

ENG 107: World Literature

CRN: 12459

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Rachel Eccleston

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 and 4:00-5:00 PST via Zoom or phone (sign-up on Calendar)

Course Overview

Together we'll examine how ancient and medieval writings represent women's relationships to power. We'll begin with the work of the first known poet, Enheduanna, a Sumerian priestess who lived during the 23rd century BC, and end with Fernando de Rojas's Spanish medieval masterpiece, *Celestina*. The primary questions we'll explore are: What is power? What kinds of power do women have access to? How do our course texts represent how women access, maintain, oppose, and comment on power in different times and cultures? How do the texts challenge and contextualize how we think about women and power today?

In this class, you will develop the ability to appreciate and analyze literary texts from a variety of cultural and linguistic traditions from the ancient to medieval periods. Specifically, you will practice closely reading and discussing these texts in order to examine diverse representations of women's relationships with power in texts written about and by women.

Our course juxtaposes Western and non-Western readings, challenging students to locate "classic" literary works within a global perspective. All works are read in English translation. With a comparative focus on various literary traditions, this course satisfies the University Multicultural Requirement in the International Cultures category. In offering students a broad introduction to college-level literary studies, ENG 107 also satisfies the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- differentiate between summary and analysis
- use the vocabulary of literary analysis
- analyze ancient and medieval texts with attention to socio-historical context and formal elements
- write analytical essays that are organized around a clear thesis and supported with specific textual evidence
- cite sources using MLA-style citation

Remote Learning

Despite the challenges we are all facing together, I am committed to delivering a consistent, inclusive, and quality remote learning experience this term. Our class will communicate through our Canvas site. Announcements and emails are archived there and automatically forwarded to

your UO email. Check and adjust your Canvas notifications setting under Account -> Notifications.

We will have a live Zoom class session on Thursdays during your regularly scheduled class time and I will be joining your Weekly Discussion board afterward.

My office hours this term will be held remotely on Tuesdays from 1-3 and 4-5pm PST using Zoom or phone. Use the Calendar feature to your left (on the main Canvas toolbar), click the box next to our class from the list on the right side, and then select a 15-minute slot that's available. If using Zoom, check your email for the Zoom link. If using email, I'll wait for your email we'll chat that way. I welcome appointments outside of my regular office hours, too. Please email me to set up a time that works for both of us, at least 48 hours ahead.

Course Assignments & Grading Breakdown

- **Weekly Quizzes: 24%**
 - Due Tuesdays
- **Weekly Discussions: 32%**
 - Posts due Wednesdays and Thursdays
- **Formal Writing Assignments: 44%**
 - Midterm Essay (16%) due end of Week 5
 - Final Essay (28%) due end of Week 10

Quizzes

Most weeks, we will have a quiz to help track your comprehension of course concepts and readings.

Each quiz will focus on **key terms** showcased in the week's readings. While you read, be sure to **pay special attention to the key terms** and be able to discuss the term's significance in relation to the text. Terms can be people, places, ideas, or literary devices (metaphor, allusion, repetition, etc.).

You will need to complete the Weekly Quiz in order to move on to the Discussion. Quizzes are multiple choice and are **due Tuesdays by midnight (11:59pm)**.

Discussion Boards

Weekly Discussions will be an additional space for our conversations about course readings and your analysis of short text passages.

Each week we will have 1 class discussion, but due to class size the discussion will be divided into smaller groups. I will join each discussion on Thursdays, after you've completed your Initial Post. My participation in discussion is mostly geared toward prompting further discussion and analysis.

Because we all come from different backgrounds and share different life experiences, be sure to review and follow our guidelines for "[Netiquette](#)" and [Communication](#).

To encourage sustained engagement throughout the week, deadlines for discussion participation will be midnight (PST) on Wednesdays and Thursdays. All Weekly Discussion Boards will consist of two components, each requiring you to engage in a different level of participation and analysis: Initial Post (1) and Productive Replies (2)

Formal Writing Assignments

Midterm Essay (16%)

At the end of Week 5, you will submit an essay at least 1000 words in length. In this essay, you will analyze 1 course text, demonstrating your comprehension of course concepts and key terms. You may draw on any ideas and close readings you've begun to explore in the discussion boards, but your work in this essay should demonstrate clear evolution and substantial development of those ideas.

