

World Literature to 1650
English 211.XXX
SAMPLE SYLLABUS
Department of English, SFASU

Professor: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Office Phone: TBA

Office: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Meeting Times and Location: TBA

Description:

“Survey in the first half of Western and non-Western literatures spanning the periods from the first written literature through 1650. Prerequisite: six semester hours of freshman English.” *General Bulletin, 2012-2013.*

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:

In any given semester, one or more of the following Core Curriculum Objectives for the English Foundational Component Area in Language, Philosophy, and Culture may be assessed. These objectives are:

1. Critical Thinking: Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: Effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Social Responsibility: Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Personal Responsibility: The ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

English Program Learning Outcomes

As English majors and minors are required to take two courses of sophomore-level literature (inclusive of ENG 211, 212, 221, 222, 229, 230 or 233H), the following additional Program Objectives are also assessed:

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to read complex texts, closely and accurately (this correlates to the Core objective of Critical Thinking).
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend both traditional and contemporary schools/methods of critical theory and apply them to literary texts to generate relevant interpretations. (Demonstration includes the student’s ability to add to meaningful discourse, in oral communication and written communication; this correlates to the Core’s Communication objective).
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of literary history in regard to particular periods of world literature; the student will further understand how human interactions, decisions, and actions carry with

them consequences. (Knowledge of literary history entails competence in cultural considerations as well as understanding of how social and civic responsibilities impact diverse communications; this correlates to the Core objectives of Social and Personal Responsibilities).

4. The student will demonstrate the ability to effectively conduct literary research. (This objective correlates to the Core objectives of Communication and Critical Thinking).

5. The student will demonstrate the ability to write clear, grammatically correct prose for a variety of purposes in regards to literary analysis. (This objective correlates to the Core objective of Communication).

Student Learning Outcomes for ENG 211:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Exhibit an understanding of and appreciation for key works in world literature, as evidenced in daily work and quizzes, course discussions, written assignments, and/or examinations (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Critical Thinking and Communication);
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of periodization in world literature, as evidenced in daily work and quizzes, course discussions, written assignments, and/or examinations. Periodization is not merely an historical consideration, as defined by events, persons, or dates; students will demonstrate an understanding that historical, cultural, spiritual, and ethical issues, among others, shape human experiences and impact motivations (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Critical Thinking and Communication as well as Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility);
3. Students will read literature with increased critical acumen, as evidenced in daily discussions of readings and in responsive essays (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Critical Thinking and Communication); and
4. Students will be able to respond to literature with facility, both orally and on paper, on important thematic considerations having to do with literary and historical milieu, culture, human responsibility, morality, ethics, and the manner and causes by which humans interact with one another (this outcome aligns to the Core objective of Social Responsibility and Personal Responsibility).

Required Text:

****(This is a sample entry; other texts may be used as per instructor discretion):

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, 3rd edition, volumes A-C (2012)

Note that this text is required, and it is further required that you bring the relevant volume of this text to class with you every time that we meet (except for the days of the midterm and final).

Course Requirements: ****

As noted before, this course is a fast-moving survey that requires your commitment to steady reading. Your reading of each day's assignment will be explicitly tested during practically every session in some manner, whether through quizzes, written responses, or through course discussions. (The following statement is an example and not intended to be a standardized grade guideline): Grades will be computed in the following fashion: (Please note the inclusion of the Capstone Assignment).

Quizzes and daily work : TBD

Essays: TBD

Midterm exam: TBD

Final exam: TBD

****Core Capstone Essay: TBD

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TOTAL POINTS: TBD

Your running points/grade will be available on D2L (<http://d2l.sfasu.edu>); please advise me ASAP if you see anything that seems amiss. The final course grade will depend on the points earned: Scale TBD by individual instructor.

****Individual faculty members determine the number of exams and structure of exams, written assignments, and so on in specific sections of the course. Above is an example of how a faculty member might structure the course materials.

***** Students will write a core capstone essay on an aspect of world literature as defined by the instructor. Students will be graded based on their use of critical thinking skills; grammar, vocabulary, and written style; and the effect of social background on the personal choices of characters in the literary work, comparing and contrasting these choices with the modern world.

More information on the essays will be forthcoming, although you can expect the first to involve Homeric or biblical materials and the second to involve the evaluation of a critical comment on medieval literature. Essays will be graded both on substance (quality and accuracy of ideas) as well as expression (tone, style, syntax). Exams may include M/C, short answer, and essay formats.

Grade Criteria and Policy:

Overall, your grade will be based on a total of TBA points. To be fair to all students in the class, I have not given more weight to any one assignment or exam. As such, to figure your grade out at any point in the semester, simply add up the number of points that you have and divide that by the number of points possible. This will give you an overall percentage.

