

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

ENGLISH 270 – WORLD LITERATURE I

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This class is a survey and comparison of major works from various continents and cultures prior to 1650 A.D. Students examine the literature as a reflection of multiple and diverse experiences across the world. The course may include discussions on the historical, social, philosophical, aesthetic, and cultural aspects of world literature. Reading selections may consist of poetry, short stories, plays, novels, and nonfiction prose, including essays, letters, political tracts, autobiographies, and speeches. Reading selections include works from the ancient Mediterranean world, South and East Asia, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and the early Americas.

Prerequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

"C" grade or higher or "Pass" in ENGL 120 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Ability to effectively read and compose college-level texts, ability to use MLA format to correctly cite sources.

Course Content

- 1) Reading and discussion of a variety of literary works from around the world prior to 1650 A.D.
- 2) Analysis of historical, social, philosophical and cultural aspects of literature studied
- 3) Discussion and analysis of the significance of gender, race, class, religion, and other socio-cultural factors, including diverse perspectives
- 4) Textual representations of cultural norms and ideologies, and/or articulations of power
- 5) Historical context and cross-cultural connections
- 6) A variety of genres, including poetry, short stories, tales, legends, essays, letters, journals, and plays from the ancient Mediterranean world, South and East Asia, early and middle periods, medieval and early modern Europe, early and classical Middle East, African epic tradition, and the early Americas
- 7) Literary terms related to the material and period studies
- 8) Critical literary theory to enhance analysis and understanding of individual works

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze, interpret, and evaluate literary works from around the world prior to 1650 A.D. within the social, political, historical, cultural and aesthetic contexts that have formed their experiences.
- 2) Identify the literary forms used in different cultures at different times and recognize how the various forms influenced new forms both within a single culture and among various cultures.
- 3) Demonstrate appropriate academic discourse and the conventions of evidence-based critical literary analysis.

- 4) Interpret the works in question against a background of the historical, social and philosophical developments of time period and location.
- 5) Analyze and understand the specific formal and thematic characteristics of the major writers studied.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation.

- 1) Summaries
- 2) Annotated bibliographies
- 3) Reader responses/journals
- 4) Quizzes
- 5) Analysis, interpretation, and discussion of literature
- 6) Student reports and/or oral presentations on selected topics or authors
- 7) Group and individual projects
- 8) Reviews of literary arts activities
- 9) In-class exams, including the final exam
- 10) Out-of-class evidence-based analytical essays (prepared in standard MLA format)

Special Materials Required of Student

Access to a computer, the Internet, and a printer

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom with overhead projector/screen

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Facilitation of student analysis, interpretation, and discussion of literature, which may include small group discussions, peer commentary, individual conferences, journals, response papers, and self-assessment
- 3) Student reports and/or oral presentations on selected topics or authors
- 4) Films and audio recordings
- 5) Field trips to appropriate cultural and literary activities

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Read assigned texts
- 2) Write academic essays, annotated bibliographies, and a variety of other short assignments
- 3) Research various assigned readings and/or authors
- 4) Maintain journals or other types of unstructured prose
- 5) Attend literary events and readings on campus and in the greater community
- 6) Participate in individual and group projects

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Puchner, *Norton Anthology of World Literature Volume Package 1 (Volumes A, B, C)*. 4th ed. W. Norton & Company, 2018.
 - b. Damrosch, *Longman Anthology of World Literature, Volume I (A,B,C), The: The Ancient World, The Medieval Era, and The Early Modern Period*, 2nd Edition. Longman, 2009.
- 2) Supplemental (representative examples):
 - a. *The Odyssey* (Homer, 8th Century BC)
 - b. *One Thousand and One Nights* (various authors, 8th-18th Centuries)
 - c. *Don Quixote* (Miguel de Cervantes, 1605-1615)
 - d. *Journey to the West* (Wu Cheng'en, circa 1592)

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Analyze, interpret, and evaluate literary works from around the world prior to 1650 A.D. within their social, political, historical, cultural and aesthetic contexts that have formed their experiences.
- 2) Identify the literary forms used in different cultures at different times and recognize how the various forms influenced new forms both within a single culture and among various cultures.
- 3) Demonstrate appropriate academic discourse and the conventions of evidence-based critical literary analysis.
- 4) Interpret the works in question against a background of the historical, social and philosophical developments of time period and location.
- 5) Analyze and understand the specific formal and thematic characteristics of the major writers studied.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Use literary terminology to discuss and analyze literary works around the world prior to 1650 AD in relation to biographical, historical, social or philosophical perspectives.
- 2) Write evidence-based literary analyses of world literature demonstrating close reading and interpretive skills, logical reasoning, and argumentative strategies.
- 3) Differentiate between the characteristics and thematic content of world literature to account for various and diverse human experiences.