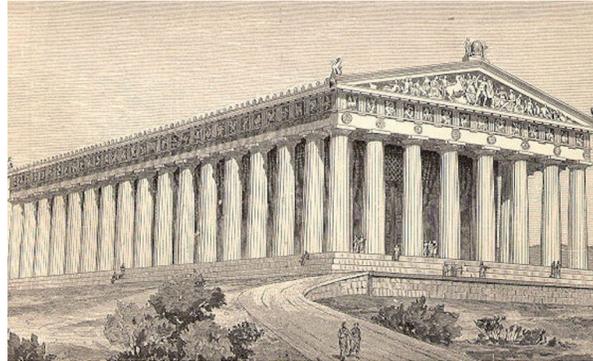


LIT 2110, #16592: World Literature Ancient to Renaissance (sec. 4C93), Fall 2020



Instructor Name: Ms. Alyssa Dewees
Course meeting times & locations: Virtual
Synchronous Sessions MWF 8

Office Location and Hours: TW 7
Course website: Canvas
Instructor Email: adewees@ufl.edu

Course Description:

“Once you allow yourself to identify with the people in a story, then you might begin to see yourself in that story even if on the surface it’s far removed from your situation. This is what I try to tell my students: this is one great thing that literature can do—it can make us identify with situations and people far away. If it does that, it’s a miracle.” –Chinua Achebe

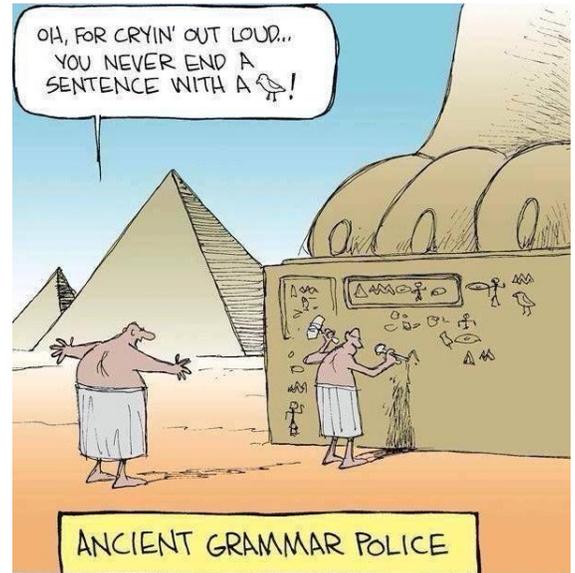
Stories can help us to build connections across time, space, and cultural experience. This course will introduce you to narratives from around the world and familiarize you with some of the most famous works from diverse literary traditions. All the works you will read this semester from the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods have had a significant impact on the cultures in which they originated and have impacted modern texts you may be familiar with from your own reading. Engaging with poetry, short fiction, essays and novels from these periods, you will deepen your understanding of world literature as well as the cultural and historical contexts, which shaped the texts you’ll read. In addition to practicing close readings of the assigned texts, we will also examine pertinent literary, social, cultural, political, and philosophical movements and trends throughout these time periods. You will also practice analyzing and researching literature as well as presenting your arguments in writing and through participation in class discussions.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, this course will now consist mostly of synchronous learning (via Zoom), with the exception of a few asynchronous learning days marked in the syllabus. Please download and familiarize yourself with Zoom before the start of term. The ongoing public health crisis has led to many unforeseen difficulties and hardships, so I want to advocate for a mutual sense of understanding and communication as we work through this term. Please reach out to me concerning any difficulties impacting your performance in the class, and we will work together to find a solution.

General Education Objectives:

- This course confers General Education credit for either Composition (C) *or* Humanities (H). This course also fulfills 6,000 of the university’s 24,000-word writing requirement (WR).

