

ENGL 4930 Masterpieces of World Literature

HR 4930 Honors Great Books

(Fall 2015) Monday & Wednesday 16:00-17:15

PRH 14

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Office Hours: 317 San Ignacio Hall, Wednesdays 14:00-16:00.

Outline:

Story telling is central to the human condition. This course looks at some of the most influential works of literature from classical to modern times. Possible authors for this course will include Homer, Aeschylus, Virgil, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Robert Louis Stevenson, Ibsen and Beckett. Assignments will include brief class presentations, a midterm and a final exam.

Texts:

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. George Chapman (Wordsworth Classics, 1987, 2002).
- Virgil, *Aeneid*, trans. John Dryden (Penguin Classics, 1997).
- Dante, *Inferno*, trans. Robert Pinsky (FSG, 1994).
- Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (scholarly edition).
- Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ed. Barbara Lewalski (scholarly edition).
- Ibsen, *Ghosts*, trans. James McFarlane in *Four Major Plays* (Oxford World's Classics, 1981 or any scholarly edition).
- Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (cheap edition).
- Beckett, *Watt* (edition in bookstore).

Course Objectives:

- To read, analyze, and enjoy a diverse range of texts and literary genres, from classical epics to 20th-century novels.
- To use skillfully the practices of close reading to generate effective and persuasive arguments about literary texts.
- To situate texts within their cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts.
- To access, evaluate, and incorporate secondary resources into research papers and presentations.
- To look for ambiguity and question received categories and definitions.
- To improve critical and theoretical vocabulary.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete the requirements for this course will be able to:

- Articulate the distinctive features of the literary genres covered (epic, tragedy, and novel).
- Understand and utilize the critical terms needed to analyze and discuss literary texts.
- Perform close readings by showing how language “works” in literary texts (or how word choice, imagery, literary and rhetorical devices/conventions work together to produce a particular effect or meaning).
- Defend persuasively interpretations of literary texts orally and in writing.
- Conduct research using the library’s databases and other scholarly materials online and in print.
- Deliver an oral presentation on a research topic related to a literary text.

-Produce a research paper that situates texts within their theoretical and/or literary historical contexts.

Requirements / Grading:

- attendance and participation: **10 % of final grade**

- 2 papers: one textual analysis (giving your own reading and observations of one or two of the texts on the course) (5-7 pages) and one full research paper (8-10 pages) that brings historical, cultural, or theoretical information to bear on your reading of one or two of the texts on the syllabus. **70 % (30 + 40) of final grade**

- introductory presentation: each student will introduce one of our texts. These introductions will in part contain standard prefatory matter (such as providing a historical context and / or biographical note on the author and / or establishing the significance of the work in the canon). However, it will also, for instance, put forward an original observation about the text, focus in on a curious detail in the text, provide a personal reading / interpretation of part or the whole of the work (this will be that spark of insight that distinguishes real scholarship). 10 minutes max. **10% of final grade**

- Exam: **10% of final grade**

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to maintain the standards of academic integrity required by Saint Louis University. To quote from the University's policy: *Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator...Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University.*

Examples of plagiarism include: turning in someone else's work (published or unpublished) as your own; presenting ideas that are not your own, or that are not common knowledge, either directly (verbatim) or paraphrased without proper citation; willful misrepresentation of sources (citing a source that isn't the source from which you obtained your information).

Policy: If you turn in work that violates these policies and if this is your first offense, you will receive an "F" on the assignment. If you violate the policy for a second time, you will receive an "F" as a final grade for the class.

Accommodation Statement

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

-Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

-University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Resources:

-Recommended Library Databases: Project Muse, JSTOR, MLA International Bibliography, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Other Online Resources:

-MIT's Internet Classics Archive: <http://classics.mit.edu/index.html>

-*Odyssey* Study Guide: <http://www.temple.edu/classics/odysseyho/index.html> -Voice of the Shuttle (guide to online humanities resources): <http://vos.ucsb.edu/> -

Luminarium (independent scholarly website with an archive of medieval and early modern texts and critical essays); <http://www.luminarium.org/>

-Dartmouth's online scholarly edition of *Paradise Lost*:

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_1/

- Norton Online Guide to Writing about Literature (includes MLA guidelines for citation and documentation):

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/litweb05/writing/welcome.asp>

-Norton Anthology of English Literature (includes introductions and study topics for the 16th - and 17th - centuries);

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/welcome.htm>

Important Dates:

Week 1: Sep. 2nd Introduction & 4th Homer, *The Odyssey*

Week 2: Sep. 7th & 9th: Homer, *The Odyssey*

**Monday 14th Sept Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and/or Add a Class
Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options**

Week 3: Sep 14th & 16th: Virgil, *The Aeneid*

Week 4: Sep 21st: *The Aeneid*: Sep 22nd: Dante, *Inferno*

Week 5: Sep 28th & 30th: Dante, *Inferno*

Week 6: Oct 5th & 7th: Milton, *Paradise Lost*

First essay (5-7 pages – see above) due. Thursday 8th Oct

Week 7: **Monday Oct 12th – !Hispanic Day!**: 14th: *Paradise Lost*

Monday 19th October Professors' Deadline to Submit Midterm Grades

Week 8: Oct 19th: Catch up and reflection class: 21st: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Week 9: Oct 26th & 28th: *Hamlet*

Thursday 29th October Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

Week 10: Nov 2nd: *Hamlet* : Nov 4th: Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde*

Thursday 4th November Registration for Spring Semester Begins

Week 11: **Nov 9th – !Nuestra Senora de la Almudena!**: Nov 11th: *Jekyll & Hyde*

Week 12: Nov 16th: *Jekyll & Hyde*: Nov 18th: Ibsen, *Ghosts*

Week 13: Nov 23rd & 25th: *Ghosts*

Week 14: Nov 30th & Dec 2nd: Beckett, *Watt*

Week 15: Dec 7th & 9th: *Watt* & Conclusions

Dec 11th Second Paper Due

!!!Mon., Dec 14th: Final Exam, 15:30-18:30pm**!!!**