Final Essay (28%)

At the end of the term, you will submit an essay at least 1500 words in length. In this essay, you will perform a comparative analysis of 2 course texts, demonstrating your comprehension of course concepts and key terms. You may draw on any ideas and close readings you've begun to explore in the discussion boards, but your work in this essay should demonstrate clear evolution and substantial development of those ideas. Any texts analyzed in this paper cannot be already written about in the Midterm Essay.

Required Course Texts

See details on Canvas about purchasing requirements and editions. Some texts provided on Canvas via file or hyperlink.

- "The Exaltation of Inanna" by Enheduanna
- "The Descent of Inanna"
- Genesis, translated by Robert Alter
- *Medea* by Euripides
- *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*
- *The Pillow Book* by Sei Shonagon
- *The Book of the City of Ladies* by Christine de Pisan
- *Celestina* by Fernando de Rojas

Course Policies

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course, which means you may not submit papers or portions of papers you have written for any other

course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In cases where academic misconduct has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is the standard practice. This course does not require outside research. Please avoid online sources; focus on the course slides and textual analysis. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

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 uoac@uoregon.edu.

Incompletes for Course Grade

The Director of Composition must approve requests for the grade “Incomplete” in advance of the end of the quarter. Such approval will be granted only in cases when some minor but essential aspect of the course cannot be completed by students through unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

Mental Health

We are all stressed, overwhelmed, exhausted, and anxious right now. With the looming election and ongoing pandemic, our mental health will likely be tested in new ways this fall. Please keep in mind that your mental health is always your highest priority. Take care of yourself and try to manage stressors as much as possible to conserve your mental and emotional energy--not in the service of coursework, but to maintain your health and safety. Here are some resources that may be useful to you this term. Please don't hesitate to reach out for help when you need it!

- As a critical student service, the [University Counseling Center](#) [Links to an external site.](#) will remain open during fall . Additional information is available on the counseling center webpage or by calling the support/crisis line 541-346-3227.
- Portland students can get support at the Portland State University [Center for Student Health and Counseling](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#).
- UO's 24-hour SAFE hotline for victims and survivors: 541-346-7233 (SAFE)
- [Whitebird Clinic](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Lane County Mental Health Resources](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Crisis Text Line](#)

Observance of Religious Holidays

Students who observe their religious holidays at times when academic requirements conflict with those observances must inform instructors in advance of the holiday. Students are responsible for making up missed work according to a schedule determined with the teacher.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Reading:

- "*Knock Down the House* and the Quiet Insurgency of Tears" by Megan Garber
- "The Sexism is Getting Sneakier" by Megan Garber
- Review of Mary Beard's *Women & Power* by Brook Sadler

Due:

- Discussion
- Student Info Questionnaire

Week 2

Reading:

- "The Exaltation of Inanna" by Enheduanna
- "The Descent of Inanna"

Due:

- Quiz
- Discussion

Week 3

Reading:

- Genesis, translated by Robert Alter

Due:

- Quiz
- Discussion

Week 4

Reading:

- Genesis, translated by Robert Alter

Due:

- Quiz
- Discussion

Week 5

Reading:

- *Medea* by Euripides

Due:

- Quiz
- Discussion
- Midterm Essay

Week 6 (Election)

Reading:

- *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity*

Due:

- Discussion

Week 7

Reading:

- *The Pillow Book* by Sei Shonagon
- *The Book of the City of Ladies* by Christine de Pisan [excerpts]

Due:

- Quiz
- Discussion

Week 8

Reading:

- *Celestina* by Fernando de Rojas

Due:

- Quiz
- Discussion

Week 9 (Thanksgiving)

Reading:

- *Celestina* by Fernando de Rojas

Due:

- Quiz

Week 10

Reading:

- *Celestina* by Fernando de Rojas

Due:

- Quiz
- Discussion
- Final Essay