

ENGL 201: World Literature
Longwood University
Spring 2012

Professor: Shawn Smith
Office: Grainger B14
Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:00 (and by appointment---use e-mail below)
Phone: 434.395.2797
E-mail: smithsb@longwood.edu (This is the best way to contact me.)
Web Page: <http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net>
Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15 in Grainger G18 [sec. 04]
Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45 in Grainger G18 [sec. 05]

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. (See attached description of Goal 3 assessment.)

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the University Store)

- Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Fagles (Penguin).
- Virgil, *The Aeneid*, trans Mandelbaum (Bantam).
- *The Bhagavad Gita*, trans. Miller (Bantam).
- Dante, *Inferno*, trans. Mandelbaum (Bantam)
- *Two Spanish Picaresque Novels* [incl. Lazarillo de Tormes], trans. Alpert (Penguin, revised edition).
- Basho, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, trans. Nobuyuki Yuasa (Penguin)
- Voltaire, *Candide*, trans. Theo Cuffe (Penguin, 2005)

Other texts will be available on the course web site—click the links in the online version of the syllabus. Make sure you print these texts out and bring them to class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- Midterm and final exams, 25% each.
- Two short papers, 20% each. This portion of your grade, for the second paper, includes a required conference with the professor.
- Class preparation and participation, 10%. Come to class prepared with notes about major characters and episodes in the readings, and at least one question about something you don't understand.

<http://www.longwoodshakespeare.net/worldlit/syllabus.pdf>

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. 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, sonic screwdrivers, and other electronic devices that might disrupt class. Please treat other students and your instructor in a civil and respectful manner.

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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| 19 Jan.: Course introduction. | 6 Mar.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> 5-6, 10, 13-15. |
| 24 Jan.: Techniques of literary analysis; analysis of the opening lines of the <i>Iliad</i> ; introduction to Homer. | 8 Mar.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> 21-22, 26-27. |
| 26 Jan.: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 1, 2 (lines 1-583 only), 3. | 20 Mar.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , 28-29, 32-34. |
| 31 Jan.: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 4, 5, 6. | 22 Mar.: Midterm Exam. |
| 2 Feb.: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 8 (lines 1-90, 566-654 only), 9, 16. | 27 Mar.: Introduction to the Renaissance. Petrarch, " The Ascent of Mount Ventoux " and selections from the Canzoniere . |
| 7 Feb.: Homer, <i>Iliad</i> 18, 19 (lines 333-356 only), 22, 24. | 29 Mar.: No class. |
| 9 Feb.: Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 1-2. | 3 Apr.: <i>Lazarillo de Tormes</i> , pp. 1-28 |
| 14 Feb.: Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 4, 6. | 5 Apr.: <i>Lazarillo de Tormes</i> , pp. 29-60. |
| 16 Feb.: Vergil, <i>Aeneid</i> 8 (lines 775-955), 10 (lines 593-1248), 12 (lines 928-1271). | 10 Apr.: Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> , chapters 1-17. |
| 21 Feb.: First paper due. | 12 Apr.: Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> , chapters 18-30. |
| 23 Feb.: <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i> . | 17 Apr.: Basho, <i>The Narrow Road to the North</i> . |
| 28 Feb.: The New Testament, Sermon on the Mount (King James Version) (Matthew 5-7) ; selections from Augustine's Confessions ; selections from Thomas Aquinas's Summa Theologiae . | 19 Apr.: Paper conferences. |
| 1 Mar.: Dante, <i>Inferno</i> 1-4. | 24 Apr.: Paper conferences. |
| | 26 Apr.: Final exam preparation. Second Paper due. |
| | 1 May: FINAL EXAM, 3:00-5:30 [sec. 04] |
| | 3 May: FINAL EXAM, 8:00-10:30 [sec. 05] |