WORLD LITERATURE I (ENGLISH 2210)

Courses: ENGL 2210.011 (TR 9:30-10:50 A.M., Cury 210)
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Web page: Blackboard for this course
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. or by appt
Office: Lang 407C

Course Description:

This course emphasizes the study and consideration of the literary, cultural, and human significance of some of the world's literary masterpieces and is designed to introduce students to the pleasures of exploring literary masterpieces as well as to reinforce their skills in critical thinking and writing within a framework of cultural diversity as well as comparative and interdisciplinary analysis. An important goal of the class is to promote an understanding of the works in their cultural/historical contexts and of the enduring human values and conflicts that span various literary traditions, to put students in a continual process of interpreting, confronting, discovering, and discussing human experience. In this course, students will encounter some of the greatest works of ancient, medieval, and renaissance world literature, and this semester, we will consider these works through the lens of the theme of EVIL.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated according to the rubric below:

10% Attendance, Quizzes, Participation
20% Weekly Response Papers
10% Composition 1
20% Exam 1
20% Exam 2 (given on final exam day)
15% Final Composition with Research

(A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60)

Required Textbooks (in addition to course readers, provided):


Course Objectives—Students can expect to practice the following:

1. Recall and recognize the historical sequence of major literary figures, texts, and movements within the Ancient, Middle, and Renaissance periods
2. Identify conventional literary genres, elements, devices
3. Employ discipline-specific vocabulary in order to recognize the relationship between form and content
4. Relate literary concepts, principles, terms, strategies, and styles to a range of literature
5. Analyze, evaluate, interpret, synthesize representative texts from the Eastern and Western traditions and relate them to their literary and cultural contexts
6. Compare and contrast major literary figures, their situations, decisions
7. Make connections among various periods, texts, authors, and characters
8. Evaluate ideas presented in a text, their implications, and their relationship to ideas beyond the text
General Policies for Students in World Literature I

**Absence Policy:**
Regular and punctual class attendance is required of all students, and poor attendance may prevent students from earning a passing grade in the course for the semester. The maximum number of permissible absences before a student automatically earns an “F” or “WF” in the course is determined by the schedule of the course:

- **M-W-F (a class that meets three times a week):** 7 absences
- **T-TH (or M-W; a class that meets two times a week):** 5 absences
- **M (or any class that meets only once a week):** 3 absences

(Note: rare extenuating circumstances may occur which legitimize exception to rule, but no exceptions will be made without such circumstances. It is the students’ responsibility to keep track of their absences so that they don't go over the allowed number permitted for the course.)

**Course Schedules and Drops in the First Two Weeks**
Students need to monitor their course schedule every day for the first two weeks of class in order to make sure that they have not been dropped from their courses by the registrar’s office. Students who are dropped from classes for nonpayment of financial aid or other reasons will not be readmitted to the course; it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that all of their financial records are in order so that they are not dropped.

**Excused Absences for University Activities**
In accordance with university policy, the only authorized absences are those due to participation in university-sponsored activities. Authorized absences must be approved in advance by department chairs and academic deans, and within three days after the absence, students must obtain an authorized absence card from the Dean of Students and present this card in person to their instructors. Students with authorized absences may make up the work missed or be given special allowance so that they are not penalized for the absence. All assignments and scheduled work must be turned in before or on the date of the excused absence.

**Excused Absences for Religious Holidays**
In accordance with State law, students absent due to the observance of a religious holiday may take examinations or complete assignments scheduled for the day missed within a reasonable time after the absence. Travel time required for religious observances shall also be excused. Please see the UNT Student Handbook for information on which holidays or holy days are covered by this policy. State law also requires that students notify their teachers at the beginning of the semester if they expect to miss class on a religious holiday during the semester but want to make up the work missed. Students will be allowed to make up the work provided they have informed their teachers in writing within the first 15 days of the semester. Once again, all assignments and scheduled work must be turned in before the date of the excused absence. University policy requires that students provide their teachers with an official notification card issued by the university if they want to make up any in-class work they missed while they were involved in a university authorized activity.

**Unexcused Absences**
Absences due to other causes, such as illness, emergency, death in the family, car trouble, etc., are not authorized by the Department of English as excusable absences, and instructors in the Freshman Writing Program are therefore not authorized to excuse students for such absences (even with “official” notes from medical professionals, etc.). Please note that absences for reasons other than official university business or religious holidays will count against students’ permitted absences for the semester and may also result in missed grades for quizzes, assignments, exams, or writing deadlines.

