

CMPL/ENGL 266: World Literature from the Beginnings to 1700 A.D.

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:30pm, and by appointment

Course Description

This is a course in the close reading and appreciation of world literature from the beginnings to 1700 A.D. We will explore some of the most famous literary texts from different cultures around the globe. To read the old texts is to enter different worlds, to escape the limits of our own time and place. Through careful reading, class discussion, and assignments, we will engage the ideas and aesthetics of our texts. In order to do that, we must place each work in a global literary context; this in turn means that we will attempt to define what makes a literary work overstep its national, language-based borders and become “world literature.”

Course Objectives and Themes

In this class, you will learn to read literature carefully and analytically, respond to literary texts both orally and in writing, and understand the value of comparing different literary texts. You will also become familiar with certain intellectual and artistic concepts and with the different cultural and historical contexts of the texts on our syllabus. **We will follow three themes:**

1) quests, 2) mortality and morality, and 3) love. These themes will help us to look for patterns and differences among our texts and they will also raise questions we can use as a starting point for our investigations. Like any activity, reading, writing and talking about literature are habits. The more you do it, the more likely it is your abilities will improve. This course will provide you with ideas, methods, and practice for improving your reading, discussion, oral presentation, and writing skills.

Course Schedule

Lilly Hall of Life Sciences | G401 TR 3:00-4:15pm

Required Texts and Materials

- *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, 3rd edition, vols. A, B, C (ISBN: 978-0-393-93365-9)
- 3x5-inch notecards to turn in for daily attendance
- Occasional supplementary PDFs to be printed for class, TBA

Online Resources

- Blackboard and
- the Norton Student Studyspace (www.wwnorton.com/nawol) with its Glossary of Literary Terms (<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nawol3shorter/literaryterms.aspx>)

Readings

We will have approximately 40 to 50 pages of reading per session. Please allow at least six hours per week for class reading and homework, plus extra time for writing papers, preparing a presentation, and studying for exams.

Semester Grade Breakdown:

15%	Attendance, Participation, and Homework
10%	Quizzes
20%	Two Essays (10% each)
15%	Midterm
5%	Presentation of Literary Adaptation
20%	Final Comparative Paper
15%	Final Exam

%	- 97	- 93	- 90	- 87	- 83	- 80	- 77	- 73	- 70	- 67	- 63	- 60
Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-

Exams and Quizzes

You will have a midterm and a final exam as well as periodic unannounced quizzes. **Barring extenuating circumstances, you may not make up exams or quizzes.**

Presentation of Literary Adaptation

You will produce a creative adaptation of a text from our anthology. Your adaptation could involve changes in media and/or changes in setting and time period. You will work with me to create a plan for the project, and you will give a 5 minute presentation of your finished product to the class. You will sign up for a date for your presentation during the second week of the semester.

Essays

You will have to write **two essays** with a length of 3-5 pages each. I will give you 5 possible essay topics during the semester, from which you will have to choose 2. One condition is that, for your first essay, you choose either the 1st or 2nd topic so that I can get an idea of where you are at with your writing early on in the semester. The essays will be due one week after I announce the respective topic. I will provide you with a detailed grading rubric for your essays and final paper.

Final Comparative Paper

The final comparative paper will give you the chance to spend more time on specific works. You will write 6-8 pages and compare a work on the syllabus with another work on the syllabus from a different genre, culture, and/or time period. Beyond noting similarities and differences, you should make a thoughtful argument about their implications. I will provide you with PDFs on how to write about world literature for further information.

I am more than happy to help you with your writing and to read a draft of your work if you make an appointment to see me. Make sure to format your essays and your final comparative paper according to the MLA guidelines. If you have questions about MLA style, grammar and/or punctuation, please refer to the OWL, the Purdue Online Writing Lab (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). I also strongly encourage you to make an appointment to visit the Writing Lab in person (HEAV 226); feel free to have them notify me about your visit. To be successful in your writing assignments, please plan ahead! **Late papers will be accepted with a 10% grade deduction for each day they are late!**

Participation

Discussion is an integral part of this course. You are expected to attend all classes fully prepared to actively engage with the assigned reading(s). Active participation means raising your hand to ask or answer questions, volunteering to give examples or share your work, offering additional information or reflection when answering a question, etc. You must also bring the correct edition of the textbook, writing implements, and paper to class each day. Please see the “Participation Grading Criteria” on page 5 of this syllabus for a detailed participation grading rubric.

Lateness

It is your responsibility to make sure that you come to class on time. Students will be marked late if they arrive up to 15 minutes after class begins. After 15 minutes, the student may be marked absent. Arriving less than 15 minutes late twice may also equal one absence.

Attendance

Class meets two times a week (TR) and **attendance is required because your participation is crucial**. Attendance is calculated as a strict percentage of the number of times you were in class – in other words, every unexcused absence counts against your overall semester grade.

Unexcused absences also affect your participation scores. If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not your instructor’s) to find out what was done in class. It is recommended that you find another student in the class whom you can contact to find out this information – your instructor is under no obligation to respond to your email inquiries concerning missed materials because of an unexcused absence. Absences due to personal, family, or medical emergencies may be excused at the discretion of your instructor. Students must document and sign this request to their instructor in a written note including the date of absence(s) and a brief explanation. Please contact your instructor as soon as possible regarding absence from class. Note that it is possible to fail this course on attendance alone. **If you have more than 4 unexcused absences, the instructor may fail you!** See <http://www.purdue.edu/odos/services/classabsence.php> for Purdue’s complete Class Attendance and Absence Reporting Policy.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty or plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances! If found guilty, possible penalties include suspension or expulsion. Purdue prohibits “dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty.” Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another person’s ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist’s own product. This may be done by not giving credit for a quote or a passage of information, or by deliberately copying a written work, or downloading a paper or presentation from the internet without giving credit to the source. To avoid plagiarism, cite references and sources! See <http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php> for Purdue’s complete Academic Integrity policy.

