

CMLT 2210
Western World Literature I
Fall 2007
Gail Polk, Instructor

Meeting: 11:15-12:05 pm MWF, Park Hall, rm. 136
Office Hours: W, F 12:15-1:15 and by appointment
136 Joe Brown Hall
Phone: 706-542-5682
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Required Texts:

The Essential Homer, trans. and ed. Stanley Lombardo, Hackett Publishing
Aeschylus, *Oresteia*, trans. Peter Meineck, Hackett Publishing
Sophocles, *Oedipus Tyrannus*, trans. Peter Meineck and Paul Woodruff
Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, 3rd ed., trans. GMA Grube, Hackett
Virgil, *The Essential Aeneid*, trans. Stanley Lombardo, Hackett Publishing
Shakespeare, *Othello*, ed. Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine, Washington Square
Course packet available at Bel-Jean

Course Description and Goals

This course is an introduction to the western (or European) literary tradition from roughly its beginning until the 17th century. In the first half of the semester we will examine texts from the ancient and classical periods and Greece. These texts are foundational not only for our literary heritage, but they have had a profound impact on western philosophy, politics, and culture generally. Accordingly, it is these texts that will serve to frame the questions, or themes, that will dominate our class: the most predominate of which will be the opposition between reason and the passions in man's attempts to live in the way best suited to his place in the world, as each author views this.

This class is a survey of Western Literature, and it will therefore consist primarily of reading and analyzing these texts, while developing the skills that are necessary to speak and write about literature with clarity and precision. The ability to analyze texts of any sort and to express ones thoughts clearly are necessary prerequisites for a critical engagement with the world in which one lives, as well as for a meaningful engagement with literary texts.

Assignments and Grading

Writing: There will be three short writing assignments of 1-2 pages, worth 10 % each, and a final paper of 4-5 pages that is worth 15 %. Papers will be due at the beginning of class. "*All academic work must meet the standards contained in 'A Culture of Honesty.'* Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any work."

Tests: Midterm 15%
Final 20%

Quizzes and homework: Throughout the semester I will give pop quizzes in class and short homework assignments to support your reading of and direct your thinking about the texts we are reading in class. The average of these assignments will be worth 15% of your final grade.

The rest of your grade (5%) will be determined by your participation in class. This class is primarily a discussion class, rather than a lecture. You must have prepared the required readings and participate in class in order to succeed.

Attendance

Attendance to this class is mandatory. If you miss more than three classes before the withdrawal deadline, you will be dropped from the class automatically. If your fourth absence is after the deadline, you will lose two points from your final grade for each absence beginning with the fourth.

Reading Schedule

F 8/17 Introduction

M 8/20 *Iliad* book 1 (all *Iliad* and *Odyssey* readings are in *The Essential Homer*)

W 8/22 *Iliad* book 6

F 8/24 *Iliad* book 16

M 8/27 *Iliad* book 18

W 8/29 *Iliad* book 22

F 8/31 *Iliad* book 24

M 9/3 LABOR DAY NO CLASS

W 9/5 *Odyssey* book 1

F 9/7 *Odyssey* book 5

M 9/10 *Odyssey* books 8 & 9

W 9/12 *Odyssey* book 10

F 9/14 *Odyssey* book 11

M 9/17 *Odyssey* book 18 **First Paper Due**

W 9/19 *Odyssey* book 22

F 9/21 *Agamemnon* to line 809 (*Oresteia*)

M 9/24 *Agamemnon* finish

W 9/26 *Libation Bearers* (*Oresteia*)

F 9/28 *Eumenides* (*Oresteia*)

M 10/1 *Oedipus Tyrannus* to line 770

W 10/3 *Oedipus Tyrannus* finish

F 10/5 **MIDTERM**

M 10/8 *Euthyphro* (Trial and Death of Socrates)
W 10/10 *Apology* (Trial and Death of Socrates)
F 10/12 *Apology & Crito* (Trial and Death of Socrates)
F 10/12 MIDTERM WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

M 10/15 *Aeneid* book 1 **Second Paper Due**
W 10/17 *Aeneid* book 2
F 10/19 *Aeneid* book 4

M 10/22 *Aeneid* book 6
W 10/24 *Aeneid* book 7, book 10,1-724 (Lombardo's line nos.)
F 10/26 FALL BREAK NO CLASS

M 10/29 *Aeneid* book 10, 832 to end, book 12
W 10/31 *Inferno* 1-3 (Course Packet)
F 11/2 *Inferno* 4-7

M 11/5 *Inferno* 8-11 **Third Paper Due**
W 11/7 *Inferno* 12-15
F 11/9 *Inferno* 16-19

M 11/12 *Inferno* 20-23
W 11/14 *Inferno* 24-27
F 11/16 *Inferno* 28-31

M 11/19 *Inferno* 32-34
W 11/21 THANKSGIVING NO CLASS
F 11/23 THANKSGIVING NO CLASS

M 11/26 *Othello* Act 1
W 11/28 *Othello* Act 2
F 11/30 *Othello* Act 3

M 12/3 *Othello* Act 4
T 12/4 *Othello* Act 5
W 12/5 **Final Paper Due**

M 12/10 12:00-3:00 Final Exam

This is a prospective schedule for the course: changes will be made, as necessary, at the instructor's discretion.