

The following course is taught in the curriculum of the Department of Languages and Literature at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

**Syllabus, English 2331: World Literature, Spring 2017, T-Th 12:30-1:45**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Eng. 2331 [World Literature I (from early 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 2017) 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 1900 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 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.

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

Students will be able to

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 literary periods within World, English, and American literature.
6. Interpret, analyze, evaluate and produce visual images and messages in various media that provide students with opportunities to develop skills in this area.
7. Understand the defining elements and characteristics of various literary genres, which contribute to the meaning of a given work (such as historical fiction, poetry, myths, epics, fables, etc.)

8. Recognize the opportunities in the situations of plot action and development of characters for the author to present concepts of personal and social responsibility

**SPECIFIC STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER,**

**2017:** 1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of understanding the meanings of the concepts "Personal Responsibility" and "Social Responsibility."

2. Students will discover in reading literary works assigned for this course how "personal responsibility" and social responsibility" function in the techniques used and the meaning communicated in these works studied.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Three (3) major examinations (25 % each) [open book and notes] 3 X 25% = 75%

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] 25 % [This assignment is discussed in the "Course Documents" section of this Blackboard web site.]

Total = 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

**List of Texts for English 2331 for fall 2015 semester:**

**Homer. *Homer's Iliad and Odyssey: the Essential Books*. Translated by Barry D. Powell. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN 9780199394074**

**Sophocles. *Oedipus Rex*. New York: Dover Thrift Editions, 1991. ISBN 9780486268774**

**Aristophanes. *Lysistrata and Other Plays*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2008. ISBN 9780140448146**

**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 9780143039426

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

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. **PLEASE NOTE:** 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, 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 2017 Spring Class Schedule.

### 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](#) 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

### Tentative schedule of reading assignments and class activities.



**Jan 17—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*. (for discussions of the weapons used in the Greek warrior culture, see the following on-line sources):**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient\\_Greek\\_military\\_personal\\_equipment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek_military_personal_equipment) [this website describes weapons used during the time frame of *The Iliad*]

**Jan 19—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 1-60 (introduction and books 1-4); screen portions of the film *Troy* (the following on-line sources contain information on weapons used in the Greek warrior culture):**

[http://www.weapons-universe.com/Swords/Ancient\\_Greek\\_Weapons.shtml](http://www.weapons-universe.com/Swords/Ancient_Greek_Weapons.shtml)

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

**Jan 24—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 61-117 (books 5-10)**

**Jan 26—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 118-183 (books 11-17)**

**read the handout from book 10: Odysseus and Diomedes raid the Trojan camp (lines 136-583).**

Jan 31—Read *The Iliad*, pp. 184-247 (books 18-24)

read the handout from book 18: description of the "Shield of Achilles" made by Hephaistos (lines 444-575). (information on the relationship between Achilles and Patroclus can be found in the following on-line source):

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achilles\\_and\\_Patroclus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achilles_and_Patroclus)

Feb 02—Read *The Odyssey*, pp. 251-310 (*The Odyssey* books 1-7); pp. 311-383 (books 8-12); screen portion of the film *The Odyssey*.  
(the following on-line sources provide data on significant content and features of *The Odyssey*):

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

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

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

Feb 07—Read *The Odyssey*, pp. 384-447 (books 13-21); pp. 448-493 (books 22-24).  
(the following on-line source provides names and data on the suitors of Penelope):

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suitors\\_of\\_Penelope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suitors_of_Penelope)

Feb 09—Continue the discussion of *The Odyssey* and screen segments of the film version. Wrap discussion of *Iliad* and *Odyssey* : as warrior culture narratives; discussion of written assignment for English 2331

Feb 14—Read Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*; discussion of the play  
(the following on-line sources provide information on this play):

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oedipus\\_the\\_King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oedipus_the_King)

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

Feb 16—Read Aristophanes' *The Clouds*; skim *Lysistrata*. See Course Documents for the following commentary: Source:

<https://www.usu.edu/markdamen/ClasDram/chapters/08>

1earlygkcom.htm [This copy of the source is condensed.] (the following on-line sources provide significant data on early Greek comedies):

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_stock\\_characters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_stock_characters)

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

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

**Feb 21—Examination 1** (The exam covers *The Iliad*; *The Odyssey*; *Oedipus Rex*, as representative Greek tragedy; *The Clouds*, and plot summary of *Lysistrata* as examples of Greek comedy.

**Feb 23—Read *The Inferno* [Cantos 1-11]; be ready to discuss content**  
(the following online sources provide significant data on *The Inferno*):

<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/>

**Feb 28—Read *The Inferno* [Cantos 12-22]; be ready to discuss this portion of the work.**

**Mar 02—Read *The Inferno* [Cantos 23-34]; be ready to discuss this portion of the work.**

**Mar 07—The Sonnet as a form of poetry [Read over handouts for this class meeting]**

**Mar 09—Read *Don Quixote*: Book 1, Chapters 1-7. Be ready to discuss this portion of the work.**

**Spring Break: March 13-17**

**Mar 21—Read *Don Quixote*: Book 1, Chapters 8-9, 22, 46-48, 52. Be ready to discuss this portion of the work**

**Mar 23—Read *Don Quixote*: Book 2, Chapters 3, 12-17, 64-65, 73-74. Be ready to discuss this portion of the work**

**Mar 26—Read *Don Quixote*: wrap-up *Don Quixote*, other portions of Book 1 and 2: we will go over segments in class discussion.**

**Part 1 Encounter with goatherds and shepherds Chapters 11-14**

**Adventure at the second inn mistaken for a castle Chapters 16-17**

**Part 2 Adventure in the Cave of Montesinos Chapters 22-23**

**Relationship with the Duke and Duchess Chapters 30-47**

**Sancho's governorship Chapters 44-45; 47; 49; 54; 53**

**Return home and the death and will of Don Quixote Chapters 73-74.**

**Apr 28 —Read Goethe's *Faust, Part 1* (the following on-line source has significant information on this work.)**

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

**Apr 04—Exam 2: *The Inferno*, *The Sonnet*, *Don Quixote*, and Goethe's *Faust, Part 1***

**Apr 06—Read *Candide*; Be ready to discuss this portion of the work.**

**Apr 11—Finish discussing *Candide*; Begin Screening *Forrest Gump***

**Apr 13—Screen *Forrest Gump***

**Apr 18— Finish screening *Forrest Gump* film; Read *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*; Be ready to discuss this portion of the work.**

**Apr 20 Finish *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*; Begin screening *Stranger Than Fiction***

**Apr 25 Screen *Stranger Than Fiction***

**Apr 27 Complete screening of *Stranger Than Fiction*.**

**May 02 Finish discussing *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* and *Stranger Than Fiction*; Read and then begin discussing *A Doll's House* .**

**May 02 Finish discussing *A Doll's House*. Review for Exam 3.**

**May 03 Last Scheduled Class Day of the Semester (We do not meet on this day.) : But this is the last day for submission of any late work or your literary critical analysis paper by 5:00 pm**

**May 10 Final [This exam, Exam 3, will be given at the time assigned by the SR Official Final Exam Schedule for classes meeting T-Th, 12:30-1:45] This course final, Exam 3, will cover *Candide*; *Forrest Gump*; *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*; *Stranger Than Fiction*; and *The Doll's House*.**