

CMLT 2210
Western World Literature I
Spring 2007
Nathan Vacher, Instructor

Meeting: 10:10-11:00 am MWF, Student Learning Center, rm. 275
Office Hours: W, F 11:30-12:30 and by appointment
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Required Texts:

Aeschylus. *Oresteia*. Trans Richmond Lattimore. Chicago
Dante. *Inferno*. Trans. Robert Pinsky. FSG
Shakespeare. *Pericles*. Oxford
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, preceded by a brief look at the creation narrative in Genesis. 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 as he ought, or perhaps, to live in the way best suited to man's place in the world.

This class is primarily 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 that only then can one enjoy.

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

1/8 Introduction

1/10 Hesiod *Theogony* (Bel Jean's Course Packet)

1/12 *Theogony*

1/15 MLK Holiday: NO CLASS

1/17 *Genesis* (Course Packet)

1/19 Homer *Iliad* book 1 (Course Packet)

1/22 *Iliad* books 6 and 8, selections

1/24 *Iliad* book 9

1/26 *Iliad* book 16

1/29 *Iliad* book 18

1/31 *Iliad* book 22

2/2 *Iliad* book 24, **First Paper Due**

2/5 Aeschylus *Agamemnon*

2/7 Aeschylus *Libation Bearers*

2/9 Aeschylus *Eumenides*

2/12 Sophocles *Oedipus the King* (Course Packet)

2/14 *Oedipus*

2/16 Plato *Symposium* (Course Packet)

2/19 *Symposium*

2/21 *Symposium*

2/23 **MIDTERM**

2/26 *Aeneid* book 1 (Course Packet)

2/28 *Aeneid* book 2

3/1 MIDTERM WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

3/2 *Aeneid* book 4

3/5 *Aeneid* book 6

3/7 *The Gospel According to Mark* ch. 1-8 (Course Packet)

3/9 *Mark* 9-16: **Second Paper Due**

3/12-3/16 SPRING BREAK

3/19 Dante *Inferno* 1-3

3/21 *Inferno* 4-6

3/23 *Inferno* 7-9

3/26 *Inferno* 10-12

3/28 *Inferno* 13-15

3/30 *Inferno* 16-18: **Third Paper Due**

4/2 *Inferno* 19-21

4/4 *Inferno* 22-24

4/6 *Inferno* 25-27

4/9 *Inferno* 28-30

4/11 *Inferno* 31-33

4/13 *Inferno* 34

4/16 Milton *Paradise Lost* book 1 (Course Packet)

4/18 Milton *Paradise Lost* book 9

4/20 Shakespeare *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* Act 1

4/23 *Pericles* Act 2

4/25 *Pericles* Act 3

4/27 *Pericles* Act 4: **Final Paper Due**

4/30 *Pericles* Act 5

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