ability to select and apply the appropriate evaluative criteria to each particular literary genre studied.
- explore by critical analysis the significance of culture in the literatures of peoples of the Mediterranean Basin and Western Europe (i.e. selected works of Greek, Roman, Italian, and French literature which affected the literature created in the language of English), by comparing and classifying works, researching cultures, and inferring relationships.
- show evidence of having mastered the content of literary works by identifying characters, genres, and themes, describing major conflicts, and listing specific literary criteria used in evaluation
- show their ability to judge literary quality by applying evaluative criteria and supporting discussion with examples from the texts.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (English and Education Generalist Requirements at the Undergraduate Level):

Graduating students will demonstrate that they can

1. Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development
2. Analyze literary works by applying principles of literary criticism or theory
3. Produce research papers that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of acceptable sources, employ them effectively through quotations or paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using MLA format
4. Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written or multimedia projects
5. Compare/contrast and analyze major works and periods within World, English, and American literature.
6. Understand how to interpret, analyse, evaluate and produce visual images and messages in various media and to provide students with opportunities to develop skills in this area.
7. Understand the defining elements and characteristics of various literary genres contribute to the meaning of a given work (such as historical fiction, poetry, myths, epics, fables, etc.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Two (2) major examinations (33^{1/3} % each) [open book and notes] 66^{2/3} %

One (1) written analysis of one (or more) work(s) studied in this class relative to
concepts in modern written and visual literature [submitted through Blackboard] 33^{1/3} %

100%

These major assignments will be graded numerically on the basis of 100 points each. Each graded assignment will be added for a total divided by three to arrive at a course average. The course letter grade will be based on letter grade equivalents to the numerical class average as follows:

89.51-100+ = A

79.51-89.50 = B

69.51-79.50 = C

60 -69.50 = D

Below 60 = F.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Homer. *The Iliad*. (Powell trans.) New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. Print.

ISBN 9780199925865

Homer. *The Odyssey*. (Fagles trans.) New York: Penguin Classics, 1997. Print.

ISBN 13: 9780140268867

Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex*. Dover, 1991. Print. ISBN 9780486268774

***Aristophanes. *The Frogs*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2007. ISBN 9780140449693**

Dante Alighieri. *The Inferno*. Translated by John Ciardi. New York: Signet Classics, 2001.

ISBN 9780451531391

Miguel Cervantes. *Don Quixote*. Translated by Edith Grossman. New York: Harper-Collins, 2003

ISBN 9780060934347

***Johann Goethe. *Faust, Part 1*. Oxford World Classics. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2008.**

ISBN 9780199536214

***Voltaire. *Candide*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2005. ISBN 978014303942**

*Gustave Flaubert: *Three Tales. (contains A Simple Heart.)* New York: Oxford World Classics, Oxford Univ. Press, 2009. ISBN 978019555864

*Leo Tolstoy. *The Death of Ivan Ilych.* New York: Vintage Classics, 2012. ISBN 9780307951335

*Henrik Ibsen. *Four Major Plays. (contains A Doll's House)* New York: Oxford World Classics, 2008.

ISBN 9780199536191

*Anton Chekov, *The Cherry Orchard* . Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Publishing Co., 2010

ISBN 9781603843096

In addition to reading* these texts or portions of these texts, we will be reading* on-line material and hard-copy hand-outs on Greek Mythology, and other works of Greek, Italian (the sonnet), and Chinese (Haiku Poetry) literature. (*Yes, this is a reading and discussion class: you will be held responsible for previously reading the assigned material for a given class day before the class meets that day.)

ATTENDANCE: The attendance policy for this class is that stated in the current SRSU Catalog and the 2014 Fall Class Schedule. In Tues-Thurs classes [in our case, a Monday-Wednesday class] (1 hr. and 15 min. period), more than 6 absences of any type can result in being dropped from the class with a failing grade.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L. P. C. in Counseling and Accessibility Services in counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Tentative Schedule of Assignments and Activities:

Aug 25 **Introduction to Course; discussion of the hierarchy of Greek gods and relevance to Greek literary works and Greek Culture**

Aug 27 **Discuss *The Iliad*, "The Anger of Achilles," Book 1, lines 1-735; summarization and discussion of Books 2-17.**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trojan_War

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iliad>

<http://www.shmoop.com/iliad/>

Sep 03 **Discuss *The Iliad* "The Shield of Achilles," Book 18, lines 1-720; summarization and discussion of Books 19-21.**

Sep 08 **Discuss *The Iliad* "The Death of Hector," Book 22, lines 1-606; summarization and discussion of Book 23.**

Sep 10 **Discuss *The Iliad* "Achilles and Priam," Book 24; summarization of what follows the fall of Troy in the story of the Trojan War.**

Sep 15 **Discuss *The Odessey* Books 1-6**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odyssey>

<http://www.shmoop.com/odyssey/>

Sep 17 **Discuss *The Odessey* Books 7-12**

Sep 22 **Discuss *The Odessey* Books 13-18**

Sep 24 **Discuss *The Odessey* Books 19-24.**

Sep 29 **Discuss Aristotle's *The Poetics* (hand-out excerpts on tragedy) and Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex***

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1974/1974-h/1974-h.htm> [This is a translation of *The Poetics* by Aristotle].

<http://www.shmoop.com/oedipus-the-king/>

Oct 07 **Discussion of comedy and Aristophanes' *The Frogs***

Oct 09 **Discuss Dante's *Inferno* [Cantos 1-11]**

Oct 15 **Discuss Dante's *Inferno* [Cantos 12-22]**

Oct 17 **Discuss Dante's *Inferno* [Cantos 23-34]**

Oct 20 **Discuss Xerox material on the sonnet poetic format with examples from Italian poets: Dante and Petrarch**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonnet>

<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/text/poetic-form-sonnet>

Oct 22 **EXAM 1**

Oct 27 **Discuss *Don Quixote***

Oct 29 **Discuss *Don Quixote***

Nov 03 **Discuss *Don Quixote***

Nov 05 **Discuss Voltaire's *Candide*.**

Nov 10 **Discuss Voltaire's *Candide***

Nov 12 **Discuss Goethe's *Faust, Part 1***

Nov 17 **Discuss Flaubert's "A Simple Heart"**

Nov 19 **Discuss Ibsen's *A Doll's House***

Nov 24 **Discussion of Asian poetic format, the Haiku (based on examples on Xerox handouts**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiku>

<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/text/poetic-form-haiku>

Nov 25 **THANKSGIVING BREAK begins after last night class**

Dec 01 **Discuss Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilych*; Submit written literary critical analysis through "Safe Assign" in Blackboard**

Dec 03 **Discuss Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*; Final Deadline: no written critical analyses accepted after 5:00 pm, December 3, 2014**

Dec 08 **Final Exam in Course[12:30pm]**