

Course Policies

English 2111/2, World Literature I, Fall 2009

Southern Polytechnic State University

Instructor:	Dr. Iraj Omidvar	Location:	J 132
Office:	J 335	Meeting Times:	TTh 1:30-2:45 PM
Office Phone:	678-915-3722	Office Hours:	MW 1:00 to 2:00 PM
Email address:	iomidvar@spsu.edu		MW 4:45 to 6:15 PM and by appointment

Required Materials

- *The Longman Anthology of World Literature Volume I (A, B, C): The Ancient World, The Medieval Era, The Early Modern Period* edited by David Damrosch. 2nd edition.
- One blue exam booklet
- A manila folder
- Regular, reliable access to a computer connected to the Internet and WebCT

Course Description

ENGL 2111 World Literature I

Prerequisite: ENGL 1102

A survey of important works of world literature from ancient times through the mid-seventeenth century. The course includes a variety of literary forms such as poetry, drama, nonfiction, short stories, and novels. The course presents literature as a reflection of culture and the history of ideas.

Course Outcomes

After completing English 2111, World Literature I, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of literary and cultural diversities
- Analyze themes and ideas pertinent to World Literature I.
- Come to comprehend how historical time and literary movements shape our understanding of literature.

Course Objectives

In World Literature I, we will examine various genres of literary texts written before the 17th Century by authors from several regions of the world. We will see what problems these authors, some from

the very edge of pre-history, encountered—organizations of family and state, the nature of power, the scourge of war, the multiplicity of human societies and their gods, etc. We will become acquainted with some of consequential questions they asked, and some of the solutions they adopted. Throughout, we will be alert to the fact that many of the problems our ancestors encountered remain with us and that many of our questions and solutions are either theirs or responses to theirs.

Assignments

A series of assignments and class activities will be used to gauge your performance in the course. **Please follow the assignment instructions very carefully.** Assignments that follow only some of the instructions will not receive a grade better than a C.

Unannounced Quizzes

Quizzes constitute 25% of your course grade. There will be between 10 and 15 quizzes during the semester. Most quizzes will have between 5 and 15 questions. At the beginning of each class period, you should expect a possible quiz. Quizzes will test your basic knowledge of one or all of the readings for the day. Basic knowledge means knowledge about key characters (their names, relationships, backgrounds, etc.) and plot details (what happened to whom, in what sequence, to what effect, etc.). Occasionally, quizzes may present you with a quotation and ask you to identify the title or the author. Less frequently, quizzes may also ask you to use concepts developed in the course to examine a topic in relation to the reading. In my experience, cursory readings of most assigned texts will not result in good or often passing quiz scores. Plot details and character relationships are crucial to understanding the many meanings of the text. Quizzes are our baseline in the course because they are intended to assess basic comprehension. Since with most of these texts we want to go much deeper than basic comprehension, if you are doing poorly on quizzes, you should consider withdrawing from the course. You cannot make up a quiz, but three quizzes can be missed without any negative effect on your grade because I will discount your three lowest quiz grades when I average your scores.

Mid-term Exam

The Midterm constitutes 25% of your course grade. The midterm will be in part multiple-choice and true-false and in part essay questions. Some midterm questions will test your comprehension; others will ask you to synthesize the material covered in class (concepts and texts).

Group Presentation

The Group Presentation will constitute 15% of your course grade. I will set up about six presentation groups by the midterm. Each group will be responsible for presenting the readings for one class period after the midterm. Each PowerPoint presentation will include contextual information using the concepts introduced and developed in class as well as readings by all group members of sections of the assigned texts for that period. Your contribution to the group project will be evaluated by your peers. I will use this evaluation to as part of my overall evaluation of each group member's contribution and performance. I will provide you with detailed instructions.

Final Essay

The Final Essay constitutes 25% of your course grade. The final assignment in the course will be a five-to-seven-page essay about a topic we have covered in class. At the mid-point of the semester, I will distribute the essay questions and instructions.

Course Evaluation

I will determine your course grade by taking into account the following areas of evaluation: (1) your average quiz score; (2) your midterm grade; (3) your individual group presentation score; (4) the quality of your final essay; (5) your informed and active participation in class discussions; and (6) your attendance record.

