

**ENGL 201: World Literature
Spring 2010
Longwood University**

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Smith
Office: Grainger B14
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is a study of selected movements and traditions (exclusive of United States and British literature) by major world writers. The readings include selections from some of the most important literary works written between Greek antiquity and the modern era. In addition to reading these works as guides for understanding what it means to be human, we will also use them to gain insight into some of the main historical periods and intellectual movements in Western European culture: classical antiquity, the rise of Christianity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the birth of the modern age. We will also spend some time looking at selected works from cultures outside the Western tradition.

This course satisfies General Education Goal 3: "An understanding of our cultural heritage as revealed in literature, its movements and traditions, through reading, understanding, analyzing, and writing about the major works that have shaped our thinking and provide a record of human experience." Upon completion of this course, students will : (1) Understand major movements, themes, and values in one or more cultures as revealed in literature, (2) Analyze literary texts as reflections of cultural movements, themes, and values, and (3) Develop and defend interpretations of literary texts through written discourse.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the University Store)

- *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, Shorter Second Edition, vols. 1 and 2.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- Three exams, 25% each.
- Quizzes, 15%. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.
- Class preparation and participation, 10%.

POLICY MATTERS

This course requires a substantial amount of reading, much of it in verse. The material we will cover also requires a different kind of reading than you may be accustomed to. Unlike newspaper and magazine articles, or the textbooks you use in social science or business classes, poetry and other works of literature need to be read in a careful, reflective, and active manner. As you plan your study schedule, leave extra time for contemplation and note taking. Keep in mind that college students are generally expected to spend a minimum of two to three hours preparing for each hour of classroom instruction—you should expect to spend a minimum of six to nine hours per week preparing for this class. On quizzes, you should be prepared to identify and comment on important characters, episodes, complications, and conflicts in the works we read. One of the best ways to prepare yourself for class is to keep a reading journal in which you record notes on characters, outlines of plots, and your own responses to these works. You may also find it useful to keep a comparative list of Greek and Roman deities with notes on the numerous variants on their names (e.g., Aphrodite = Venus, Cytherea). Feel free to visit me in my office at any time during the semester if you are having difficulty with the readings, lectures, or discussions.

Please arrive on time, and be prepared to listen, think, and contribute. Please turn off wireless phones, pagers, headphones, molecular phase inverters, and other electronic devices that might disrupt class. Please treat other students and your instructor in a civil and respectful manner. Note that classroom disruption is a violation of Longwood University's honor code.

The Longwood University attendance policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog* will be the attendance policy for this course. You will receive an F on work missed because of unexcused absences. Your grade will be lowered by one letter grade if you miss 10 percent of the scheduled class meeting times for unexcused absences. You will receive an F if you miss a total (excused and unexcused) of 25 percent of the scheduled class meeting times. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate (as well as announcements about syllabus changes or other matters). Exams can be made up only under the most grave circumstances, and with documentation from an MD or a Longwood University official. If you foresee a conflict, I expect you to discuss it with me beforehand. Written assignments handed in late will lose one letter grade for each class day late. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will result in an F for the course and referral to the Longwood University Judicial system. For details on Longwood University's honor code and judicial system, direct your web browser to: <http://www.longwood.edu/judicial>.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability should contact me privately. If you have not already done so, please contact the Office for Disability Services (103 Graham Building, 395-2391) to register for services.

Note: the syllabus may be changed at any time if necessary. The online version of this syllabus is the most current one—please check it regularly for updates.

CALENDAR

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| 12 Jan.: Course introduction. | 25 Mar.: No class. |
| 14 Jan.: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 1, 6 (Norton 1.176-200) | 30 Mar.: Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i> (Norton 1.1649-1688) |
| 19 Jan.: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 8, 9, 16 (Norton 1.200-227). | 1 Apr.: Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i> (Norton 1.1688-1726) |
| 21 Jan.: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 18, 22, 24 (Norton 1.227-274) | 6 Apr.: No class. |
| 26 Jan.: Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 8, 9, 11 (Norton 1.356-383, 397-413) | 8 Apr.: Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> (Norton 2.185-208) |
| 28 Jan.: Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> 19-23, (Norton 1.496-551,) | 13 Apr.: Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> (Norton 2.208-246) |
| 2 Feb.: Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 1, 4 (Norton 795-825) | 15 Apr.: T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and <i>The Waste Land</i> (Norton 2. 981-996). |
| 4 Feb.: Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 6, 8, 12 (Norton 1.825-840) | 20 Apr.: Gabriel García Márquez, “Death Constant Beyond Love” (Norton 2.1091-1097). |
| 9 Feb.: <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i> (Norton 1.765-780) | 22 Apr.: Excerpts from the Qur’an (Norton 1.1011-1014), excerpts from <i>The Thousand and One Nights</i> (Norton 1.1052-1066), Nawal El Saadawi, “In Camera” (2.1193-1202). |
| 11 Feb.: Exam 1 | |
| 16 Feb.: Selections from the Christian New Testament, St. Augustine’s <i>Confessions</i> (Norton 1.888-916). | |
| 18 Feb.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> 1-4 (Norton 1.1214-1227) | |
| 23 Feb.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> 5-6, 10-13 (Norton 1.1227-1233, 1242-1255) | |
| 25 Feb.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> 14-15, 21-22 (Norton 1.1255-1262, 1278-1284) | |
| 2 Mar.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> 26-28, 32-34 (Norton 1.1295-1305,1315- 1326). | |
| 4 Mar.: Li Po and Tu Fu (Norton 1.972-981) | |
| 16 Mar.: Basho, <i>The Narrow Road of the Interior</i> (Norton 2.257-279). | |
| 18 Mar.: Exam 2 | |
| 23 Mar.: Introduction to the Renaissance. Petrarch’s sonnets (Norton 1.1602-1607). | |

FINAL EXAM: See Final Exam schedule.