Grading Standard:

A: 90-100: Students earning the grade of an A on any assignment will have completed work that obviously demonstrates a more than average understanding of the course material and completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of an A is reserved for that work which expertly displays one's ability to engage the ideas at hand, recognize and dialogue about the complications of such ideas, and translate such dialogue into clear, academic prose that is free of stigmatized errors.

B: 80-89: Students earning the grade of a B on any assignment will have completed work that demonstrates a more than average understanding of the course material and completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of a B is reserved for that work which adeptly displays one's ability to engage the ideas at hand, recognize and dialogue about the complications of such ideas,

and translate such dialogue into clear, academic prose that is free of stigmatized errors. However, the level of thought, while still above average, may fluctuate in terms of analytic abilities and expression.

C: 70-79: Students earning the grade of a C on any assignment will have completed work that demonstrates an average understanding of the course material and completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of a C is reserved for that work which displays one's ability to engage the ideas at hand (more so through summary and response rather than analysis), recognize and dialogue about the complications of such ideas (however, the complications recognized will focus more on surface level issues rather than the greater whole), and translate such dialogue into clear, academic prose that is free of stigmatized errors. As can be seen from this description, the level of thought will be acceptable and display that a student has read the assignment, but his/her analytic abilities and level of expression will not be nearly as complicated nor developed. Instead, C work will display a student's hold to traditional methods of expression (simpler construction of sentence and paragraph development) and a struggle to develop complex, critical thinking skills.

D: 60-69: Students earning the grade of a D on any assignment will have completed work that demonstrates a below average understanding of course material and a lack of completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of a D is reserved for that work which displays one's struggle or refusal to engage the ideas at hand, simply summarizes the work under study with no actual recognition of or dialogue about the complications of such ideas, and the translation of ideas into writing is completed in such a convoluted manner that the audience will have difficulty following the conversation.

F: 0-59: Students earning the grade of a F on any assignment will either not have completed the assignment, will have completed the assignment but not followed the guidelines, or will have completed the assignment and demonstrated a complete misunderstanding of the course material. In this case, it will be obvious that the student has either not completed the required reading and/or given him/herself enough time to develop the work. The grade of a F is reserved for that work which does not engage the issues at hand, offers a base (not complete) summary of the work at hand with no critical engagement, and the translation of ideas into writing is either incomplete or the audience will be unable to follow the conversation. It is important to remember that a student can receive 0 out of 100 points. In the case that a student only partially completes an assignment or completes a work (in terms of page length, but not purpose) s/he may receive 0 points.

Attendance: The attendance policy for this course is the official SFASU policy as stated at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class_attendance_excused_abs.asp; i.e., regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. Valid excuses are limited to health, religious observation, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing written documentation for EVERY absence, from which a decision will be made regarding the absence's excusability. Without written documentation, the absence will automatically be considered unexcused. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a

semester when the nature of the work missed permits. However, no absences beyond the six that may be excused will be excused, and no student shall be allowed to pass the course whose unexcused absences exceed three (3)—this is not a correspondence course! Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, or in the case of a late add, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Note also that you must turn in both essays and take both exams to pass the course.

****Note regarding make-up and late work:** Make-up tests and quizzes (which will be given only in the case of excused absences) must be taken during my office hours on your own initiative within one week of the absence, and they will be more challenging than the original versions. Late essays will lose one letter grade per business day of lateness. I will not accept the submission of material via e-mail without prior approval.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

Withheld Grades Policy (A-54):

The following is taken from SFASU's *Policy Manual* (2012), "Semester Grades Policy" (A-54).

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work

because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.

****This schedule and content will vary from instructor to instructor; this should be regarded as an example only:

Schedule of Readings/Topics

Note: Always read the biographical and/or topical introduction(s) to the assigned material along with the literary text. Quiz and test material may come from this editorial material as well as from the primary text, although the primary text is the privileged material.

