



ENGL 2310 WORLD LITERATURE

Instructor: Dr. Gerhard Bleifuss

Office Hours: 30 minutes before/after class

Course Description

Part of the UIW Core Curriculum, this course includes close reading and discussion of texts of all kinds from a wide range of periods and societies to reveal the diversity of literature as a means of cultural statement. This course is designed as a directed exploration of worldwide literary genres and techniques of close study that emphasizes the development of critical reading skills and methodologies of literary analysis, i.e. of what can be said well about a work of art. Close readings of the assigned literary works will help develop our appreciation of literature as finely crafted, multidimensional art. In addition, such readings allow us to examine the connections between literature and culture. In examining these connections, we explore the role of art and the artist in social justice, an important aspect of study at our university.

Course Objectives

Having finished this course, students will have a refined background knowledge of world literature, beginning with Ancient Near Eastern texts and ending with 20th century literature. They will develop and practice active reading which gets the reader involved with texts and authors. They will be able to identify various critical approaches and methodologies. Students will develop the skills required to present ideas clearly and effectively about literature in oral and written forms, for instance through a well-crafted paper which conveys a strong thesis with textual backing, demonstrating their ability to do research.

Class Schedule and Sequence of Instruction

| Lecture | Date | Content |
|---------|---------|---|
| 1 | Week 1 | Introduction to course and topic |
| 2 | Week 2 | Ancient Mesopotamia |
| 3 | Week 3 | Ancient Greece: Unfolding of Literature |
| 4 | Week 4 | Ancient Rome |
| 5 | Week 5 | Medieval England |
| 6 | Week 6 | Elizabethan drama |
| 7 | Week 7 | Midterm Examination |
| 8 | Week 8 | Midterm break, no class |
| 9 | Week 9 | 18th century: from the rise of the novel to romanticism |
| 10 | Week 10 | 19th century: industrialization & empire (UK) - Civil War and winning of the West |
| 11 | Week 11 | 20th century authors from Africa |
| 12 | Week 12 | Expressionism between the World Wars |
| 13 | Week 13 | Post-WWII British poetry and bestsellers |
| 14 | Week 14 | Final Examination |



Required Textbooks and Materials

Instructional Material: will be distributed as photocopies or is available on the internet.

Grading

Grading Scale (Based on points)

| Grade | Descriptive Grade | Numeric Grade | Grade Points |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| A | Excellent Scholarship | 93-100 | 4.00 |
| A- | Excellent Scholarship | 90-92 | 3.70 |
| B+ | Good Scholarship | 87-89 | 3.30 |
| B | Good Scholarship | 83-86 | 3.00 |
| B- | Good Scholarship | 80-82 | 2.70 |
| C+ | Satisfactory Scholarship | 77-79 | 2.30 |
| C | Satisfactory Scholarship | 70-76 | 2.00 |
| D+ | Poor Scholarship | 67-69 | 1.30 |
| D | Poor Scholarship | 63-66 | 1.00 |
| D- | Poor Scholarship | 60-62 | 0.07 |
| F | Failure | Less than 60 | 0.00 |

Assignments

Apart from midterm exam, term paper, (presentation for TCNJ students,) and final exam, there will be only reading assignments.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Term Paper | 25% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Class Participation | 25% |

For TCNJ students there will be a presentation as the fifth assignment to be done, worth 15% of the course grade. Thus, their participation grade will be worth 10% of the course grade.

Exams

Midterm and final exam are closed book, and all will consist of a mixture of short answer objective and essay questions; from each group two out of three questions should be answered. The maximum of points is 25, the minimum for a passing grade is 15 points. The questions are based on the textbook **and** on additional information supplied by the instructor. Any student found cheating will get an F.



Paper

The term paper should be 8-10 pages (of text) long, double-spaced and typewritten - and it should be a piece of independent work; plagiarism may result in an F.

Your term paper will be graded according to the following criteria: objective clearly stated (introduction) 10%; logical development of objective 50%; research (documented through bibliography and references in the text, both in MLA style) 20%; format (title page, table of contents, chapters) 10%; grammar/spelling/punctuation 10%. The deadline for handing in the paper is Week 13; sanction for late papers: deduction of one grade. Term papers will not be accepted after Week 13.

Term papers (4-6 pages of text) will be graded according to the following criteria:

| Item | Points (100%) |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Objective clearly stated | 10 |
| Logical development of objective | 50 |
| Research and References (MLA) | 20 |
| Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation | 10 |
| Format | 10 |

Other Regulations and Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active classroom participation are required of each student. Tests will cover for all course material provided through lectures and presentations, readings, discussions, cases, and videos during class. **Absences and/or a lack of participation in discussions will impact negatively on the final grade.** Each student is responsible for all material covered and/or assigned and any announcements made in any class session, whether student is present or not. Group activities require all students to participate and contribute to group discussions and projects.

Students are expected to come to class on time and to have read assigned material before class. There may be an occasional pop quiz to verify whether students have read the assignments before class.

All work must be turned in on time. Late work may be accepted but points will be taken off if work is not turned in to instructor when it is due. At all times, in class and group discussions, students are expected to respect contributions, questions, and opinions of other people. Demeaning others in any way is not acceptable.

Classroom etiquette: students are not to talk with each other during lectures, nor to take or make phone calls, nor to eat or drink.

Scholastic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a university academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the Study Center.