

English 103 – spring 2007

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## **Western Literature**

Western Literature is over 2,000 years old and has recorded many civilizations some disappeared long time ago but go on living through the written word. These writings and civilizations have influenced our culture, way of thinking, reading, seeing and feeling. During our semester together we will explore some of these civilizations and heritages by reading books, essays, poems and plays representing the great western literature since the Bible. You would be required to make your own choices of different forms of literature, to respond, react, evaluate and appreciate the writing and enhance your understanding of the roots of western literature: your own inheritance.

### **Course Objectives**

- Enhance your reading
- Facilitate your ability to use books as space ships to other worlds
- Develop your inner voice
- Help to improve your written and oral skills
- Give you some experience in working alone and in group
- Enable you to distinguish between constructive and destructive criticism
- Allow you the freedom to shape your own literary taste and penchant

### **Required reading**

*Western Literature* The Norton Anthology Volume 2

## **Recommended Reading**

*Atonement* Ian McEwan

*Blindness* Jose Saramago

*Emma* Jane Austen

*Catch 22* Joseph Heller

*The Unbearable lightness of being* Milan Kundera

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* Gabriel Garcia Marquez

## **Expectations**

You are expected to show up to every class, and on time. Missing lessons and lateness will interfere with learning and hence affect your grade. Since there is a large emphasis on teamwork you will be required not to disrupt your fellow student's creativity and to be considerate. No ringing cell-phones and no eating during class.

All assignments will be presented in print; hence you have to master computer skills.

## **Grading**

Your contribution in class will determine 20% of your final grade

The work done in groups with other students will determine 15% of your final grade

The presentations you will give in class on your own, and/or with fellow students will determine 15% of your final grade

The written works you will be required to present throughout the semester will determine 25% of your final grade

The last assignment, *a research paper on your chosen topic*, (in lieu of final exam) will determine 25% of your final grade

## **Schedule-** *with possible modifications according to student researches*

Week I

Tuesday January 16

Introduction

Thursday January 18	The Bible
Week II	
Tuesday January 23	Ancient history
Thursday January 25	Homer
Week III	
Tuesday January 30	The Divine Comedy
Thursday February 1	Chaucer
Week IV	
Tuesday February 6	Women's situation
Thursday February 8	Don Quixote
Week V	
Tuesday February 13	Shakespeare
Thursday February 15	Religion and literature
Week VI	
Tuesday February 20	Romanticism
Thursday February 22	Romantics and Revolution
Week VII	
Tuesday February 27	Realism and Symbolism
Thursday March 1	Mid-term paper due
Week VIII	
Tuesday March 6	Spring recess
Thursday March 8	Milton
Week IX	
Tuesday March 13	Moliere
Tuesday March 15	Voltaire
Week X	
Tuesday March 20	Faust
Thursday March 22	Madam Bovary
Week XI	
Tuesday March 27	Civilization on trial
Thursday March 29	Mann and Rilke

Week XII

Tuesday April 3

Baudelaire

Thursday April 5

A Room of One's Own

Week XIII

Tuesday April 10

Metamorphosis

Thursday April 12

War's literature

Week XIV

Tuesday April 17

Sartre and De Beauvoir

Thursday April 19

Final essay due

Week XV

Tuesday April 24

Edward Said versus Primo Levi

Thursday April 26

Conclusion

**Notes**

- 1) You can expect to dedicate 3-6 hours per week outside of class, reading and preparing assignments.
- 2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Offices as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- 3) Do not hesitate to address me with any kind of problem you have during class or after.
- 4) This syllabus is subject to change.