**The Following Actions May Also Result in a Student Being Counted as Officially Absent:**
- Coming to class without an adequate draft on a day when a draft is due (for peer response or for an assignment)
- Showing up to class more than 10 minutes late
- Failing to attend a mandatory scheduled conference with the instructor
Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:
The UNT Policy Manual defines plagiarism as: “(A) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and (B) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” (18.1.11). Students in all Freshman Writing courses need to be aware of the strict policies against plagiarism and academic honesty enforced by UNT and by instructors in the Department of English. All writing in Freshman English courses must be original, and all uses of other writer’s material (i.e., for the purposes of research based argumentation) must be acknowledged and clearly cited in any writing submitted for a grade.

The consequences for plagiarism at UNT are severe, and may include failure for the course, loss of scholarships, and in some cases dismissal from the university. Please talk with your instructor if you are unsure about whether or not something you are doing in your writing might be identified as plagiarism. If your instructor believes that something you have written has been plagiarized, you will be notified of the allegations in writing and asked to meet with your instructor and respond to your instructor’s arguments. After hearing your response, your instructor will decide on a course of action and notify you in writing of any penalties or other consequences. In most cases, your instructor will also send a copy of the allegations and sanctions to the Academic Affairs office. Please note that instructors in the English Department are authorized to fail students for an assignment or for the course if they judge that an assignment is knowingly or negligently plagiarized. Students may appeal the decision of their instructor in writing to the Assistant Chair of the Dept of English within 5 days of the instructor’s decision.

Class Behavior and Disruptions
According to the UNT Student Code of Conduct (sect. V), the following actions are considered acts of misconduct and may subject a student to university discipline:

• Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures or other University activities, including public service functions or other authorized activities on or off University premises. Includes interrupting, hindering or preventing classroom instruction or other official educational activities from occurring intentionally through noise, acts of incivility, or other means.

• Physical Abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion; and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person. Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution is not a violation of this provision, although fighting words and statements, which reasonably threaten or endanger the health and safety of any person are not protected speech. Each allegation of a violation under this provision shall be reviewed in consideration of these factors.

• Disruptive activities as defined by Section 37.123 and 51.935 of the Texas Education Code, such as intentionally obstructing, restraining, preventing or attempting to prevent passage of individuals on campus or into/out of campus buildings by force, by violence or by the threat of same; seizing control of a building/portion of a building to interfere with an administrative, educational, research or other authorized activity; preventing participation in or the holding of a lawful assembly or attempting to prevent same by force/violence, by threat or by causing reasonable fear of force/violence; or disrupting an assembly in progress by one or more such means.

• Other disruptions, including phone usage and texting; sleeping and talking at inappropriate times during the class; and working on outside material during class are also forbidden and may affect your course grade.

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Specific Policies for Students in this World Literature I section

Attendance and Participation:

Students should have assignments read before attending class meetings. We will aim to proceed by discussion whenever possible. Faithful, alert attendance and participation is crucial to what you learn as well as to the success of the course as a whole.

In-class quizzes will always provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate your preparation. You may use any notes that you have taken. You may not use notes made in your textbook or any printed notes.

In-class activities engage students with the material by posing questions, identifying themes, or suggesting points of reference for discovery. Students work directly with the literary texts and, together with classmates, participate actively in the work of literary analysis. Such activities are designed to provide guided, practical engagement that is directly relevant to course expectations for both compositions and exams.

Weekly Informal Writing Assignments → Inquiry Project:

Due each Tuesday and are graded non-judgmentally (~1 typed page). I will provide you with a focus or perspective each week. Please refer to these online instructions as often as necessary. Save all of these.

I will refer to these as “Think” Writings: Choose a text from the weekly reading list and write a short paper analyzing it. This is not a book report or summary; rather, the purpose is to make connections with other readings, draw attention to bias or contradiction in the text, and/or recognize the broader implications of the information presented. “Think” writings should demonstrate serious thought or reflection on form and/or content of readings. Some suggestions for approaching these essays include: in-depth analysis of a passage, treatment of a single literary technique, focusing on a particular theme, or debating with a position that is suggested by the reading.

