

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
Syllabus, Spring 2008

Dr. Javier Ávila

English 103 A: Western Literature

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:50-10:00 a.m. (PPHAC 101)

E-mail: javila@moravian.edu

Phone: 610-861-5546

Office: Zinzendorf Hall 302

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. and by appointment

Course Objectives: In this course students will study selected major works in the literature of the Western world, all written originally in ancient or modern foreign languages but read for this course in English translations. By studying these works, students will better understand the roots and evolution of Western society, its distinctiveness as a culture, and their relationship to it. They will develop skills in literary analysis and they will practice the oral and written communication of ideas about or related to the literary works studied.

Required Text: Mack, Maynard, et al., ed. *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*. 5th Continental Edition. New York: Norton, 1987.

Course Requirements & Grading: Students are expected to attend class regularly and contribute to the proceedings. Absences will be noted and will negatively affect a final grade. Participation in class discussions and other class activities, as well as leadership through co-instruction, will be considered in assigning the final grade. For the reading assignments, students should make annotations and look up any unfamiliar words. Poor preparation (including not reading the entire assigned text(s), not actively participating in the critical reading process, and unwillingness to engage in class discussion) will be penalized. Late work will be penalized. Missed quizzes cannot be retaken nor made-up, but a mathematical adjustment will be applied if a quiz is missed for a valid, documented reason (a medical or family emergency or a college-related commitment approved by the instructor by prior arrangement). The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative judgments in determining grades for individual assignments and for the course.

Five required elements will be given equal weight (20%) in the final assessment of a student's course work:

1. an average of scores on quizzes administered at the start of most class meetings;
2. an essay on selected texts from the Ancient World and the Middle Ages;
3. an essay on selected texts from the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the Nineteenth Century;
4. a final paper on the Twentieth Century;
5. class attendance, participation, and leadership.

In order to be successful, students should expect to work at least six hours per week outside of class preparing for this class.

Academic Honesty: Students in this course should refer to the statement on academic honesty at Moravian College in the current *Student Handbook*, available online at:

<http://www.moravian.edu/StudentLife/handbook/academic2.htm>

Students must retain copies of all written work submitted to the instructor, as well as all notes, drafts, and materials used in preparing assignments. These are to be made available for inspection by the instructor at any time.

A Note to Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Schedule of Readings, Writing Assignments, and Examinations for English 103: All readings are found in *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*, except when specified as *handouts*. In addition to the assigned texts, students are expected to read all the introductions to the time periods concerning the texts. They are also expected to conduct outside research as required by the instructor.

Week One (Jan 15, 17): Introduction to the course. “A Note on Translation”(2651-57)

Week Two (Jan 22, 24): Selections from *The Old Testament* (13-21), *The Koran* (handout), and Hitchens, *God Is Not Great* (handout)

Week Three (Jan 29, 31): **Aristotle**, *Poetics* (459-464); **Euripides**, *Medea* (358-394)

Week Four (Feb 5, 7): **Sappho**, poetry (246-249 & handout); **Catullus**, poetry (464-470)

Week Five (Feb 12, 14): **Boccaccio**, from *The Decameron* (958-985); Essay

Week Six (Feb 19, 21): “The Renaissance” (1005-1011); **Petrarch**, poetry (1012-1017)

Week Seven (Feb 26, 28): **Machiavelli**, from *The Prince* (1057-1074)

Week Eight (Mar 4, 6): Spring Recess

Week Nine (Mar 11, 13): **Cervantes**, from *Don Quixote* (1176-1223)

Week Ten (Mar 18, 20): **Sor Juana**, *Reply to Sor Filotea de la Cruz* (1508-1542)

Week Eleven (Mar 25, 27): **Dostoevsky**, *Notes from Underground* (1845-1939)

Week Twelve (Apr 1, 3): (cont.) Dostoevsky; Essay

Week Thirteen (Apr 8, 10): **Kafka**, *The Metamorphosis* (2298-2341)

Week Fourteen (Apr 15, 17): **Akhmatova**, poetry (2341-2353); **Borges**, poetry (handout)

Week Fifteen (Apr 22, 24): (cont.) Borges

Week Sixteen (Exact date TBA): Final Paper

This syllabus, including the schedule of readings, writing assignments, and examinations, is subject to change.