

English 107
Winter 2017
MWF 1:00-1:50
CRN 27000
146 HEDCO

Prof. Laskaya
357 PLC (x6-1517)
Hrs: M 2-4 pm; H 1:15-2:15 pm
& by appointment
email: laskaya@uoregon.edu

WORLD LITERATURE: ANCIENT TO LATE MIDDLE PERIOD

Textbooks:

Gilgamesh, trans. Mitchell. Simon & Schuster 2004 pap. ISBN: 9780743261692
The Odyssey, Homer, trans. Fagles. Penguin-Random pap. ISBN: 978-0143039952
Bhagavad Gita, trans. Mascaró. Penguin ISBN: 978-0140449181
Monkey and the Monk, trans. Yu. UChicagoP 2006 pap. ISBN: 978-0226971568
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, trans. Borroff. Norton ISBN: 9780393930252
Additional reading materials may be provided online and/or on Canvas.

Course Description:

ENG 107 is the first of a three-part chronological survey examining international trends in literature from ancient civilizations to the present. The year-long sequence (107, 108, 109) may be taken as a sequence or individually. There are no prerequisites, and no background knowledge of global literary history is expected. ENG 107 readings are selected from major texts of World Literature, dating from 2500 BCE to 1500/1600 CE. The course gives students a glimpse of global literature, juxtaposing Western and non-Western texts, challenging students to locate 'classic' literary works within a global perspective. All works are read in English translation. Weekly readings are substantial in scope and difficulty.

With a comparative focus on various literary traditions, ENG 107 1) satisfies the University's Multicultural Requirement in the International Cultures category. Offering students a broad introduction to college-level literary studies, the course also 2) satisfies UO's Group requirement in the Arts and Letters category; and 3) it provides a lower-division English Major elective (if the final course grade is a solid C or better). Students compose formal interpretive essays, totaling at least 8-10 typed pages and may be asked to conduct forays into research on cultural contexts for discussion and submit short, informal writing assignments.

Students should review course texts, due dates, and requirements the 1st day of class to be sure none will present difficulty, since we will move quickly through some units. The course requires close, focused reading, participation and preparation for discussions, consistent and regular attendance, papers and less formal written work, quizzes, and exams. Discussion, punctuated with occasional lectures, will predominate. Some lectures will provide literary, cultural, archival, and historical frameworks, and some will examine interpretations and/or linguistic features of texts. We will probe the readings and our own assumptions and interpretations to locate questions about the texts that will lead us beyond a surface narrative or poetry into issues of aesthetics, history, and cultural significance.

Requirements:

Attendance, Steady Preparation & Participation in class discussions and activities
 Reading and rereading; thinking about readings, discussion, and taking notes
 Informal writing: inside and/or outside of class (some may be unannounced)
 Quizzes (about 8 with lowest one score dropped)
 Two interpretative papers (submitted on Canvas); one midterm in-class essay
 Final Exam, currently scheduled for Monday, March 20th 2:45-4:45.

*As in the world beyond the University, all work should be completed on time; and all requirements, including regular attendance and preparation, must be completed to Pass this course, whether you take the course for a grade or P/NP. Quizzes and in-class work cannot be made up except when students are away on official university business (i.e., events organized by and sponsored by the UO). Illness will not be a reason to make up quizzes, so an extended illness may require withdrawal from the course. The Final exam will not be given individually outside the university's scheduled time for finals, except in accord with UO policy.

Planning for Success:

1) Read, Reread, Reread some more. Read and reread without distractions, so you can focus, think, reflect, rethink, inquire into and investigate the material. 2) Because our class will be conducted with an emphasis on discussion, prepare readings listed on the schedule before class. Identifying questions you have about the reading as well as making note of your own interpretations as you read will help you continue your mastery of close reading, reasoning, thoughtful understanding and nuanced interpretation. 3) Take good and comprehensive notes on reading and class discussions. Aside from giving you practice absorbing detailed information in a way that reflects the kind of concentrated listening you will be expected to do on any job after college, good note-taking helps you learn and helps you prepare for papers and exams. Concepts, themes, terms, background information, images, objects, and details from our close readings and discussion may appear on exams. Creating your own extensive note archive is the best way to reinforce the learning you are doing in class and on your own outside of class. Only you can take notes that will hold the best and most accurate meanings for yourself. If you have questions about preparing for class or taking notes, please be sure to speak with me. 4) Always bring texts/readings to class. 5) Prepare writing assignments conscientiously. 6) Begin the two formal papers early enough that you can let your ideas “cook” and have time for revision and editing. Multiple drafts and “re-visions” are proven strategies for success with any formal writing assignment at the University or on the job. 7) Attendance and active preparation and participation is central for your success in the course.

Canvas site:

Announcements, our schedule and syllabus, course assignments, potentially some readings, and other information will be available throughout the term on Canvas. So be sure to check Canvas regularly. If I send you email, it will usually be to your UOregon email account, so plan to check your UOregon email regularly. Note that if you send me an email from hotmail, comcast, or some other server, it may get caught in UO spam filters and never make it into my mailbox, so sending email from your UOregon account is always wise.