- *Composition courses* provide instruction in the methods and conventions of standard written English (grammar, punctuation, usage), as well as the techniques that produce effective texts. Composition courses are writing intensive. They require multiple drafts submitted to your instructor for feedback before final submission.
- Course content should include multiple forms of effective writing, different writing styles, approaches and formats, and methods to adapt writing to different audiences, purposes and contexts. Students should learn to organize complex arguments in writing using thesis statements, claims and evidence, and to analyze writing for errors in logic.
- The University *Writing Requirement (WR)* ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. To receive Writing Requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. This means that written assignments must meet minimum word requirements totaling 6000 words.



General Education Learning Outcomes:

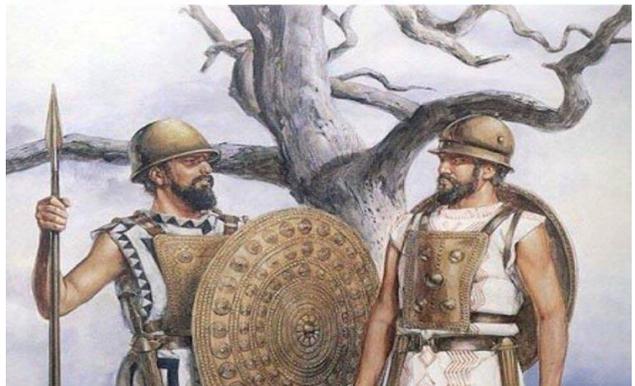
At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication and critical thinking:

- **Content:** Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the academic discipline.
- **Communication:** Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline. Students will participate in class discussions throughout the semester to reflect on assigned readings.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

Romulus: What should we name this great city?

Remus: Reme.

Romulus: *sharpening spear*
I have a better idea.



Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of World Literature (Shorter Fourth Edition) Volume 1, ISBN: 978-0-393-60287-6

Course Requirements (see below for Grading Rubric):

Critical Response Journal (2,500+ words, 200 points total)

Students will keep a journal to be submitted for a grade three times. The journal is a place to record and develop responses to your reading, to raise questions and explore uncertainties, to float hypotheses, compile evidence, record and (later) correct first impressions, make connections, complain and praise. **The journal is not for summarizing the assigned reading.** While the journals are less structured and more informal than the major essays, you will still be aiming for insightful analysis and interpretation. Interpretation means making claims (even hypothetical sketchy claims) about possible meanings and relations between things. Analysis means breaking things down into parts (in part to explore or support interpretations, often). It is most important to move beyond first responses and also to move beyond 'like' and 'dislike'. (Go there, but don't stop there.) You should be writing 1-2 typed, double-spaced pages (or equivalent, handwritten) per week. (With journals, more is always okay, too—in fact more is almost always better.) The highest grades go to the most inquisitive, persistent, detailed, thoughtfully reflective and effectively probing journals.

Close-Reading/Analysis Essay (1,500 words, 200 points)

This essay will be a sustained close-reading of any text on our syllabus which appears on or before the end of Week 4.

Researched Critical Essay (2,000 words, 350 points)

This essay will be a sustained, formally researched critical analysis in which you will make an original argument about one or more literary text(s) through a particular theoretical, historical, or critical lens.

- **Prospectus for the Researched Critical Essay (150+ words, 15 points)**

The prospectus will present your idea for the Researched Critical Essay (this should include a tentative thesis), 1 source you plan to use in the paper, and a brief description of this source and its relevance to your paper.

- **Outline for the Researched Critical Essay (35 points)**

The outline should present your argument and detail the organization of your entire paper

Attendance/Daily Participation (200 points)

The majority of class time will be spent reading, analyzing, and discussing the assigned texts and learning in workshops on writing and researching. For these reasons, daily and engaged participation is a priority in this course. All students should participate every day in some fashion, whether through offering points of view, raising questions, asking for clarification, and/or writing when it is required. Furthermore, peer reviews and reading quizzes will count towards this score. **For every class period, please come to class with 2 written questions or insights about the reading that you are prepared to share. You may be called upon to share one of these.** Your attendance will also be reflected in the points you receive in this category. Missing more than six 50 minute periods will result in failure from the course.