Exams:

Each of the 3 unit exams will include a combination of multiple choice, identification, and matching questions as well as short answer questions that directly relate to the course and lesson objectives. Make-up exams are highly discouraged and must be approved and scheduled by me in advance.

Compositions:

Students will be required to write compositions throughout the course. Each composition will require students to:

- formulate a central interpretive idea about the texts;
- develop that idea logically and coherently with adequate supporting textual examples;
- present ideas clearly and concisely;
- quote briefly at least once from the text. Quotations must accurately reflect the text’s meaning, be integrated into the writer’s own sentence structures and ideas, and be cited correctly;
- anchor the composition to the text but extend the discussion by adding to it the writer’s own conclusions about the significance or relevance of the material;
- meet the minimum word count (varies by assignment)

All submitted work needs to be typed and submitted on the assigned due date through the medium required. For all essays, please include a proper MLA heading with date and course number and section (i.e. ENGL 2210.007). Use a text font for all essays (Times Roman or Garamond for example) at 12 points, with all one-inch (1”) margins, and double-spacing. Please see the formatted example on the homepage.

I do not accept papers late. Contact me immediately if something may prevent you from submitting an assignment.

Reminders:

As you can see from the syllabus, this course features a fairly heavy reading load. Plan ahead to complete the readings and course assignments. Annotating your readings and/or keeping reading notes in a notebook is helpful.

You are responsible for all material covered.
**Course Schedule:**

(NOTES: Schedule is provisional and may change; I reserve the right to add supplemental essays or make additional changes as needed. All assignments are due on the class period listed below.

Failure to complete any essay or exam will result in failure of this course. Please note the dates of all exams.

**Week 1** (Aug 25, Aug 27)
- Introduction to policies, instructor, and course plan
- *Ancient World: The Divine, Heroes, & Evil*
  - *Gilgamesh* (Reader 1)

**Week 2** (Sept 1, Sept 3)
- *Divinely Created Heroes & Evil*
  - *Job* (Reader 1)

**Week 3** (Sept 8, Sept 10)
- *Divinely Descended Heroes & Evil*
  - *Medea* (Reader 1)

**Week 4** (Sept 15, Sept 17)
- *Ancients in Eastern Wisdom: Early India*
  - India's Ancient Epics and Tales (1161+)
  - *The Bhagavad-Gita* (Reader 2)
- *Entirely Different Kinds of Heroes and Evil*
  - *The Ramayana* (Reader 2)

**Week 5** (Sept 22, Sept 24)
- *The Ramayana* (Reader 2, 1203+)
- **Composition 1 Due** (online by 11:59 pm, Sept 24)

**Week 6** (Sept 29, Oct 1)
- Circling the Mediterranean
  - *Beowulf* (Reader 2)

**Week 7** (Oct 6, Oct 8)
- From the Islamic World
  - From *The Qur'an* (Reader 2)
  - *Son-Jara* (12-25)

**Week 8** (Oct 13, Oct 15)
- *Son-Jara* (25+)
- **Exam 1: Major World Perspectives on Evil**

**Week 9** (Oct 20, Oct 22)
- Encounters with Islam (Vol. C, 3+)
  - *1001 Nights*

**Week 10** (Oct 27, Oct 29)
- *1001 Nights*
  - Boccaccio (605+)
  - *The Decameron*: 1.1, 2.7 (609-33)

**Week 11** (Nov 3, Nov 5)
- *The Decameron*: 4.9, 10.9, 10.10 (633+)
  - Dante
  - *Divine Comedy: Inferno, Selections* (TBD)

**Week 12** (Nov 10, Nov 12)
- *Divine Comedy: Inferno, Selections* (TBD)
- **Composition 2 Due** (online by 11:59 pm, Nov 5)

**Week 13** (Nov 17, Nov 19)
- To Sell One's Soul...
  - Europe and the New World (123+)
  - Marlowe
  - *Doctor Faustus*
  - *Doctor Faustus*

**Week 14** (Nov 24)
- 'Tis Better to Reign in Hell...
  - John Milton (770+)
  - *Paradise Lost*: Intro; Books 1, 2 (774-92)

**Week 15** (Dec 1, Dec 3)
- *Paradise Lost*: Books 4, 8 (792-814)
  - *Paradise Lost*: Books 9 only (814-42)
- **Final Essay Due** (online by 11:59 pm)

**Week 16** (Thursday, Dec 10)
- *Exam 2, 8:00a-10:00a* (for 9:30a Class)

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