Grading:

Quizzes, short assignments, discussion questions, activities, etc.	20%
Midterm: in-class essay	20%
Interpretative Papers	40% (20% each)
Final exam	20%

--Consistent attendance and participation is assumed. Failure to attend class regularly, prepared to participate, will result in a lower course grade, regardless of grades on written work. All major assignments and requirements must be completed to Pass the course.

Class Policies:

Students with disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, please register with the University's Office for Accessible Education, and see me early in the term so we can make appropriate accommodations for your full access to all course activities and requirements.

Lectures and/or discussions: Please turn off all electronic devices during class. Class sessions may not be copied, taped, or videotaped in any manner unless you have a communication-related disability documented with the University and have received permission from the course instructor. Should you miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from your colleagues, so be sure to get to know others in the course who would be willing to help you and whom you would be willing to help. Missing class should, however, be a rare event since active preparation and participation is a course requirement.

Academic Assistance: Students services offered by the Uof O's Teaching & Learning Services (TLC), located in 68 PLC (X6-3226) and the Writing Associates Tutoring Program offered by the English Department. Any assistance received on papers from anyone else—organizing a paper, identifying main points, typing or proofreading papers, editing or revising papers—must be cleared with the professor. However, as you prepare for the final, or as you work to understand readings and discussions, talking and reviewing with colleagues outside of class is encouraged; this is different from directly assisting one another with a specific essay assignment. If you have questions, please see me.

Academic Integrity: The University of Oregon values academic honesty. Students are informed of the University's policies and expectations about conduct and academic honesty when they matriculate. You are here because you clearly have the ability to engage your own mind in rigorous intellectual work. The Code is found: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/conduct> All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of any sources (ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) beyond our lectures and discussion must be properly documented. In other words, rely on your own grey matter, and wrestle well, yourself, with the course material. In cases of clearly established plagiarism or cheating, a course grade of "F" will be the minimum penalty. All incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, as required by University Policy.

Learning Outcomes:

English Department courses aim for six central desired learning outcomes. Students will:

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 and other cultural texts;
4. write focused, analytical essays in clear, professional and grammatical prose;
5. employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
6. employ primary and secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis. [In our course the emphasis will be on primary texts with discussion serving as the main 'secondary source' for you to negotiate. Some secondary/scholarly resources may be examined.]

Additionally, ENG 107 requires students to:

7. participate actively within discussion, to work effectively in smaller group settings, and to focus on presenting ideas clearly, both orally and in writing.

SCHEDULE (subject to change; **check Canvas for updates)**Week One**

- 1/9 M University cancelled classes due to weather across the region/country
- 1/11 W Introductions. 'World Literature'? In-class diagnostic.
- 1/13 F *Gilgamesh, intro, pp. 1-18; poem, 69-84*

Week Two

- 1/16 M Martin Luther King Day, No classes
- 1/18 W *Gilgamesh, intro, pp. 18-35; poem, 85-129*
- 1/20 F *Gilgamesh, pp. 130-172 Quiz #1 (this quiz will cover our class discussions and material from 1/11 and 1/13, as well as the primary poem from 69-129 AND 130-172 to this line: "They boarded the boat and sailed away.")*

Week Three

- 1/23 M *Gilgamesh, intro, pp 41-64; poem, 172-199 & Biblical account of flood provided on Canvas*
- 1/25 W *Odyssey; see Canvas for reading page numbers from here forward*
- 1/27 F *Odyssey Quiz #2*
- *1/28 S Paper #1 due by 5 pm via Canvas upload**

Week Four

- 1/30 M *Odyssey*
- 2/1 W *Odyssey*
- 2/3 F *Odyssey Quiz #3*

Week Five

- 2/6 M *Odyssey*
 2/8 W *Odyssey*
 2/10 F **Midterm Essay**, in class. Focused on *Odyssey*; bring your text.

Week Six

- 2/13 M *Bhagavad Gita*
 2/15 W *Bhagavad Gita* Quiz #4
 2/17 F *Bhagavad Gita*

Week Seven

- 2/20 M *Monkey and the Monk*
 2/22 W *Monkey and the Monk* Quiz #5
 2/24 F *Monkey and the Monk*

Week Eight

- 2/27 M *Monkey and the Monk* Quiz #6
 3/1 W *Monkey and the Monk*
 3/3 F *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*,

Week Nine

- 3/6 M *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
 *3/7 U **Paper #2 due**
 3/8 W *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Quiz #7
 3/10 F *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Week Ten

- 3/13 M *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Quiz #8
 3/15 W Essay Questions and Directions distributed for Final exam
 3/17 F No class. Professor presenting research at conference.

Finals Week Dec 5-10

The Final currently scheduled for 10:15-12:15, Wednesday Dec 7th in our regular classroom