

English 265.12 / .14—Readings in Literature of the Western World
Fall 2007—3 Hours Credit
Prerequisites: English 164, 165
Meeting Room: Ev 251

Instructor: Lee Courtney: Ev 406 / 936 2941416 / eng_lfc@shsu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9-11 TTh 12-2--or by appointment

Text: Literature of the Western World: Volume I (Fifth Edition)

Course Description: English 265 features “readings in the classical, medieval, and modern masterpieces of the western world.”

Purposes of the Course: This course is designed to introduce (or re-introduce) you to some of the most important poems, plays, and stories in the European literary tradition, works which have helped to shape the world in which we live today. In addition, you will have opportunity to improve your reading and writing skills as you experience the universally admired excellence of writers like Homer, Dante, and Shakespeare, and as you construct short essays demonstrating your knowledge and understanding of those authors. (Writing assignments will be short: English 265.12 and .14 are “non-W” classes. Two-thirds of your semester grade will determined by objective exams.)

Semester Grade: There are six components, equally weighted. Four multiple-choice exams are scheduled. In November, a set of short out-of-class essays will be assigned. The last sixth of your grade comes from your average on six one-paragraph in-class minor assignments. (And I will drop the lowest grade among the “minors”).

Numbers and Letters. In here, 90 is an A, 80 a B, and so on.

Attendance Policy: On-time, full-time, every-time attendance is the best policy.. Beginning with your fourth unexcused absence, I will deduct a point from your semester average for each such event. Coming to class late or leaving early counts as half-an-absence.

Classroom Decorum: Cell phones off, remember. If I am electronically interrupted, I start the lecture over.

Missed In-Class Assignments. All missed exams and minor assignments will be made up on a common late date (to be announced).

Late Submissions: For each day the essay set is late, its value decreases by 10 points (unless there is an instructor-approved excuse.)

Schedule of Assignments:

August 21 Organizational
August 23 Lecture: The Homeric Background

August 28 Iliad, 131-60 (in LWW)
August 30 160-206 / Minor (Assignment) 1

September 4 206-72
September 6 Minor 2

September 11 Aftermath and Odyssey
September 13 Exam 1

September 18 Lecture: Greek Drama
September 20 Agamemnon, 615-69

September 25 Antigone, 791-839
September 27 Minor 3

October 2 Medea, 844-77
October 4 Exam 2

October 9 Lecture: Dante and Medieval Florence
October 11 Inferno, 1405-47

October 16 1448-86
October 18 Minor 4

October 23 1486-1543
October 25

October 30 Essay Set Assigned
November 1 Exam 3

November 6 Lecture: Chaucer and His England
November 8 Canterbury Tales: "Prologue," 1674-92 / Minor 5

November 13 "The Pardoner's Tale," 1737-47
November 15 "The Nun's Priest's Tale," 1748-61

November 20 Essay Set Due

November 27 Lecture: Shakespeare: His Life, Age, and Stage
November 29 Minor 6

December 4 The Tempest, 2036-98
December 6

December 11 (2-4) Exam 4 (265.14)
December 13 (2-4) Exam 4 (265.12)