Grade Policy

Evaluation Areas	Points	Weight	Weighted Points
Participation	100	*1.0	100
Quizzes	100	*2.5	250
Midterm	100	*2.5	250
Group Presentation	100	*1.5	150
Final Essay	100	*2.5	250
Total			1,000

Participation

Participation in class discussions constitutes 10% of your course grade. To receive the full participation score, you need to be not only present in class regularly (poor attendance will adversely affect the participation grade), but volunteer comments and questions, and to know the readings (be able to summarize and analyze readings for content). Needless to say, one or two instances of dozing off, engaging in computer/phone activities unrelated to the activities during the class period, talking on the cell phone during class, wearing headphones, etc. will dramatically affect your grade, as will disruptions to class discussions, lack of attention to what I or your classmates are saying, etc.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is required. You may have two absences without any penalties for your course grade. The third and fourth absences will each result in losses of 100 points from your course grade. Five absences may result in failing the course. If you are late to class, you must come to me before I leave the classroom and wait till you see me write the letter “L” (for late) below the letter “X” for absence in front of your name on the roster. I will count two Ls as one absence.

I take attendance at the beginning of each period. When I calculate your course grade, I will rely on the attendance record on the roster, not my memory. I will not add an L below the X after the end of the class period even if I think I remember you in the class.

Emergencies—In case of family or medical emergencies, you will need to contact me—through your and my university e-mail accounts or my office phone—within 48 hours of the emergency so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Please keep in mind that I will ask for documentation for my records: an emergency-room admittance or release document, an accident report, etc. A previously scheduled doctor's (or other) appointment is not an emergency. From my perspective your job responsibilities do not take precedence over your responsibilities for this class. I also do not consider computer problems to be emergencies (please see below).

Missing a class period does not relieve you of the responsibility for knowing about the assignments and activities in the course. If you miss a class, you should contact classmates.

Communication with me—The best way to contact me is through the WebCT e-mail. I expect e-mails to be professional, with clear greetings and closings as well as full name and contact information. In emergencies, you may e-mail me from your SPSU e-mail account to my SPSU e-mail address. You should not wait till the last minute when an assignment is due to contact me. Given my work load, I aim to respond to student queries within two working days.

Computer-Related Issues

I will use the WebCT to stay in touch with you through e-mails and announcements, and I occasionally post links and documents there. Thus, you need regular, reliable access to the WebCT. If you encounter a problem with the WebCT, you should be proactive not only in solving it but in keeping me apprised of your efforts.

Preparation

To pass this course you must read the assigned readings (including the supplementary and background material) carefully and critically and probably more than once. Mere familiarity with texts is not sufficient. You need to aim for deep encounters with our readings, encounters that permit you to question a wide range of issues regarding texts, authors, cultural contexts, and your own beliefs and assumptions.

Late work

Submitting late work will negatively affect your overall grade. Attendance and submission of assignments are separate categories of responsibility. If you must miss a class period, e-mail me your assignment before the beginning of class to avoid a late-work penalty.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability that may affect your performance in this class, please talk to me and contact the ATTIC at 678-915-7244 or 678-915-7361 as early in the semester as possible, so we can make any necessary arrangements.

Plagiarism

All assignments you submit in this class must be your own work. Maintaining the integrity of communication is one of the core values of the university. Failing to maintain this integrity is called plagiarism, is one of the worst offenses a member of the academy can commit, and in this course may result in failing an assignment or the course. English 1102, which is a prerequisite for this class, covers documentation and integration of sources. But here is an overview of what is meant by plagiarism according to the standard style manual (*The Open Handbook* by Ann Raimes, pages 363-364) used in first-year composition classes at Southern Polytechnic:

- . . . Presenting as your own work a whole essay bought from paper mills, "borrowed" from a friend, or intentionally copied and pasted from an online source . . . ;
- . . . Using passages from a book, article, or Web site that you intentionally insert in your paper without any attribution . . . ;
- . . . Using unattributed source material, making only a few word changes, and trusting that those changes are enough to avoid charges of plagiarism;
- . . . Using ideas written by others (even if you do use your own words) and neglecting to cite the source of the ideas;
- . . . Using the words or sentence structure of a source and citing the source—but following it too closely and not including actual words from the source within quotation marks;
- . . . Failing to indicate in your paper where ideas from a source end and your ideas take over.

