

ENGLISH 108: WORLD LITERATURE II

CRN 22045: MWF, 3:00-3:50

Location: 140 Allen

Credits: 4

Gen Ed; Multicultural; Elective

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Office Hours: Th 11-12, Fri 10-12, or by appointment.

Course Overview

This course is a survey of world literature covering roughly 500 years, sampling various cultural texts from the 12th century to the late 17th century. All works will be read in English translation. There are no prerequisites, and no background knowledge of international literary history is expected. A survey course is, by its very nature, an incomplete project which must be selective. Instead of worrying about a 'complete picture' of world literature, let us instead think of ourselves as explorers or 'surveyors,' using literary texts as fixed points with which we might measure, triangulate, and map out various cultural landscapes. We will read a wide range of different types of literature (sonnets, travel literature, essays, frame narrative, drama, epic--just to name a few) across many different cultures (including African, Indian, Italian, French, Spanish, Turkish, English). Throughout the term we will discuss the nature of cultural encounter and exchange. We will practice reading analytically and syntopically by locating cross-cultural issues (such as race, gender, structures of phenomenal experience, ethics, aesthetics, etc.) and putting texts in dialogue with each other.

Learning Outcomes:

The course is built around six desired learning outcomes:

- 1) read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
- 2) draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
- 3) perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;
- 4) write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
- 5) employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
- 6) employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Required Texts:

Norton Anthology of World Literature, Vol. C, 3rd Edition

Blackboard Access

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality is mandatory. You are expected to come to class on time. Each student is allowed THREE unexcused absences for the term. If you exceed the number of allotted absences, your final course grade will be reduced by one letter grade (for example, a 'B' would be reduced to a 'C'). Excused absences require some form of official documentation. Remember, if you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to check in and make sure you are adequately prepared for the next session.

Computer Usage

All electronic devices should be turned off during discussion. Please turn off cell phones, laptops, tablets, or other devices before class.

Access

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoacc@uoregon.edu.

Blackboard Access

Check Blackboard regularly for information regarding reading and homework assignments or supplementary course materials. Any changes or adjustments to the course schedule will be posted to Blackboard.

Requirements

| | |
|--|----------------|
| --Two Reading Responses (2 pages each) | 20% (10% each) |
| --Analytic Essay (5-6 pages) | 20% |
| --Midterm Exam | 20% |
| --Final Exam | 20% |
| --Quizzes/Activities | 15% |
| --Participation | 5% |

--All work should be completed on time, and all requirements must be completed to Pass this course. Assignments must be turned in by their due dates, as I do not accept late work. Midterm and Final exams will not be given individually outside the scheduled exam times, except in the most unusual and dire situations in accord with UO policies.

Description of Assignments

Reading Responses (2 pages each): You will write two short responses this term (one response for the first half of the term and one for the second half). For each response, you will choose a passage (or poem) from the assigned readings and identify how your chosen text reveals a cultural issue or theme. *For each passage you choose, you must turn in your reading response in class on the day of the assigned reading.* Responses should demonstrate a close, careful reading of the text. Assignment details will be posted to Blackboard.

Analytic Essay (5-6 pages): You will write a thesis-driven essay which analyzes a cultural issue across two texts (for example: how rebellion is portrayed in Lope's *Fueteovejuna* and Milton's *Paradise Lost*?). This essay should make an argumentative claim which goes beyond summary or observation. Assignment details will be posted to Blackboard.

Exams: there is a midterm which covers material from the first half of the course and a final exam which covers material from the second half. These exams will test your comprehension of the assigned readings and your recall of lecture material, as well as your ability to analyze and interpret literary texts. Questions will range from multiple-choice to short-essay responses.

Quizzes/Activities: Expect reading quizzes and class activities throughout the term. Reading quizzes are given at the start of class. You are therefore reminded to complete the assigned readings, as the best way to succeed on these quizzes is to be familiar with the texts assigned for lecture and discussion. You cannot make up a missed quiz or a class activity. Your lowest quiz grade at the end of the term will be dropped.

Participation: Your participation grade will be determined by your contributions to class discussion and activities. You should come to class prepared. Read the assigned texts thoughtfully and carefully. Be willing to ask questions about these texts and to engage in critical discussion. Students who demonstrate their attentive reading by actively participating in class discussion and activities throughout the term will receive a high participation grade. Students who are unprepared or inactive will receive a low participation grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

~This is a tentative schedule and subject to change. Check Blackboard regularly for updates.

| Week | Assignments |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | Encounters with Islam (3-11) <i>Sunjata: A West African Epic of the Mande Peoples</i> |
| 2 | <i>Sunjata: A West African Epic of the Mande Peoples</i> <i>Book of Dede Korkut,</i> <i>Çelebi (Book of Travels),</i> |
| 3 | ~No class Monday, Jan. 19, MLK day~ Europe and the New World (123-133), Humanism (135-139), Montaigne (<i>Essays</i>) |
| 4 | Indian Poetry (92-121), Sonnets and Love Lyrics (164-180), Marguerite de Navarre (<i>The Heptamameron</i>) |
| 5 | Marguerite de Navarre (<i>The Heptamameron</i>) ~Last chance to turn in your First Reading Response~ ~MIDTERM EXAM~ |
| 6 | Encounter of Europe and the New World (517-590) Excerpt from Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i> (pdf on Blackboard) |
| 7 | Lope de Vega (<i>Fuenteovejuna</i>) |
| 8 | Lope de Vega (<i>Fuenteovejuna</i>) |
| 9 | Milton (<i>Paradise Lost</i>) |
| 10 | Milton (<i>Paradise Lost</i>) ~Last chance to turn in your Second Reading Response~ |
| 11 | ~FINAL EXAM~ Tuesday, March 17, 2:45pm ~Analytic Essay due~ |