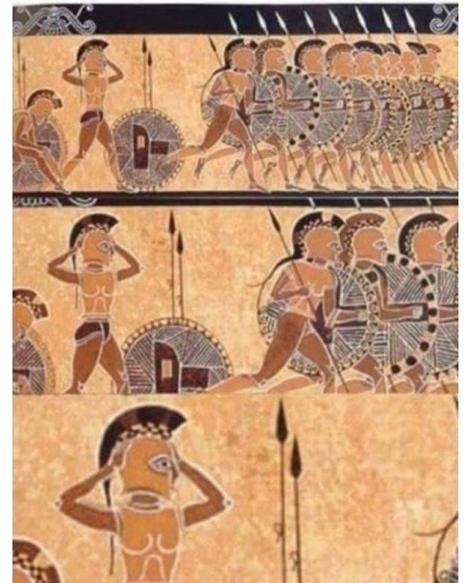
Course Policies:

1. You must complete all *assignments* to receive credit for this course.
2. **Attendance:** In accordance with the University of Florida's policy (which can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>), **if a student misses more than six periods during a fall or spring semester, he or she will fail the entire course.** Exceptions to this policy include only those absences involving university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, religious holidays, and major illnesses

documented and discussed with the instructor. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed.

3. *Paper Format & Submission*: All papers will be submitted as MS Word (.docx) documents to E-learning or as hard copies. Final drafts should be polished and presented in a professional manner. All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and pages numbered. Be sure to staple papers before submitting hard copies.
4. *Late Papers/Assignments*: Unless an extension is granted before the due date, late assignments will be accepted with a 10% deduction for every day the paper is late. No late assignments will be accepted more than 5 days beyond the due date. In-class reading quizzes cannot be made up.
5. *Paper Maintenance Responsibilities*. Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.
6. *Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism*. Plagiarism violates the Student Honor Code and requires reporting to the Dean of Students. All students must abide by the Student Honor Code:
<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.
7. Let me know how the virtual classroom can best be made accessible to you. Students with *disabilities* who are requesting accommodations should also register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/), which will provide me with appropriate documentation.
8. For information on UF Grading policies, see:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
9. *Grade Appeals*. In 1000- and 2000-level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant, cblount@ufl.edu. Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
10. *Course Evaluations*. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>
11. Students who face difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352) 392-1575, or contact them online: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
12. *UF's policy on Harassment*: UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty:
<http://hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/recruitment-staffing/institutional-equity-diversity/resources/harassment/>

When you're about to fight the Persians but you remember that you left the oven on



Course Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change throughout the semester. All assignments and readings are due the day they are listed*. Make sure to check your e-mail and Canvas regularly for announcements and updates.

	Day	Reading/Viewing Material	Due
1	M 8/31	Introduction to World Literature; Chimamanda Adichie "The Danger of a Single Story"; Discuss Syllabus and Course Expectations	
	W 9/2	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> (ca. 1900-250 BCE) p.38-88	
	F 9/4	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> (read to end)	
2	M 9/7	No Class	
	W 9/9	Homer, From <i>The Illiad</i> (8 th century BCE)	
	F 9/11	Homer, From <i>The Odyssey</i> (asynchronous online activity; no Zoom meeting)	
3	M 9/14	Homer, From <i>The Odyssey</i> (asynchronous online activity)	
	W 9/16	Homer, From <i>The Odyssey</i>	
	F 9/18	Euripides, <i>Medea</i> (431 BCE)	
4	M 9/21	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>	
	W 9/23	Sappho (born ca. 630 BCE), From <i>Poems and Fragments</i>	Critical Response Due
	F 9/25	Catullus (ca. 84-54 BCE), From <i>Poems</i>	
5	M 9/28	Virgil (70-19 BCE), From <i>The Aeneid</i>	
	W 9/30	Virgil, From <i>The Aeneid</i>	Close-reading Analysis Essay Due
	F 10/2	Ovid (43 BCE-17 CE), From <i>Metamorphoses</i>	
6	M 10/5	Selections from The Ramayana (ca. 550 BCE)	
	W 10/7	Daodejing (6 th -3 rd centuries BCE) p. 780-790	
	F 10/9	Confucius, From <i>Analects</i> (551-479 BCE) p.770-79, selections from Classic of Poetry (ca. 1000-600 BCE)	
7	M 10/12	Li Bo (701-762), selected poems; Du Fu (712-770), selected poems	
	W 10/14	Sei Shonagon (ca. 966-1017), From <i>The Pillow Book</i>	
	F 10/16	Murasaki Shikibu (ca. 978-1014), From <i>The Tale of Genji</i> (asynchronous online activity; no Zoom meeting)	