Tentative Syllabus

Fall 2009/2 English 2111 Dr. Iraj Omidvar

Wk	Dates	In-Class Activities	Readings Due
1	Tu 8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions; Introduction to the course • Handout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	Th 8/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin readings from Volume A • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume A: The Ancient World • The Ancient World 1-6 • Review the Timeline 6-9 • The Ancient Near East 11-23 • A Babylonian Theogony 23-25 • The Memphite Theology 25-27
2	Tu 9/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Epic of Gilgamesh 56-76
	Th 9/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Epic of Gilgamesh 76-97
3	Tu 9/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	Th 9/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Descent of Ishtar to the Underworld 98-102 • From The Book of the Dead 102-108
4	Tu 9/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Genesis 28-38
	Th 9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classical Greece 185-197 • Perspectives: Tyranny and Democracy 694 • Solon's poems 694-697 • From the Peloponnesian Wars 697-707
5	Tu 9/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medea by Euripedes 726-740
	Th 9/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medea by Euripedes 740-759
6	Tu 9/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin readings from Volume B • Quiz and Discussion • <u>Info on the Midterm</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume B • The Medieval Era 1-4 • Timeline 5-9 • Classical Arabic and Islamic Literatures 315-329 • Pre-Islamic Poetry 329-330 • Background to Imru al-Qays 331 • Mu'allafa 331-335
	Th 10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
7	Tu 10/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations • Quiz and Discussion • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to Al-Khansa 335-336 • Al-Khansa's Poetry 336-337
	Th 10/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the Qur'an 341-343 • The Qur'an (from Suras 41, 79-15, 2, 7, 1, 4) 343-350
8	Tu 10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations • Quiz and Discussion • Withdrawal Deadline Today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to 1001 Nights (9th-14th cent.) 406-408 • 1001 Nights Posted on WebCT
	Th 10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations • Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1001 Nights 408-413
9	Tu 10/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1001 Nights 413-418

Wk	Dates	In-Class Activities	Readings Due
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz and Discussion 	
	Th 10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1001 Nights 418-428
10	Tu 10/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1001 Nights 428-440
	Th 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONFERENCE Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspectives: Asceticism, Sufism, and Wisdom 490-491 Background to Farid al-Din al-'Attar (c. 1119-c. 1190) 498 From The Conference of the Birds 498-506
11	Tu 11/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background to Firdawsi (c. 940-1020) From The Tragedy of Sohrab and Rosam-1st half
	Th 11/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Sohrab and Rostam-2nd half
12	Tu 11/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background to Ibn Battuta (1304-1369) 519 From The Travels of Ibn Battuta 521-532
	Th 11/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	
13	Tu 11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume C The Early Modern Period 1-6 Niccolo Machiavelli (The Prince) 231-242
	Th 11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michel de Montaigne (On Idleness, On Imagination, On Cannibals) 324-345 Resonance : Jean de Lery (from History of a Voyage . . .) 345-351
14	Tu 11/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mesoamerica: Before Columbus and After Cortes 763-773 From Popol Vuh: The Mayan Council Book 773-783
	Th 11/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving
15	Tu 12/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conquest and Its Aftermath 811-813 Christopher Columbus (from Letter to Ferdinand . . .) 813-821 Bernal Diaz del Castillo (from The True History of the Conquest . . .) 821-831
	Th 12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentations Quiz and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Popol Vuh: The Mayan Council Book 783-796 Songs of the Aztec Nobility 796-808 Responses to Final Essay Questions Due
16	Tu 12/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Essay Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Full Drafts Due
	Th 12/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Essay Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Drafts Due

Wk	Dates	In-Class Activities	Readings Due
17		• Final Exam Week	• Final Essay