

English 2332.05 / “World Literature I: Before the Seventeenth Century”
Fall 2017 / Three Hours Credit

Evans Complex: Room 260 / MWF 9-9:50
CRN: 82941

Instructor: Lee Courtney
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Office Hours: MWF 10-11 TTh 12-2 (or by appointment)

Catalogue Course Description: “Readings in the classical, medieval, and Renaissance masterpieces to analyze and evaluate the philosophical insights of and aesthetic insights of writers of various cultures. Written assignments are based on themes and concepts in the works studied. Open to all students. Required of all English majors.”

Prerequisites: English 1301, English 1302

Structure of the Course: As a rare “non-W” [*not* writing-enhanced] English class, this section of English 2332 emphasizes close reading of assigned texts and close attention to lectures. There will be four equally-weighted exams (80% objective and 20% essay) and one out-of-class 400-600 word essay, the value of which will be the same as that of each exam. (This essay will be a “literary response” In which you relate an experience or episode from your own life to that of a figure in Homer’s *Odyssey*.) A 90 average will mean an A for the semester, 80 a B, and so on.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to--

introduce (or re-introduce) you to some of the most important literary works in human history, works of epic poetry composed deep in the past—but relevant to and influential upon the world in which we live today;

give you the opportunity to improve your critical reading skills as you experience the universally admired excellence of such authors as Homer and Dante;

and help you develop your own writing ability as you construct short essays which demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the assigned works.

Attendance Policy: On-time, full-time, every-time attendance is the best policy. Every unexcused absence after the fourth will result in a two-point deduction from your semester grade. Coming to class late or leaving early counts as half-an-absence.

To claim an excuse for an absence, you must print and complete the “Excused Absence” form on Blackboard. Present the form (and any supporting material) to me at the next class meeting.. This rule applies even for absences associated with University activities.

Regarding Missed Exams: Only excused missed exams may be made up. All make-ups will be on a common late date (to be announced).

Regarding Late Essays: Each calendar day the out-of-class essay is late (without approved excuse) will reduce its value by ten points.

The following statements are taken from official SHSU documents:

Academic Dishonesty: All 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 experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. 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. [In these classes, an act of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero on the assignment in question. A second such act will mean a grade of F for the semester.]

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reasons of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performances should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936 294 3512, TDD 936 294 3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holidays: Sections 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher learning excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for this absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment form which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar’s Office.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

See <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

English Department Cell Phone Policy: The use (including visible presence) of cell phones and all similar electronic devices is prohibited. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during any class. In extenuating circumstances, you should ask the instructor for permission to have your phone “on” during class.

Classroom Disruptions: Avoid the following “Ings”: eating in class, sleeping in class, noisily packing up materials before class is over, leaving class early, If ill health obliges you to exit the classroom prematurely, you must email me afterwards (explaining the circumstances) in order to avoid being charged with an unexcused absence. Exiting and re-entering the classroom at the same meeting is a double disruption. Persistently disruptive students will be penalized a letter on their semester grades.

Note: Students will be asked to complete an online course/ instructor evaluation form at some point late in the semester.

Texts:

Homer's *Odyssey* / Translator: Allen Mandelbaum / Bantam / 0553213997 (ISBN)

Beowulf / Translator: Seamus Heaney / Norton / 9780393320978

Dante's *Inferno* / Translator: John Ciardi / Signet / 9780451531391

Gilgamesh / Translator: Stephen Mitchell/ Simon and Schuster / 9780743261692

Schedule of Assignments:

Unit One / *The Odyssey*

August 23	Lecture: The Homeric Epic
August 25	<u>P</u> revious <u>A</u> ssignment <u>C</u> ontinued
September 6	Books I-IV
September 8	PAC
September 11	Books V-XII
September 13	PAC
September 15	PAC
September 18	Lecture: Summary of Books XIII-XXIV
September 20	Exam 1
September 22	Literary Response Essay Assigned / Due October 25

Unit Two / *Beowulf*

September 25	Lecture: An English Epic
September 27	The First Adventure (Lines 1-1250)
September 29	PAC
October 2	The Second Adventure (1251-1887)
October 4	PAC
October 6	PAC

October 9	The Third Adventure (1888-3182)
October 11	PAC
October 13	PAC
October 16	PAC
October 18	Exam 2

Unit Three / *The Inferno*

October 20	Lecture: An Allegorical Epic
October 23	Cantos I-III
October 25	PAC / Literary Response Essay Due
October 27	Cantos IV-IX
October 30	Cantos X-XVIII
November 1	PAC
November 3	Cantos XIX-XXVI
November 6	PAC
November 8	Cantos XXVII-XXXIV
November 10	PAC
November 13	PAC
November 15	Exam 3

Unit Four: / *Gilgamesh*

November 17	Lecture: The "First" Epic
November 20	PAC
November 27	All of It
November 29	PAC
December 1	PAC
December 6 (9:30-11:30)	Exam 4 (Unit Exam)