8	M 10/19	Murasaki Shikibu, From <i>The Tale of Genji</i>	
	W 10/21	Selections from The Christian Bible (ca. 1 st century CE) p. 816-831	Critical Response Due
	F 10/23	Selections from The Qur'an (610-632) p. 858-885	
9	M 10/26	From <i>The Thousand and One Nights</i> (14 th century)	
	W 10/28	<i>Sunjata</i> , West African Epic of the Mande (late 13 th -early 14 th centuries)	
	F 10/30	<i>Sunjata</i> , West African Epic of the Mande (late 13 th -early 14 th centuries)	
10	M 11/2	<i>Beowulf</i> (9 th century)	
	W 11/4	<i>Beowulf</i>	
	F 11/6	<i>Beowulf</i>	
11	M 11/9	Petrarch (1304-1374), selected sonnets	Researched Critical Essay Prospectus Due
	W 11/11	No Class	
	F 11/13	Chaucer (1340?-1400), From <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	
12	M 11/16	Chaucer, From <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	
	W 11/18	Jean de Meun (c. 1240-1305) From <i>The Romance of the Rose</i> ; Christine de Pizan (1364-c. 1430) From <i>The Tale of the Rose</i>	Researched Critical Essay Outline Due
	F 11/20	Christine de Pizan, From <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i>	
13	M 11/23	Machiavelli (1469-1527), "Letter to Francesco Vettori" and From <i>The Prince</i>	
	W 11/25	Thanksgiving Break	
	F 11/27	Thanksgiving Break	
14	M 11/30	Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616), From <i>Don Quixote</i>	Critical Response Due
	W 12/2	Shakespeare (1564-1616), <i>King Lear</i>	
	F 12/4	Shakespeare (1564-1616), <i>King Lear</i>	

15	M 12/7	Shakespeare (1564-1616), <i>Ling Lear</i>	
	W 12/9	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> + Create your own Shakespeare meme	
	F 12/11	Reading Day—No Class	Researched Critical Essay Due

Grading/Assessment Rubric

Assessment Rubric

	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
CONTENT	Papers exhibit evidence of ideas that respond to the topic with complexity, critically evaluating and synthesizing sources, and provide an adequate discussion with basic understanding of sources.	Papers either include a central idea(s) that is unclear or off- topic or provide only minimal or inadequate discussion of ideas. Papers may also lack sufficient or appropriate sources.
ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE	Documents and paragraphs exhibit identifiable structure for topics, including a clear thesis statement and topic sentences.	Documents and paragraphs lack clearly identifiable organization, may lack any coherent sense of logic in associating and organizing ideas, and may also lack transitions and coherence to guide the reader.
ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT	Documents use persuasive and confident presentation of ideas, strongly supported with evidence. At the weak end of the satisfactory range, documents may provide only generalized discussion of ideas or may provide adequate discussion but rely on weak support for arguments.	Documents make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in summaries or narratives that fail to provide critical analysis.
STYLE	Documents use a writing style with word choice appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences should display complexity and logical structure.	Documents rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction. Documents may also use words incorrectly.
MECHANICS	Papers will feature correct or error-free presentation of ideas. At the weak end of the satisfactory range, papers may contain a few spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors that remain unobtrusive and do not obscure the paper's argument or points.	Papers contain so many mechanical or grammatical errors that they impede the reader's understanding or severely undermine the writer's credibility.