ENGLISH 340A:
Classics of World Literature

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Course Description
This course develops students’ interpretive and analytical skills through close study of classic literary texts from around the world. We will consider the imaginative power of literature in human societies by exploring important works and writers from different cultures, time periods, and geographical areas, in a variety of forms. Comparative study of cultures, worldviews, or perspectives provides a focal point for the literature in this course.

Required Texts
Books are available in the bookstore under course number. Electronic copies accessed on tablets or online are acceptable, but please be aware they may not have supporting documents such as introductions or notes, and may have different or no pagination. Online resources will have URLs or web links provided on Moodle.

Full-length works


Ovid, *Metamorphoses.*

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. *Love in the Time of Cholera.*

Short fiction and poetry

Atwood, Margaret. “Death By Landscape.” (online)

Brand, Dionne. “Photograph.” (online)

Carter, Angela. “Black Venus.” (online)

Chekhov, Anton. “Grisha.” (online)

Gordimer, Nadine. “Six Feet of the Country.” (online)

Tang Dynasty Chinese poetry (online)
Assignments and Evaluation
Original and response posts  20%
Midterm exam  15%
Essay #1 first and final drafts  15%
Essay #2  15%
Essay #3  15%
Final Exam  20%
100%

Course Objectives
Students who have completed this course should demonstrate an understanding of
1. close textual analysis
2. comparative textual analysis
3. extended written analysis in the interpretation of literature
4. the roles cultural, social, and historical contexts play in the formation of literature

Student Learning Outcomes
Students who have completed this course should be able to
1. analyze and interpret prose fiction and poetry in terms of elements of form, style, and content
2. analyze literature critically and comparatively
3. recognize literary works in their cultural contexts
4. draw on the multi-draft process in written analysis of literature
5. develop and support an essay thesis with detail from multiple texts
6. research a literary topic involving multiple scholarly sources
7. appreciate the power of imaginative literature in human societies
Course Expectations and Information

General Information
Each module begins on Monday and ends on Sunday; most written assignments, including posts to the forum, are due on Thursday and Sunday nights by midnight. Occasionally there will be an intermediate deadlines during the middle of the week when a written assignment calls for peer review.

Our syllabus, which gives specific information about readings, assignments, and due dates, is divided by module, with each module being devoted to a different set of readings and/or online media.

Each module will also feature a Module Learning Guide, which will provide more detailed information about readings, links, and other online resources, as well as offering lecture notes to help you grasp the material more deeply and be successful in the course.

Online format
Online courses have their own unique benefits and challenges. Some students in the course may be experienced online course-takers, while others may be trying this for the very first time. It is essential that everyone reads, participates, posts, responds, and is respectful to one other during the course. It is always important to be aware of and practice good online etiquette when posting and commenting on the writing and ideas of others.

There will be two live written exams in the course. These can be done while logged into Moodle at your convenience during the module in which they are scheduled, and you will have a set period of time to complete the writing.

Participation
Regular participation in this course is required. Besides reading and written assignments, much of ENG 218 revolves around communicating and expressing your ideas about the literature you read. The best way to do this in an online course is through posting and responding in our course forum. For each module, one original post will be due in our course forum on Thursday by midnight, and at least two follow-up response posts will be due on Sunday by midnight.

Reading
There is a lot of reading in this class, and the pace is rapid. Some selections are short and some are longer. If you are having trouble keeping up with the reading or need extra help, please do not hesitate to contact me as soon as possible.

Original Post and Responses
The Original Post is an assignment that you will post on our course forum each Thursday night (by midnight). Together with the follow-up responses, it is worth 10% of your grade and is an important way for you to communicate your thoughts about what you are reading in the
course and to share perspectives and ideas.

To complete an original post, choose any reading for that module and respond to it in 250-300 words—one or two paragraphs. The post should not be a summary of a reading, but rather an opportunity for you to notice and comment upon some aspect of the readings for the week, to convey your thoughts and ideas. You can ask questions, interpret or analyze, or reflect on any aspect of the reading you choose. The post is due each Thursday by midnight. I will provide comments and feedback on the original posts via the forum.

In addition to the original post, each student must post a minimum of two short responses to another student’s post by Sunday of that week. You are certainly welcome to post more; let’s get a conversation going! Responses should be thoughtful and engage discussion of the literature, as well as respond directly to the original poster’s content.

