

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English and Foreign Languages
ENGL 211-01 World Literature I
Fall 2009

I. Locator Information:

Instructor: Dr. Alison Van Nyhuis
Course # and Name: ENGL 211-01 World Literature I
Semester Credit Hours: 3.000
Day and Time Section Class Meets: TR 11:00 am-12:15 p m
Total Contact Hours per Section: 45.000
Email address: avannyhu@uncfsu.edu

Office Location: Modular Unit 112
Office Hours: WF 9:00-11:00 am and 11:30 am-1:30 pm
Office Phone: (910) 672-2506
Classroom Location: Butler 342

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>.

II. Course Description: ENGL 211 (3-3-0) World Literature I: A study of major works of the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance, focusing on representative genres. **Prerequisite:** ENGL 110 And ENGL 120

III. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. Required Textbooks: 1) Davis, Paul, Gary Harrison, David M. Johnson, Patricia Clark Smith, and John F. Crawford, eds. *The Bedford Anthology of World Literature Books One, Two, and Three. Pack A.* Bedford /St. Martin's, 2004. 2) Hacker, Diana, ed. *The Bedford Handbook.* Boston: Bedford /St. Martin's 2009.

V. Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify authors, themes, and genres of major literary works of the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.
- 2) Discuss the cultural, historical, and philosophical contexts of major literary works of the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.
- 3) Interpret via literary critical approaches major literary works of the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.
- 4) Evaluate scholarship relating to major literary works of the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.

VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

a. **Grading Scale:**

A / 1,000-915 points total / 92-100 %
B / 825-914 points total / 83-91 %
C / 725-824 points total / 73-82 %
D / 635-724 points total / 64-72 %
F / 634 points or less / 63% and Below

- b. **Attendance Requirements:** You may miss two classes without negatively affecting your participation grade: each set of three unexcused absences will lower your participation grade by a full letter grade. Tardiness also affects your participation grade. Arriving late or leaving early three times constitutes one unexcused absence. For attendance credit, sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of each class period. Sign a "T" next to your name if you arrive late or leave early.

c. **Graded Assignments and Value of Assignments:**

1) **Reading Quizzes (5 Quizzes at 30 points each / 150 points possible / 15%)**

Five announced reading quizzes will test your comprehension of the assigned reading. If you miss a reading quiz, you will earn 0 points for that quiz (unless you show me evidence of an excused absence on the quiz date and arrange to make up the quiz in my office in a timely manner, generally within one week of returning to class).

2) **Collaborative Report and Presentation (3-4 page written report and 8-10 minute oral presentation / 200 points possible / 20%)**

At the beginning of the semester, you will select group members and a report topic. On presentation day, turn in one 3-4 page paper in response to the selected connections topic in the textbook. Each oral presentation should include the following: 1) visual illustrations; 2) relevant activity for the class; 3) open ended discussion questions. You should quote at least two primary sources and at least two scholarly secondary sources in your paper and presentation. Every group member will receive the same grade for this assignment—unless group members provide evidence of unequal contributions *before* the presentation day.

3) **Midterm Exam (take home essays and in class objective exam / 250 points possible / 25%)**

Your midterm exam consists of two parts. In part one, you will analyze the literature assigned before the midterm exam. You will receive writing prompts before the midterm exam period, and you will turn in short essays (1-2 pages each) at the beginning of the midterm exam period. You will complete part two during the midterm examination period. In part two, you might be asked to identify the author, title, and genre of passages assigned before the midterm exam, describe the textual or historical context of the passage, or define key literary terms. We will review for the midterm exam in class.

4) **Final Exam (take home essays and in class objective exam / 250 points possible / 25%)**

Your final exam consists of two parts. In part one, you will analyze the literature assigned before the final exam. You will receive writing prompts before the final exam period, and you will turn in short essays (1-2 pages each) at the beginning of the final exam period. You will complete part two during the final exam period. In part two, you might be asked to identify the author, title, and genre of passages assigned after the midterm exam, describe the textual or historical context of the passage, or define key literary terms. We will review for the final exam in class.

5) **Participation (includes performance in discussions, in-class work, writing workshops, and conferences / 150 points possible / 15%)**

In order to achieve the maximum number of participation points, you should always do the following: complete the assigned reading before class; annotate the assigned reading in preparation for class discussions; bring the assigned reading to class; actively participate in class activities and discussions, making at least one informed response or asking at least one relevant question per class period; encourage other students to participate in class; focus on the course material during the entire class period. You will receive fewer participation points if you generally, but do not always, prepare for class discussions and actively participate in class. You will receive an average participation grade if you rarely volunteer your opinions and/or ask informed questions. You will receive a below average participation grade if you only speak if called on. You will receive a failing participation grade if you generally come to class unprepared and generally respond “I don’t know” when asked a question in class. You also will receive a failing participation grade if you regularly fail to attend class.

d. **Policy on Missed or Late Assignments:** Assignments are due in class on the dates listed on the syllabus. Missed or late assignments will drop *at least one letter grade per class meeting period*--unless you turn in your missed or late assignment during the next class meeting period with documentation of an excused absence.

e. **Text Requirements:**

- Type all major writing assignments according to **MLA format**: type on 8 1/2” x 11” paper, double-space the text, write in Times New Roman (font 12), use 1” margins on all sides, and include a header at the top of each page (with your last name and page number). See *The Bedford Handbook* for additional MLA information.
- Bring one completed, polished, printed copy of your writing assignment to each writing workshop.
- Bring pre-writing, drafts, and a list of at least three written questions to each writing conference.
- A essays illuminate complexities of language as well as theme, B essays are well organized, well developed, relatively error-free essays that need more complex development and/or clearer focus, and lower grades mean greater problems with development, organization, and grammar.

f. **Academic Integrity**

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from a lower or failing assignment or course grade to suspension or expulsion from the university, as explained in the Code of Student Conduct.

