

Syllabus, English 4320: International Literature, Fall 2016, T- 6:00-8:30 p.m

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Eng. 4320 [International Literature] (20th-21st century) is taught as a course in the English literature curriculum of the Department of Languages and Literature; its content this semester (fall 2016) will be a survey of selected works of world literature which illustrate drama narrative, poetry, and film originally written in or translated into English by authors from different cultures and /or nations. 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 literary generic formats and the treatment of cultural themes from languages and cultures other than English. We will also discuss the bases for explicating various generic forms of literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will

- read representative works and formats of international literature from the late 19th century to current time and identify the genre specific to each work.
- 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 from around the world, by comparing and classifying works, researching cultures, and inferring relationships.
- show evidence of having mastered the content of literary works by identifying narrative voice, 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.

STUDENT 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 International, English, and American literature.
6. Understand how to interpret, analyze, 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 (25 % each) [open book and notes] = 50% of course grade

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 SAFE ASSIGN of Blackboard]= 50 % of course grade. [The writing assignment is discussed in the "Course Documents" of the Blackboard web site.]

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 four 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

List of Texts in Print for English 4320 for the fall 2016 semester:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. Anchor, 1994. ISBN: 9780385474542

Akhtar, Ayad. *Disgraced*. Little, Brown (Back Bay Books), 2013. ISBN: 9780316324465

Hesse, Herman. *Sidhartha*. Dover, 1999. ISBN: 9780486406534

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. Riverhead (Berkeley/Penguin), 2003. ISBN: 9781594480003

Nesbo, Jo. *The Redbreast*. Harper-Collins, 2009.

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis, Vol 1*. Pantheon, 2003 (2004). ISBN: 9780375714573

***Words without Borders: The World Through the Eyes of Writers*. Anchor-Doubleday, 2007. 9781400079759**

We will also screen film versions of *The Kite Runner*, *Persepolis*, *Sidhartha*. and *Day of the Jackel* in class.

In addition to reading these texts or portions of these texts, we will be reading on-line material and hard-copy hand-outs of poetry and criticism. (Yes, this is a reading and discussion class: you will be held responsible for reading the assigned material for a given class day before the class meets that day, as well as being able to discuss elements of the literary work in class that day.)

ATTENDANCE: The attendance policy for this class is that stated in the current SRSU Catalog and the 2016 Spring Class Schedule. In Tues-Thurs classes (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

Disabilities Statement: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements to ensure the most hospitable and enhancing (cyber) learning environment as possible.

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, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Tentative Schedule of assigned reading and class activities:

Aug 23—Introduction to class; discussion of backgrounds for generic literary forms of works discussed and critically examined in the class: essential elements of narrative, drama, poetry, and narrative film structure.

Aug 30—*Sidhartha*

Sep 06—*Sidhartha*

Sep 13—*Things Fall Apart*

Sep 20—*Things Fall Apart*

Sep 27—*Persepolis*

Oct 04—Examination 1

Oct 11—*The Kite Runner*

Oct 18—*Words without Borders* [selected stories]

Oct 25—*Words without Borders* [selected stories].

Nov 01—*Disgraced*

Nov 08—*The Redbreast*

Nov 15—*The Redbreast*

Nov 22— *Day of the Jackal* Film

Thanksgiving Break (Nov 23-25)

Nov 29— Contemporary Poetry [selected examples]

Nov 30 This is not a class meeting night, but-- [*The written critical analysis assignment should be submitted through SAFE ASSIGN Blackboard by 5:00 p.m., Nov 30.*]

Dec 05 –MONDAY, DECEMBER 5: Exam 3 in Course] Note: The exam on the official schedule is to be conducted from 6:00 through 8:00 p.m. on this date. Course grades for students enrolled in the course are to be turned in to the Registrar by 12:00, December 8, 2016. Any late or makeup work for this course must be completed by 5:00 pm on Dec. 5, for it to be graded and averaged into your final grade for this course.

Aug 23—Introduction to class; discussion of backgrounds for Greek Literary Works; discuss essential elements of narrative structure; complete a short writing sample based on a segment from *The Iliad*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek_military_personal_equipment

Aug 25—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 1-60 (introduction and books 1-4); screen portions of the film *Troy*

http://www.weapons-universe.com/Swords/Ancient_Greek_Weapons.shtml

<http://www.larp.com/hoplite/greekweapons.html>

Aug 30—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 61-117 (books 5-10)

Sep01—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 118-183 (books 11-17)

Sep 06—Holiday, no class meeting

Sep 08—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 184-247 (books 18-24)

Sep 13—Read *The Odyssey*, pp. 251-310 (*The Odyssey* books 1-7); pp. 311-383 (books 8-12); screen portion of the film *The Odyssey*

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

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

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

Sep 15—Read *The Odyssey*, pp. 384-447 (books 13-21); pp. 448-493 (books 22-24).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suitors_of_Penelope

Sep 20—Wrap-up discussion of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*: comparing works to modern literary depictions of warrior culture narratives; discussion of written assignment for English 2331

Sep 22—Read Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*; discussion of the play

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oedipus_the_King

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

Sep 27—Read Aristophanes' *The Clouds*; and *Lysistrata*.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristophanes>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_stock_characters

<http://www.shmoop.com/lysistrata/summary.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agon>

Sep 29— Wrap-up discussion of Greek drama (tragedy and comedy) and review for exam

Oct 04—Examination 1 (The exam covers *The Iliad*; *The Odyssey*; *Oedipus Rex*, as representative Greek tragedy; *The Clouds*, and *Lysistrata* as examples of Greek comedy.

Oct 06—Read *The Inferno* [Cantos 1-11]

<http://danteworlds.laits.utexas.edu/index2.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inferno_\(Dante\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inferno_(Dante))

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

Oct 11—Read *The Inferno* [Cantos 12-22]

Oct 13—Read *The Inferno* [Cantos 23-34]

Oct 18—The Sonnet as a form of poetry [Read over handouts for this class meeting]

Oct 20—Read *Don Quixote*: Book 1, Chapters 1-7.

Oct 25—Read *Don Quixote*: Book 1, Chapters 8, 22, 46-48, 52.

Oct 27—Read *Don Quixote*: Book 2, Chapters 3, 12-17, 64-65, 73-74.

Nov 01—Read *Don Quixote*: wrap-up *Don Quixote*, other portions of Book 2.

Nov 03—Read Goethe's *Faust*, Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFQp1LdUVsE>

Nov 08—Exam 2: *The Inferno*, *The Sonnet*, *Don Quixote*, and Goethe's *Faust*, Part 1

Nov 10—Read *Candide*

Nov 15—Screen *Forrest Gump*

Nov 17—Screen *Forrest Gump*

Nov 22— Finish screening *Forrest Gump* film; Read *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*

Thanksgiving Break (Nov 23-25) [note: final submission date for written critical analysis is approaching]

Nov 29—begin discussing *A Doll's House*; [The final deadline for the written critical analysis assignment: due to be submitted through SAFE ASSIGN Blackboard by 5:00 pm Nov 29.]

Dec 01—Review for exam 3; finish discussing *A Doll's House*

Dec -07 Exam 3 in Course] Note: The exam on the official schedule is to be conducted from 10:15 through 12:15 on this date. Course grades for students enrolled in the course are to be turned in to the Registrar by 12:00, December 8, 2016. Any late or makeup work for this course must be completed by 5:00 pm on Dec. 7, for it to be graded and averaged into your final grade for this course.