Assignments
Written assignments will be either posted to the course forum or uploaded to the course drop box; instructions are included with each assignment. Further information is available in the Module Learning Guide. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that your work is posted or uploaded on time. All assignments are due by midnight on the date they are scheduled. Because this is an online course, there may be multiple written assignments due in one week or module, so please pace yourself to complete the work. Late work will be penalized 1/3 letter grade per day, (ex. From B+ to B to B- by the third day,) unless there is a valid excuse (determined by instructor) or cleared by me in advance.

If you have a documented learning disability or other limitations that may make it difficult for you to keep up with the regular assignments and you require special accommodation, please speak with me early in the semester so that we can plan for your needs.

Academic Dishonesty
As you know, presenting someone else’s words or ideas as your own is a serious violation of college rules. Plagiarism or cheating could result in failure for an assignment or a course, plus a permanent notation in your student record. It also means automatic dismissal from the Honors Program. You can certainly read outside scholarship about the authors and works in our course, however this is not expected or necessary unless you want additional information not provided by the textbook. Copying part of an analysis or study guide from the internet in your written work is not acceptable. Turning in an assignment using undocumented information found on the internet, for instance, does nothing for your education and is truly risky; in short, it is not worth it. Do your own work.
ENG 340  
Spring 2017  
Course Schedule

Module 1 (Jan 18-22): Introduction

Jan. 18-22:
Readings
  - What is World Literature?

Assignments

Module 2 (Jan. 23-29): Gilgamesh

Jan. 23-29:
Readings
  - Gilgamesh
  - Reading guide to Gilgamesh

Assignments
Module 3 (Jan. 30-Feb. 5): *Metamorphoses*

Jan. 30-Feb. 5:

*Readings*

- *Metamorphoses*, Ovid.

*Assignments*

**Thurs. Feb. 2:** Original post.
**Sun. Feb. 5:** response posts.

Module 4: (Feb. 6-Feb. 12): Classical Chinese poetry

Feb. 6-12:

*Readings*

- Tang Dynasty classical Chinese poetry (online).

*Assignments*

**Thurs. Feb. 9:** original post
**Sun. Feb. 12:** response posts.
**Mon. Feb. 13:** Essay #1 due, first draft.

Module 5 (Feb. 13-Mar. 5): *Things Fall Apart*

Please note this module is three weeks

Feb. 13-19:

*Readings*


*Assignments*

**Thurs. Feb. 16:** Original post.
**Sun. Feb. 19:** Essay #1 peer review and response posts.

Feb. 20-26:

*Readings*

*Things Fall Apart*, Chapters 9-16.

*Assignments*

**Thurs. Feb. 23:** original post.
**Sun. Feb. 26:** Essay #1 final draft due and response posts.
Feb. 27-Mar. 5:
Readings

Assignments
Thurs. Mar. 2: original post.

Module 6 (Mar. 6-26, including Spring Break): Commonwealth Short Fiction
Please note this module is two weeks, excluding Spring Break

Mar. 6-12:
Readings
- Short fiction from Commonwealth Countries around the world: Canada, the Caribbean, Australia, South Africa.
- What is the Commonwealth?

Assignments
Thurs. Mar. 9: original post.

March. 13-17: No classes—Spring Break

Mar. 20-26:
Readings
- Short fiction continued.

Assignments
- Sun Mar. 26: response posts.

Module 7 (Mar. 27-Sun. Apr. 23): Love in the Time of Cholera
Please note this module is four weeks

Mar. 27-Apr. 2:
Readings
- *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

Assignments
Thurs. Mar. 30: Original post.

Apr. 3-9:
Readings
- *Love in the Time of Cholera*. 
Assignments
Thurs. Apr. 6: Original post.
Sun. Apr. 9: Response posts.

Apr. 10-16:
Readings
- Love in the Time of Cholera.

Assignments
Thurs. Apr. 13: original post.

Apr. 17-23
Readings
- Love in the Time of Cholera.
- Critical articles on Love in the Time of Cholera.

Assignments
Thurs. Apr. 20: original post.

Module 8 (Apr. 24-30): Course conclusion

Apr. 24-30:
Readings
- “The Case for Curling up with a Book,” Carol Shields.

Assignments
Thurs. Apr. 27: original post.

May 4-9: Final exam to be taken on Moodle during final exam week.
May 8: Final Essay uploaded to Moodle.