Please note: If these evaluation criteria must be revised because of extraordinary circumstances, I will distribute a written amendment to the syllabus.

VII. Academic Support Resources: For course materials, including our syllabus, your grades, and Smarthinking access, see Blackboard at <http://www.blackboard.uncfsu.edu>. For writing center assistance, contact Ms. Felicia R. Crittenden: (910) 672-2455; fcritten@uncfsu.edu; Helen T. Chick 218. Please feel free to call or see me during my office hours, especially when you have questions about the class, an assignment, or a letter of recommendation. Of course, you always can use your FSU email account to contact me at avannyhu@uncfsu.edu.

VIII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule:

I. The Ancient World, Beginnings-100 C.E. (Book 1)

Week 1: Introduction

8/20 R: Syllabus Review

Week 2: "MESOPOTAMIA: The Formation of Cities and Earliest Literatures" (15)

8/25 T: Film: *The Message of Myth*

8/27 R: Reading Assignment: *Epic of Creation*, 40-55

Week 3: "MESOPOTAMIA: The Formation of Cities and Earliest Literatures" (15)

9/1 T: Reading Assignment: *Epic of Gilgamesh*, 55-74

9/3 R: **Quiz.** Reading Assignment: *Epic of Gilgamesh*, 74-91

Week 4: Collaborative Report

9/8 T: Collaborative Report Work

9/10 R: Library Demonstration

Week 5: "GREECE: The Golden Age of Literature and Philosophy" (247)

9/15 T: **Quiz.** Reading Assignment: *The Odyssey*, 421-434

9/17 R: Reading Assignment: *The Odyssey*, 753-768
Presentation: *Connections to Virgil's Aeneid*, 285

Week 6: "ROME: Creating the Myth of Empire in the Land of Caesars" (1157)

9/22 T: Reading Assignment: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, 1174-1195

9/24 R: *The Aeneid*, 1195-1215
Presentation: *Connections to Dante's Inferno*, 1180

II. The Middle Period, 100 C.E.-1450 (Book 2)

Week 7: "THE NEAR EAST: Christianity and Islam" (15)

9/29 T: Reading Assignment: Augustine, *Confessions*, 64-80

10/1 R: **Quiz.** Reading Assignment: *Confessions*, 80-96

Week 8: Exam Review

10/6 T: Midterm Exam Review

10/8 R: Writing Workshop and Conferences

Week 9: Midterm Exam

10/13 T: **Midterm Exam**

10/15 R: Midterm Break

Week 10: "THE NEAR EAST: Christianity and Islam" (15)

10/20 T: Reading Assignment: Ishaq, *Life of Muhammad*, 130-143

10/22 R: Reading Assignment: *Life of Muhammad*, 143-157
Presentation: *Connections to The Koran*, 133

Week 11: “CHINA: From the Collapse of the Han Dynasty to the Mongol Invasions” (295)

10/27 T: Reading Assignment: Qian, Poetry, 302-309
10/29 R: **Quiz.** Reading Assignment: Qian’s Poetry, 309-317

Week 12: “JAPAN: Birth of a Culture” (1011)

11/3 T: Reading Assignment: *The Tale of the Heike*, 1148-1162
Presentation: *Connections to The Tale of the Genji, 1153*
11/5 R: *The Tale of the Heike*, 1162-1174

III. The Early Modern World, 1450-1660 (Book 3)

Week 13: “AFRICA: Epic and Empire in Mali” (17)

11/10 T: Reading Assignment: *Sunjata*, 21-33
Presentation: *Connections to Machiavelli’s The Prince, 24*
11/12 R: Reading Assignment: *Sunjata*, 33-47

Week 14: Keita: Heritage of the Griot

11/17 T: Film: *Keita: Heritage of the Griot*
11/19 W: Film: *Keita: Heritage of the Griot*

Week 15: “EUROPE: Renaissance and Reformation” (49)

11/24 T: **Quiz.** Reading Assignment: Petrarch, 67-84
11/26 R: Thanksgiving Break

Week 16: Final Exam Review

12/1 T: Final Exam Review
12/3 R: Writing Workshop and Conferences

Week 17: Final Exam

TBA **Final Exam**

IX. Teaching Strategies: Students will increase their knowledge of the major authors, historical periods, and themes of early world literature through reading, analyzing, and discussing world literature, from its beginnings to the seventeenth century. Film screenings will familiarize students with the literature’s historical and literary critical contexts. One-on-one conferences and writing workshops will enhance students’ ability to write, assess, and revise essays on early world literature. A library demonstration and library research will increase students’ ability to integrate literary critical sources into their essays. Collaborative oral reports will give students the opportunity to communicate findings and expertise with peers.

Enjoy the Course!