

World Literature I, Spring 2013

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of ENGL 2305 is:

- To read carefully in order to understand the different levels of meaning in a text.
- To be able to articulate your ideas with clarity through both writing and class discussion.
- To make connections between similarities and differences in the texts that we read.
- To develop a greater appreciation and understanding of other cultures and ideas.
- To explore what relevance these works have in our lives today.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through the many works we will be discussing, we will focus on the stylistic and thematic choices of authors and how such choices reflect or subvert the worlds from which they came. When choosing the works for this syllabus, I was most interested in how the course can engage the breadth of ideas from the outset of letters to the Renaissance.

As a general education course, we should walk away at the end of the semester being able to articulate the major movements, authors, and works of these eras as well as their significance.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Third Edition, Volumes A, B, C

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Participation: 10%
Quizzes (10): 20%
Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Final: 30%

PARTICIPATION

As it is 10% of your grade, participation is a must. I expect you to come to class having read the materials and ready to answer questions and respond in thoughtful conversation.

QUIZZES

We will have unannounced quizzes at the beginning of class. The quizzes over the literature will cover the reading material assigned for that day, which means you need to have read the assignment BEFORE you come to class.

EXAMS

As we will not have any out of class essay assignments (You're welcome.), exams will primarily be writing based in the form of short answer and essay. Review days will familiarize you with characters, plot, and themes we have discussed. I recommend preparing for these exams by practicing extemporaneous writing outside of class.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Come to class. According to the UCA Handbook, "students are expected to attend all class meetings," therefore regular attendance is essential. Attendance in this class is defined as being present, engaged, and alert the entire 90 minutes of class. The only excused absences are for official school functions, and they must be authorized in

advance by written notification from a UCA faculty member or administrator. If you miss more than three classes, you will either have to drop the course or be dropped by me. Tardiness as well as leaving class early may be counted as an absence. Disruptive behavior—that is, any behavior which impedes another student’s learning process—can be penalized as an absence (i.e. if you get up in the middle of class to answer your cell phone, don’t bother coming back); seriously disruptive behavior (including, but not limited to, disrespect for another classmate, the instructor, or a substitute instructor) may result in expulsion from the course. Also, silence AND PUT AWAY all electronic devices including iPods, watch alarms, and especially cell phones before class begins. If you text during class, I will most likely ask you to leave the classroom immediately, or I will inform you by e-mail that you will be penalized with an absence for the day you were texting. Laptops will NOT be permitted unless requested with a letter from the Office of Disability Services. E-readers will only be allowed if they have no internet capability.

The university’s two academic bulletins – the University of Central Arkansas Undergraduate Bulletin and Graduate Bulletin – are the official publications for all academic programs and policies. Students are urged to study these bulletins. In addition, students should familiarize themselves with the various policies in the Student Handbook, some of which are outlined below. The Handbook may be accessed online.

Academic Misconduct/Plagiarism. (Student Handbook 39-43) “The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in his course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy.”

Sexual Harassment. (Student Handbook 112-115) Sexual harassment by any faculty member, staff member, or student is a violation of both law and university policy and will not be tolerated at the University of Central Arkansas. Sexual harassment of employees is prohibited under Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and sexual harassment of students may constitute discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Services, 450-3613.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

January 10: Introduction to class

January 15, 17

Aristotle, *Poetics* 1149-1153
Ancient Athenian Drama 644-649
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* 701-747

January 22, 24

The Epic of Gilgamesh 95-151

January 29, 31

Early Chinese Literature and Thought 1311-1319
Laozi, *Daodejing* 1344-1354

February 5, 7

Review
EXAM 1

February 12, 14

Beowulf 107-182

February 19, 21

Beowulf (continued)
Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* 387-395, 508-511

February 26, 28

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight 725-780

March 5, 7

Europe and the New World 123-133
Petrarch 164-171
Shakespeare 177-179

March 12, 14

Review
EXAM 2

March 19, 21: Spring Break

March 26, 28

Machiavelli, *The Prince* 180-191

April 2, 4

Shakespeare, *Hamlet* 652-751

April 9, 11

Hamlet (continued)

April 16, 18

Hamlet (continued)

April 23, 25: Review week

April 29 – May 3: Finals week