

English 265W.03: Readings in Literature of the Western World

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EV 251; Daily 10-11:50
Summer Session I 2008
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Eng 265W is an intensive reading and writing course that focuses on select works of literature from the ancient world through the Middle Ages. Over the next few weeks, we will concentrate on reading, understanding, and enjoying these texts, while discussing the historical and cultural contexts in which they were written. While we will discuss a variety of textual aspects, including theme, imagery, character development, narrative structure, genre, *et cetera*, the course will focus on the idea of the quest – what it entails, how it affects characters, and what it signifies to us. Other, related topics will naturally emerge. You will demonstrate knowledge of the material by actively participating in discussions, writing daily in-class assignments, taking a final examination, and developing ideas in research and thesis assignments and a five-page paper.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- * **To learn and understand literary terminology** to enhance understanding of assigned texts.
- * **To develop written, analytical, and critical skills** through oral communication (in-class discussions) and written assignments.
- * **To gain a deeper appreciation of literary texts and of the cultures in which they were written** by exploring how these texts reflect larger historical contexts, theirs as well as our own.

TEXTBOOKS:

The texts we are reading this semester are in translation, and no two translations are the same. For this reason, you **must** use the following editions. Those who come to class with translations other than those listed will be asked to leave and will accrue absences until the proper text is presented. Excessive absences will adversely affect one's final grade (see attendance policy).

1. *Gilgamesh*. Trans. Herbert Mason. New American Library (or Mariner). ISBN: 0451627180
2. Homer. *The Odyssey*. Trans. Robert Fitzgerald. Noonday Press. ISBN: 0374525749
3. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Trans. Marie Borroff. W. W. Norton. ISBN: 0393976580

GRADING:

Participation:

In-class Assignments:

Research Questions:

Thesis Assignment:

Paper (5 pages):

Final Exam:

Percentages:

10%

20%

10%

20%

20%

20%

Due Dates:

Daily

Daily

Mon, June 16

Fri, June 20

Mon, June 30

Tuesday, July 1

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed Eng 164/Eng 165 or their equivalents.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Tardiness/leaving early (10 minutes) will result in absences, as will coming to class unprepared, without a book or with the wrong editions, sleeping, text messaging, or doing work for another class. Disruptions will count as absences as well (see Classroom Rules of Conduct, below). Students whose absences exceed 2 classes (excused or unexcused) will be penalized half a letter grade (5%) per additional absence. Anyone who misses more than 4 classes for any reason will not pass this class. Students are responsible for obtaining missed materials or assignments from their colleagues. Students should also check Blackboard for any announcements/handouts. If you cannot meet the attendance requirements, drop the class and register for another time that better fits your schedule.

Reading: Learning how to read closely and critically is essential to understanding literature. The texts we will read are complex and diverse, and students must read, absorb, and analyze much material in a short period of time. You should arrange their schedules to meet this challenge. You are also strongly encouraged to take notes, both when reading and while in class. Write in your books.

Writing: All out-of-class assignments must be typed, double-spaced, and free from grammatical, mechanical, and typographical errors. Papers that do not conform to these simple requirements will receive 0%. As a rule, late assignments will not be accepted. Students who plagiarize in any way on any assignment will receive an F for the course and will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action (see Academic Dishonesty, below).

In-Class Writings: In-class writings, objective and subjective in nature, will test students' understanding of assigned readings. They comprise 20% of the final grade and cannot be made-up under any circumstances.

Papers: Students will submit a Thesis Assignment that will inform the final paper. Failure to submit this assignment will result in a 0% on the assignment *and* a 0% on the final paper. Paper topics cannot be changed after submitting the Thesis Assignment. The graded Thesis Assignment must be submitted with the final paper or you will incur a 10% penalty on the final paper grade.

Final Exam: Students will showcase their knowledge of objective information by responding to identifications and demonstrate their critical skills in an essay. Due to the tight summer schedule, make up exams cannot be given.

