

Oakland University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English
English 1800: Masterpieces of World Literature, Section 40673 (4 credits)
Fall 2018 Syllabus

Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.
Jawaharlal Nehru

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Office Hours: T, R 11-1pm, and by appointment
Class Time: T/R, 1-2:47pm
Class Location: SFH 365

This course satisfies the University General Education requirement in the Literature Knowledge Exploration Area.

Course Description: This course covers a sampling of the greatest world literature. Although the course is by no means comprehensive of great world masterpieces, we will attempt to explore a series of universal themes, such as religion and love, as expressed by authors from different ages, cultural backgrounds, and geographic locations. In addition to exploring different cultural writings and historical periods, we will also explore a variety of literary forms from poetry and prose to drama and the epistle. Through careful reading and analysis, along with an open mind, we will seek to familiarize ourselves with traditions and cultures different from our own, as well as identify links to our own traditions and cultures.

General Education Learning Outcomes: The student will develop the skills to read, comprehend, and evaluate works of literature as an art form as well as learn to understand and recognize the variety of literary devices and conventions. The student will discuss and express, in oral and written form, ideas, images, themes, motifs, techniques, and issues as presented by writers deeply rooted in their own culture. In addition, the student will develop and improve critical thinking and writing skills through interpretation and comparative analysis, as well as one's imagination and sensitivity.

General Education Cross-Cutting Capacities:
Critical Thinking

Required texts and supporting materials (available at the OU Bookstore)
Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces (Shorter Third Edition in 2 Volumes)
ISBN 978-0-393-91962-2
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given at every class meeting. They will typically be completed in the first five minutes of class and **CANNOT** be made up. The quizzes will cover reading material assigned for that day. Two quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Response Papers:

The goal of the response is simply to get students writing on a regular basis. The writing does not need to be technically perfect, but it should not be illegible either. Students will respond to a provided prompt with a brief, handwritten response (1-2 pages). Please write the responses on loose paper and collect each response in a folder as it is returned to you. Responses may be turned in up to one class late for half credit.

The Writing Center:

Students are encouraged to utilize the writing center during the semester, and will be required to do so if necessary. The OU Writing Center is a free service to all students enrolled at OU and provides a range of services for writers at all levels. Trained consultants at the center work with students during individual sessions and serve as sensitive readers, while emphasizing writing as a process. The Writing Center is located at 212 Kresge Library (the Northwest corner of the main entrance level of the library), and can be contacted at (248) 370-3120.

Attendance: Students may miss no more than two classes. While I will not be taking attendance on a daily basis, quizzes and responses function as my attendance log. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated and quizzes will always be given in the first few minutes of class and **CANNOT** be made up. In addition to attendance, students must actively participate in classes. Class participation does not necessarily mean talking the most in class, but it does demand that students actively participate in class at all times, which includes reading the assigned material, listening attentively and respectfully to peers, as well as asking questions and sharing individual opinions and ideas in order to promote class dialogue. Please be considerate and turn cell phones off and do not text message during class time.

Grade determination:

Quizzes	10%
Responses	20%
Projects x 2	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Grade Breakdown:

4.0-3.8	A	1.8-2.0	C
3.4-3.7	A-	1.4-1.7	C-
3.1-3.3	B+	1.3-1.6	D+
2.8-3.0	B	1.0-1.2	D
2.4-2.7	B-	0-.9	F
2.1-2.3	C+		

Add/Drops: The University add/drop policy will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the University deadline dates for dropping the course.

Special Needs:

If you have a physical or mental impairment that may interfere with your ability to complete successfully the requirements for this course, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services located in Room 103A of North Foundation Hall to discuss appropriate accommodations on a confidential basis. You may contact them by phone at (248) 370-3266 or by email at dss@oakland.edu.

Academic Conduct Policy:

Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, falsifying reports/records, and unauthorized collaboration, access, or modifying of computer programs are considered serious breaches of academic conduct that may lead to expulsion. Suspect cases are referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See catalog under Academic Policies and Procedures. **Please know that I am a professor who WILL turn all cases of academic misconduct over to the Dean of Students.**

Tentative Class Schedule

Week 1

Tues	9/4	Syllabus Overview <u>WAR</u> <i>Beowulf</i> , 885-93, 906-08, 941, 959-60
Thur	9/6	Homer's <i>Iliad</i> , 121-25, 145-58 <i>The Song of Roland</i> , 985-94, 1005-09, 1014-16, 1026-27

Week 2

Tues	9/11	<i>Shahnameh</i> , 960-63, 966-70 Wilfred Owen's WWI Poetry (Moodle Link)
Thur	9/13	Tadeusz Borowski, 1451-66* Anna Akhmatova's <i>Requiem</i> , 1403-12*

Week 3

Tues	9/18	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Thur	9/20	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , cont'd.

Week 4

Tues	9/25	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , cont'd.
Thur	9/27	<u>RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY</u> <i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> , 726-45 Popul Vuh, 1905-09, 1916-20

Week 5

Tues	10/2	The Qur'an, 858-69, 883-84 The Hebrew Bible, 89-103
Thur	10/4	<i>Zaabalawi</i> , 1596-1606* Blake's <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i> , 577-88*

Week 6

Tues	10/9	<u>SEX, LOVE, and ROMANCE</u> Sappho, 457-74 Catullus, 565-72
Thur	10/11	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , 1197-1204, 1221-49

Week 7

Tues	10/16	Garcia Marquez's "Death Constant Beyond Love", 1651-58* <i>Classic of Poetry</i> , 756-66
Thur	10/18	*Midterm Exam

Week 8

Tues	10/23	Petrarch, 1618-24 Shakespeare (Moodle Link)
Thur	10/25	Diaz's "The Cheater's Guide to Love" (Moodle) *Project #1 due

Week 9**Tues 10/30****NATURE**

Wordsworth, 588-96*

The Man 'Yoshu, 1354-66

Thur 11/1**Catch-up****Week 10****Tues 11/6**

Baudelaire, 654-66*

Li Bo, 1311-15

Thur 11/8

Yellow Woman, 1683-90*

Walden (**Moodle Link**)**Week 11****Tues 11/13****SELF**

Augustine, 832-58

Atwood's "Happy Endings" (**Moodle Link**)**Thur 11/15**Shields' "Dressing Up for the Carnival" (**Moodle Link**)**Week 12****Tues 11/20**Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground***Thur 11/22****NO CLASS****Week 13****Tues 11/27**Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*, cont'd.**Thur 11/29****DEATH***Florentine Codex* (**plus Moodle Link**)

Emily Dickinson, 666-76*

Week 14**Tues 12/4**"The School" by Donald Barthleme (**Moodle Link**)***Project 2 due****Thur 12/6***Don Quixote*, 1666-71, 1676-80, 1698-1703, 1794-1800**Week 15****Thur 12/13****FINAL EXAM, 12-3pm**

***This schedule is tentative and may be changed by the instructor at any time
