
COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will enable you to read and respond to masterpieces of world literature both in class (with help from your instructor and other students) and in writing projects prepared outside of class. You will learn to examine the relevance of these texts for contemporary readers; you will learn ways to get helpful research about the texts, and to analyze the texts with an interpretation that can be justified by examples in that text. The classroom activities will help you to understand the historical and culture contexts of the reading assignments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course will help you to do a comprehensive reading of literary works that are considered world masterpieces from many different cultures and traditions. Working with videos and handouts, with your instructor, and with your classmates, you will learn the historical and literary context of the works and analyze why they make important universal statements about the human condition. You will also be able to support your own interpretations with valid reasons and examples *taken from the texts*.

In the out of class assignments, you will learn to find poems from different cultures that comment on aspects of your own life and society and be able to assemble an anthology of world poetry that reflects a coherent theme either from aesthetic standards or from areas of your own personal life.

You will also be able to find a strong thesis about a comparison or contrast between two world masterpieces and create a research paper that shows an ability to find effective source material, to analyze individual literary works, and to find connections between two or more literary works.

ASSIGNMENTS:
1. **Read all texts before class discussion.** You must read the works assigned, take quizzes, participate in class and online discussions.

2. **Create your own intercultural poetry anthology with a 4 page (1000 word) preface.** Instructions: Choose at least one poem from 7 different non-Western cultures using the many non-Western poets in your text. This will be your anthology with your own theme. You may use any poems in the text and add any poems that you happen to like from another source, even contemporary poetry or lyrics if they complement the non-Western poems you have chosen. Make a copy of the poems any way you like (Xerox, scanning, word processing, downloading), then write a 4 page introduction telling why you chose these lyrics and possibly why you arranged them in this order. Feel free to be original and creative in your response to this assignment. See Angel for due date and further instructions.

3. **Create a six to nine page (1500-2250 words) term paper comparing and contrasting two works of literature from your textbook or other source, neither work of which was read for class.** The works must be from before 1700. At least one of the texts must be non-Western that is not from the European, Judeo-Christian cultural tradition. Your paper must include research, internal citations and a works cited page. Try to pin down the topic early and discuss it with Professor Ryan. Feel free to use e-mail for this discussion. See Angel for due date and further instructions.

4. **Final Exam:** The exam will consist of 10 short essay questions to test your comprehension of individual texts, a choice of 1 long essay (750-1000 words or 3-4 pages) to test your ability to compare many works to a concept or theme, and a short poem for you to interpret. The exam is open book, open notes and may be taken on a computer. The exam will be given on the last day of the semester.

**GRADING:** The student’s grade will be an average of the poetry anthology (20%) the term paper (35%), the final exam (35%) and class attendance, quizzes and participation (10%). Above 90% = A; 85% - 89% = B+; 80% - 84% = B; 75% -79% = C+; 70%-74% = C; 65%-70% = D; Below 65% = F. The student must get a grade of at least C on the term paper to pass ENG 235.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have a documented disability and would like to request accommodations and/or academic adjustments, contact the Disability Services Office at 732-224-2730.