Writing Center: Sam Houston's Writing Center, located in the Farrington 111, is open during the summer (check their website at shsu.edu/~wctr/). Writing tutors will work with students one-on-one to help generate a draft, organize a draft, or revise a draft of any assignment. Drop by or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

You may find a more detailed description of the following guidelines online at shsu.edu/syllabus/

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, doing work for other classes, text messaging, coming to class unprepared (i.e. not having read the assigned readings or coming without a book or with the wrong book), wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Such inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in an immediate dismissal from class and an absence; those students who are especially disruptive will also be reported to the Dean of Students for immediate disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work in this class will be subject to disciplinary action, including a final grade of F for the class. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Put simply, plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's ideas or words without giving that person credit; plagiarism is also the purchasing or borrowing of a paper or assignment. Students should review their handbooks as they are responsible for knowing this information.

Students with Disabilities Policy: Any student who has a disability that may affect his or her work in this class should register with the Counseling Center and to talk with the professor about any necessary accommodations. All disclosures of disabilities are strictly confidential. No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. Contact the Director at 936-294-1720.

Nota Bene: This syllabus is a contract: your continued enrollment implies agreement with and adherence to the requirements of the course.

Course Schedule: The following provides a general course outline – deviation may be necessary. Plan to have all assigned readings completed before each class.

Week One: June 2-June 6

T: Course Overview; Textual transmission of *Gilgamesh* (lecture)
W: *Gilgamesh* (prologue; Books 1-2); Paper Assignments
T: *Gilgamesh* (Books 3-4)
F: **CLASS DOES NOT MEET** (start reading the *Odyssey*; print out/read Mythology handout, posted to Bb)

Week Two: June 9-13

M: Greek Mythology (lecture) (in class writing over Mythology handout)
T: *Odyssey*: 1-4
W: *Odyssey*: 5-8
T: *Odyssey*: 9-12
F: **CLASS DOES NOT MEET** (Plan paper topic and research questions; print out/read Paper Assignments handout, posted to Bb)

Week Three: June 16-20

M: Thesis Assignment (lecture); **Research Questions Due** (typed, of course)
T: *Odyssey*: 13-16
W: **CLASS DOES NOT MEET** (Work on Thesis Assignments)
T: *Odyssey*: 17-20
F: *Odyssey*: 21-24; **Thesis Assignments Due** (typed)

Week Four: June 23-27

M: Middle Ages (lecture); SGGK part 1
T: SGGK part 2
W: SGGK part 3
T: SGGK part 4
F: **CLASS DOES NOT MEET** (Work on papers; print out/read Final Exam Study Guide, posted to Bb)

Week Five: June 30-July 1

M: Review for Final Exam; **Final Papers Due** (typed)
T: Final Exam: 10:00-12:00 (all readings, lectures, and handouts are fair game)

Calendar of Assignments (June/July 2008)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 <i>Gilgamesh</i> : Prologue; Books 1-2	5 <i>Gilgamesh</i> : Books 3-4	6 Class does not meet Start <i>Odyssey</i> , read Mythology handout	7
8	9 Greek Mythology (lecture)	10 <i>Odyssey</i> : Books 1-4	11 <i>Odyssey</i> : Books 5-8	12 <i>Odyssey</i> : Books 9-12	13 Class does not meet Work on paper topic & research questions; read Paper Assgnmnts handout	14
15	16 Thesis Assgnmt (lecture) RESEARCH QUESTIONS DUE	17 <i>Odyssey</i> : Books 13-16	18 Class does not meet work on Thesis Assgnmt	19 <i>Odyssey</i> : Books 17-20	20 CLASS MEETS <i>Odyssey</i> : Books 21-24 THESIS ASSGNMNTS DUE	21
22	23 Middle Ages (lecture); SGGK Part 1	24 SGGK Part 2	25 SGGK Part 3	26 SGGK Part 4	27 Class does not meet work on papers	28
29	30 Review for final exam PAPERS DUE	1 FINAL EXAM (cumulative)				