Special Needs

If you have any special disability-related needs that may affect your performance in this course, please speak privately with your instructor as soon as possible.

Classroom Conduct

Courteous behavior is expected at all times. This includes listening attentively to others, participating in activities and discussions, and showing respect for others. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. Please bring any relevant problems to my attention immediately. See http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html for Purdue's complete Nondiscrimination Policy Statement.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, such as cell phones, pagers, tablet PCs, digital recorders, beepers, palms, MP3 players, digital cameras or laptops, are not to be used during class unless the instructor authorizes their usage for a class-related purpose.

Emergencies

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Information about changes to the course can be obtained by contacting the instructor via e-mail or phone. **You are responsible for checking your Purdue e-mail frequently!**

Communicating with Your Instructor

Please feel free to contact me anytime via email at weilerc@purdue.edu. In case of an emergency, you can also text or call me at 765-491-8564. In addition, I encourage you to come by my office in SC G054 during my office hours. If you want to meet with me outside my office hours, please do not hesitate to email me to arrange an appointment. If you are having any kind of difficulties, it is best that you let me know as soon as possible! Please remember that I am here to help!



Ὥ οἶς βραχύς, ἡ δὲ τέχνη μακρή –
Life is short, and art is long.
– Hippocrates

Participation Grading Criteria

An **A** student:

- ◆ is on time and has all their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class
- ◆ always prepared for class
- ◆ displays a positive attitude and enthusiasm for the subject
- ◆ works well with other students in groups
- ◆ stays on-task when working in groups or alone
- ◆ asks questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ almost always volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ almost always volunteers/answers when going over assigned work

A **B** student:

- ◆ is almost always on-time and has their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class
- ◆ mostly prepared for class
- ◆ displays a positive attitude and shows interest in the subject
- ◆ works well with other students in groups
- ◆ stays on-task when working in groups or alone
- ◆ asks questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ sometimes volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ sometimes volunteers/answers when going over assigned work

A **C** student:

- ◆ is generally on time and has their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class most of the time
- ◆ often or sometimes prepared for class
- ◆ works ok with other students in groups
- ◆ sometimes gets off-task when working in groups
- ◆ does the bare minimum when working alone
- ◆ does not ask questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ rarely volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ displays an indifferent attitude

A **D/F** student:

- ◆ is often late to class and often forgets to bring the necessary materials
- ◆ does not pay attention to what is going on in class
- ◆ usually does not prepare for class
- ◆ chats with other students when they are supposed to be doing group work
- ◆ does little or nothing when they are supposed to be working alone
- ◆ never volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ never volunteers when going over assigned work
- ◆ is uncooperative in group work
- ◆ is disruptive to instructor and/or other students in the class
- ◆ displays an attitude that indicates that they would rather be anywhere else

Tentative Schedule

WEEK		ASSIGNMENT <i>Page #s refer to The Norton Anthology of World Literature</i>
1	T 8/26	What is World Literature? Introduction and Themes Discussion
	R 8/28	<i>Gilgamesh</i> (A 95-136)
2	T 9/2	<i>Gilgamesh</i> (A 137-151); <i>Hebrew Bible</i> “Genesis” (A 151-180) Sign-Up Presentation
	R 9/4	<i>Hebrew Bible</i> “Job,” “Psalms” (A 193-221)
3	T 9/9	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> I, VI, VIII, IX, XVI (A 222-283)
	R 9/11	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> XVI, XVIII, XXII, XXIV (284-331) Essay Topic 1 announced
4	M 9/16	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> I, V, IX, XXI (A 332-342, 385-396, 427-438; 577-87)
	R 9/18	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i> (A 650-701) Essay Topic 2
5	T 9/23	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (A 701-747)
	R 9/25	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> (A 1073-1104 & PDF) Essay Topic 3
6	T 9/30	<i>The Ramayana</i> 2-3 (A 1170-1202)
	R 10/2	<i>The Ramayana</i> 4-6 (A 1203-1234) Essay Topic 4
7	T 10/7	<i>Christian Bible</i> (B 18-33); <i>Qur'an</i> (B 71-97)
	R 10/9	<i>Beowulf</i> (B 107-141) Essay Topic 5
8	T 10/14	No class: October break
	R 10/16	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> I-X (B 387-425)
9	T 10/21	Dante, <i>Purgatorio</i> (B 512-531); <i>Paradiso</i> XXXIII (B 531-534)
	R 10/23	Midterm Review
10	T 10/28	Midterm
	R 10/30	T'ang Poetry (B 1015-29)
11	T 11/4	Chaucer, <i>Canterbury Tales</i> “General Prologue,” “Wife of Barth” (B 657-709)
	R 11/6	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (B 725-751) Topic Final Paper due
12	T 11/11	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (B 751-780)
	R 11/13	<i>Thousand and One Nights</i> (B 552-570); Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i> (B 605-609, 434-436)
13	T 11/18	<i>Sunjata</i> (C 3-46) Introduction Final Paper due
	R 11/21	<i>Hamlet</i> (C 652-696)
14	T 11/25	<i>Hamlet</i> (C 696-751)
	R 11/27	No class: Thanksgiving vacation
15	T 12/2	<i>Lazarillo de Tormes</i> (C 302-314); Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i> (C 381-399, 408-414)
	R 12/4	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> I, IX (C 770-780, 814-842) Final Paper due
16	T 12/9	Love Lyrics (C 164-180)
	R 12/11	Final Review
17	TBA*	Final Exam

* Please do not make any travel plans before the date for the final exam has been announced!