ENGL 235
World Literature I
Spring 2008

Instructor:    Kathleen Kennedy
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Office Hours: Mon 9:00 to 11:00
              Fri 12:00 to 2:00
              Lots of other times

Course Description

In this class we will study literature from ancient times to the 1800’s, including the epic, poetry, and drama. We will explore the relevance of this literature to the people for whom it was created as well as to ourselves and what these works tell us about the human condition, the nature of identity, our dreams and our anxieties. Using visual arts, movies, small and large group discussions, and written assignments, we will explore these works from a stylistic, psychological, historical, and social perspective.

Through our class discussions and written assignments, you will learn various ways of developing and supporting your own interpretations of the works. You will learn to express your ideas clearly in writing and support your beliefs with quotes from the texts and from outside texts. We will examine literary criticism and learn how it can be used to help develop and support your own ideas, whether you agree with the critics or not.

Required Texts

You will need the following 3-book set, which is available at the bookstore:

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Volumes A, B and C.

I will provide handouts for any readings listed on the syllabus that are not included in this set.
Course Requirements

You will be graded on the following:

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<td>Attendance and class participation</td>
<td>required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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In order to pass the class, you must complete all assignments, hand them in on time, earn at least a C on papers, and pass the final exam.

Attendance

Attendance is required to succeed in this class. You cannot pass this class with more than three absences. Class activities such as small and large group discussions, workshopping, movies, and in-class writings all help to shape your essays, as well as your understanding of the texts. Your participation in and contributions to these activities are important to your success and to the success of your fellow students.

Homework Assignments

I design the homework assignments to guide you in your readings and to prepare you for our class discussions. They are required; I will collect and grade them. You may write these assignments by hand or type them.

Midterm

The midterm exam is an essay test that covers the material from the first day up to and including Antigone. I will give you a choice of three or four essay questions. You will choose one question and answer it comparing and contrasting two texts (or a selection of poetry in place of a longer text). While I won’t be looking for quotes in your essay, I will be looking for specific examples from your chosen texts. This test is open book and open notes. You may not use any other resources, such as study guides or essays written by anyone else.

We will write a practice comparison/contrast essay in class the week before in preparation of the midterm.
Final Exam

The final exam consists of two parts. The first part will be short answer questions, which you can answer in a phrase or sentence or two. This part will cover all the works from the beginning of the semester to the end. The second part is an essay. For this part, you will select one out of three essays and answer it using two texts from the second half of the term. This test is open book and open notes. You may not use any other resources, such as study guides or essays written by anyone else.

Paper 1

For this assignment, you will select a theme from The Odyssey, develop a thesis statement, and support it in a four-page essay. Your essay must include supportive quotes from the text, MLA citations, and a Works Cited page.

Paper 2

For the longer research paper or project, you will write a six to eight page paper on one of the following works: Sakuntala and the Ring of Recollection, The Pillow Book, Hamlet, The Epic of Son Jara, or a selection of poetry. For this assignment, you will work in groups to discuss your works in detail and research your chosen work using the databases available through the Bankier Library on campus. Each person will write his or her own paper. You must include a clear thesis statement, develop the body of your paper with details, support your ideas with specific examples and quotes from the text and from your research, and document your sources using MLA style documentation. We will work in class on how to find appropriate outside sources and how to use your research and critical analyses to help you shape and support your own ideas.

We will discuss creative ways of approaching this project. You may incorporate another discipline such as art, history, or psychology, you may pick a theme and explore how it is expressed in literature and the visual arts, you may do a psychological analysis of your chosen works, etc.

Paper Format and Due Dates

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, using 12 pt. font. Please stick to a simple font such as Times New Roman. Simply staple your paper together. Don’t bother with cardboard or plastic covers.

A hard copy of your paper is due on the assigned due date. I do not accept papers via email. Late papers will be marked down half a point per day. If you know you cannot hand your paper in on time and you notify me 24 hours in advance, we will work out a new due date and you won’t be penalized. You can notify me by sending me email or leaving me a phone message.
Getting Your Papers to Passing Level

To earn at least a C on a paper, I require skills such as a clear thesis statement, details to support your thesis, focus, paragraphing, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling. If your paper is not passing, you will need to revise it to bring it to passing level. In this case, you are required to go to the Writing Center (Larrison Hall 118) for assistance. No revision will be accepted without a signed Writing Center slip, and you will not pass the class if this assignment is not passing. You will have one week from the time I hand back your paper until your revision is due. It is strongly recommended that you visit the Writing Center before you hand in your paper.

When You Are Absent

When you are absent, send me email and I will let you know what you missed. See me during my office hours, and get notes from someone in class. Be sure to keep up with your reading for the next class meeting.

If you are ill for a prolonged period of time or if you are experiencing any difficulties that interfere with your ability to come to class, call me. We can set up an alternate schedule to get you back on track.

School Closings

Check the following to see if Brookdale is closed in case of snow:

- 101.5 FM
- The Brookdale operator on 732-842-1900
- The Brookdale Home Page (www.brookdalecc.edu); check the announcement box in the bottom right corner.
- My number, 732-224-2197; if I know school is closed, I’ll leave an outgoing message.

If school is closed for any reason, I will send any changes to the next week’s assignment via email using your Brookdale email account. If you do not use this account, send me email and I’ll reply with the assignment.
Progress or Problems

If you are concerned about or unsure of how you are doing in this class, you can come to me at any time to discuss your progress. If you can't see me during my office hours, stop by my office if you’re on campus or call me or send me email to see when I’ll be in. I’m on campus every day, so I’m sure we’ll be able to find a mutually convenient time.

If you are having trouble with the assignments, if you have frequent absences, or if you stop coming to class, I am required to report this through a student monitoring system. A letter will be sent to your home and a copy will be sent to your counselor.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the class and failure for the semester. Plagiarism includes taking someone else's writing and presenting it as your own. This means that you cannot have someone else write your essays for you, you cannot use writing you find in another source, and you cannot use essays you bought or downloaded from the Internet for any of your assignments, including the midterm and final.

Students are often tempted to plagiarize because they are afraid they cannot complete the work on their own. If you find yourself in this situation, call on me and/or the Writing Center to help step you through your assignment. That’s why we’re here!