Week One

Introduction to the course and course policies

The Enuma Elish and the Epic of Gilgamesh

(NB: Discussion of ancient Babylonian culture and theology will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Social Responsibility [esp. intercultural competence])

Week Two

Bible: Old Testament (Genesis, Job, Psalms)

(NB: Discussion of ancient Hebrew culture and theology will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Social Responsibility [esp. intercultural competence])

Homer, The Iliad, books I, VI, VIII, IX

NB: (Discussion of Hector's and Achilles's choices with respect to battle will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility [esp. knowledge of civic responsibility and ethical decision-making]; discussion of ancient Greek culture and theology will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Social Responsibility [esp. intercultural competence]))

Week Three

The Iliad, books XVI, XVIII, XXII, XXIV

NB: Discussion of the encounter between Achilles and Priam

Homer, The Odyssey, books I-IV

NB: (Discussion of the gods' responses to Aegisthus and Orestes and encouragement of Telemachus's coming of age will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Personal Responsibility)

Week Four

The Odyssey, books V-XII

NB: (Discussion of Odysseus's choice to leave Calypso and his encounters with hospitable and non-hospitable entities will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Personal Responsibility)

The Odyssey, books XVI, XXI-XXIV

(NB: Discussion of the suitors' violations of hospitality will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Personal Responsibility)

Week Five

Sophocles, Oedipus the King; Euripides, Medea

NB: (Discussion of Oedipus's unwitting deeds and acceptance of responsibility and Medea's terrible revenge on Jason's politically advantageous betrayal will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Personal Responsibility)

Virgil, Aeneid, books I-II

Week Six

Aeneid, books IV, VIII, XII

NB: (Discussion of Aeneas's acceptance of his duty-bound position with respect to leaving Dido and founding Rome for his progeny will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Personal Responsibility)

Personal Position Essay due. Ovid, Metamorphoses

(NB: The Personal Position essay contributes to meeting the CORE objectives of Communication Skills and Personal Responsibility)

Week Seven

Bible: New Testament; Augustine, Confessions (switch to vol. B)

(NB: Discussion of Christianity's growth out of Judaism, the ethical maxims of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, and Augustine's self-inspection will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Personal Responsibility [ethical decision-making] and Social Responsibility [intercultural competence and civic responsibility])

The Qur'an; Ibn Ishaq, The Biography of the Prophet

(NB: Discussion of Islam's rise and the ethics expressed in the Qur'an will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Personal Responsibility [ethical decision-making] and Social Responsibility [intercultural competence and civic responsibility])

Week Eight

Beowulf

Midterm Exam

(NB: The exam will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Critical Thinking and Communication Skills)

Week Nine

The Song of Roland

(NB: Discussion of Roland's crusading position/context and the Christian misrepresentation of the Saracens will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Critical Thinking, Personal Responsibility [ethical decision-making] and Social Responsibility [intercultural competence and civic responsibility])

Dante, Inferno, cantos I-V

(NB: Discussion of Dante's placement of sinners/ranking of sins will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Personal Responsibility [ethical decision-making]; discussion of Dante's political exile will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Social Responsibility [knowledge of civic responsibility])

Week Ten

Inferno, cantos XXVI-XXXIV

(NB: a continuation of the previous week's objectives)

Week Eleven

Dante, Purgatorio and Paradiso

(NB: Discussion of Dante's placement of sinners/saints and ranking of sins/virtues will contribute to meeting the CORE objective on Personal Responsibility [ethical decision-making])

Petrus Alfonsi, The Scholar's Guide; The Thousand and One Nights

(NB: Discussion of Shahrazad's assumption of responsibility for saving the kingdom's women from a tyrant will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives of Personal Responsibility [ethical decision-making] and Social Responsibility [knowledge of civic responsibility and intercultural competence])

Week Twelve

Boccaccio, The Decameron; Chaucer, Pardoner's Prologue and Tale

(NB: Discussion of the triumph of mercantile virtues and the Pardoner's unpardonable hypocrisy will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Social and Personal Responsibility)

Machiavelli, The Prince; Ariosto, Orlando Furioso (switch to vol. C)

(NB: Discussion of Machiavelli's "ends-justify-the-means" political theory and his case studies of action and consequence will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Social and Personal Responsibility)

Week Thirteen

Marguerite de Navarre, The Heptameron

Lazarillo de Tormes

(Discussion will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Social and Personal Responsibility)

Week Fourteen

Critical Response Essay due. Montaigne, Essays

(NB: The Critical Response essay contributes to meeting the CORE objectives of Critical Thinking and Communication Skills)

Cervantes, Don Quixote, part I

(NB: Discussion of Don Quixote's actions and their tragicomic consequences will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Personal Responsibility)

Week Fifteen

Don Quixote, part II

"Encounter of Europe and the New World" literature (pp 517-89)

(NB: Discussion of the European treatment of the New World and its inhabitants will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Social and Personal Responsibility)

Core Capstone Essay assignment will be due prior to the Finals Week to measure acquisition of CORE skills, as pertaining to the objective scheduled for the specific semester.

Finals Week

(NB: The final will contribute to meeting the CORE objectives on Critical Thinking and Communication Skills)