

LIT 2110: Section 3735
World Literature: Ancient to Renaissance
1:55-2:45 MWF 7 Location: MAT 116

Instructor: Kate Peters
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Office Hours: Wed. 11:30pm-1:30pm and by appointment

Online Syllabus: Found on Sakai Webpage

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to introduce you to literature and its cultural contexts around the world from ancient to Renaissance periods. Using selected works, we will examine the ways in which authors explore questions of their time, how their texts interact with and comment on each other, and how these texts participate in the process of what Richard Dawkins terms “cultural evolution.” To that end, we will pay particular attention to the ways in which older literary forms, narratives, tropes, and symbols manifest in and help shape modern cultural and literary contexts, discerning their influence on both local (the nuances of an individual’s day to day experience) and global scales (their role in larger social shifts). To do this, we will analyze literature from specific historical and geographical cross-sections, using close readings and cultural theory, in relation to their contemporary re-constructions.

This course focuses on developing critical thinking, reading, communication and writing skills, and on amassing a knowledge of pre-Seventeenth Century world literature and culture that is rich in specifics and ordered by a keen sense of the big-picture dynamics of cultural evolution.

You will be expected to conduct close readings of each of the texts we will read, thoroughly understand all theoretical material offered, lead and participate in class discussions, complete reading quizzes, and compose two short papers, an annotated bibliography, and a final research paper. Be prepared to submit thesis statements, idea maps, outlines, and drafts for peer review, as well as participate in required conferencing for each paper.

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-educationrequirement.aspx>.

This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/gordon.aspx>.

This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-educationrequirement.aspx#learning>.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All books are available in print through the UF bookstore or at Amazon.com. Several books are also available in electronic form. If you are purchasing a text in an ebook format, please make sure you acquire the correct translation and/or edition.

- Mitchell, Stephen. *Gilgamesh: A New English Version*. ISBN-13: 978-0743261692
- Homer, *The Odyssey*. Trans. Robert Fagles. ISBN-13: 978-0140268867
- Crossley-Holland, Kevin. *The Norse Myths*. ISBN-13: 978-0394748467
- Alighieri, Dante. *The Inferno*. Trans. Allen Mandelbaum. ISBN-13: 978-0553213393
- Hans Staden. *Hans Staden's True History: An Account of Cannibal History in Brazil*. ISBN-13: 978-0822342311
- *Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*.

* Texts preceded by an asterisk may be purchased in any edition. Other listed texts must be purchased in the edition specified.

Additional texts will be provided as handouts or available through the Library Course Reserves and need not be purchased. They include the following:

- Dawkins, Richard. *Cultural Evolution*. Short excerpt.
- Adorno and Horkheimer. *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. Short excerpt.
- Petrarch. A Letter from Petrarch: Ascent of Mount Ventoux.
- Polo, Marco. *The Travels of Marco Polo*. Short excerpt.
- De Montaigne, Michel. *Essays*. "On Cannibals".
- Basho. *Narrow Road to the Interior: And Other Writings*. Long excerpt.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Grading

• In Class Participation (100pts)	10%
• Reading Quizzes (50pts)	5%
• Presentations/Leading Class Discussion (50pts)	5%
• Short paper #1 (1000 words) (200pts)	20%
• Short paper #2 (1000 words) (200pts)	20%
• Annotated Bibliography (1500 words) (150pts)	15%
• Final Research paper (2500 words) (250pts)	25%

Grading Scale:

A 95-100	A- 90-94	B+ 87-89
B 83-86	B- 80-83	C+ 77-79
C 73-76	C- 70-73	D+ 67-69
D 63-66	D- 60-63	F 0-59

In Class Participation, 100 pts: To earn full points for class participation, you will be expected to pass in all in-class work (these may include thesis statements, outlines, idea maps, peer reviews), and contribute a minimum of 3-5 well thought-out comments during each class discussion. These may take the form of thought provoking questions or comments about texts we've read, or reactions to other students' comments. Please note that use of cell phones or computers for non-class related activities or any other disrespectful behavior or comments toward others in the classroom will result in deduction of participation points and, depending on severity of offense, potential expulsion from the classroom with a resulting unexcused absence. If you do not contribute to class discussions, you cannot earn points in this category. If extreme social anxiety prevents your participation, please bring a doctor's note to me and we can discuss options for written participation.

Reading Quizzes, 50pts: All readings are expected to be done by their due date. There will be 6 multiple choice reading quizzes given at surprise intervals throughout semester. There will be no make-up quizzes, but your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Essays 1&2 (200pts each): Written in response to writing prompts, these essays will focus on close readings of particular texts, and will require the development of a specific thesis statement and a thorough and nuanced understanding of the texts. The topics and grading rubric for these essays will be distributed 3 weeks before the due date. Class time will be spent on creating valid arguments and solid essay structures.

Annotated Bibliography: In preparation for your final essay, you will research and annotate 5 outside, credible sources. You will begin your bibliography with a prospectus detailing your intended argument for your final essay, and will provide in each annotation an explanation of how the ideas of the texts specifically contribute to proving your argument. An example and instructions will be provided 3 weeks before the assignment is due.

Research Paper: This is the culmination of your efforts in this class and the most significant part of your grade. This paper is focused on making a well-reasoned argument about a particular text or texts and cultural context with support from multiple outside sources.

GENERAL POLICIES

Final Grade Appeals

Students may appeal a grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, English Department Program Assistant.

Absences/Tardiness

Active participation is crucial to learning in this course. You are expected to be in class and on time. Excessive absences will result in grade penalties as follows:

4 th Absence	Loss of one letter grade for the course
7 th Absence	Loss of two letter grades for the course
10 th Absence	Failure of course

2 Tardies = 1 Absence

Students who participate in athletics, band, or theater will be excused for university-sponsored travel and events. However, you are responsible for making up any work you miss for participation in these events. Failure to consult me about an absence and/or how to make up work will be reported to the appropriate sponsoring department.

Retention of Graded Assignments

You are responsible for retaining all graded hard copies of assignments returned to you until the end of the semester. You should be able to produce the assignment at any time, if requested. Failure to do so may result in failure of the assignment.

Submission of Papers

All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and comply with MLA standards. Your final drafts should be polished and presented in a professional manner. Be sure to staple papers before submitting all hard copies.

Late Paper Policy

All papers must be submitted electronically *prior to the beginning of class* and via hard copy in class on their respective due dates. Any paper not submitted on time both online and via hard copy will be penalized one letter grade. An additional loss of one letter grade will result from each subsequent day the paper is late.

Should you have an extenuating circumstance that prevents you from submitting a paper on the day it is due, please contact me in advance or within 24 hours of the scheduled class meeting. Documentation will be required.

Special Note Regarding Electronic Submissions

Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word format. Any file that cannot be opened due to corruption or improper extension will be considered late. *Check your files before submitting them!*

Student Disability Services

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

Academic Honesty

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1: January 7-9

W- General Introduction to Class

F – Dawkins, Adorno & Horkheimer – Cultural Evolution/Dialectic of Enlightenment

Week 2: January 12-16

Mesopotamia.

M – *Gilgamesh* Prologue-Book 4

W – *Gilgamesh* Books 5-7
Introduce Essay 1

F- *Gilgamesh* Books 8-11

Week 3: January 19-23

Mesopotamia. Ancient Greece.

M – Holiday - No Class

W – Complete *Gilgamesh* Discussion

F – *Odyssey* Book 1-4 Introduce *Odyssey*, Greek Myths

Week 4: January 26-30

Ancient Greece.

M – *Odyssey* Books 5-6; How to Write an Argument. Topics/Idea Maps.

W – *Odyssey* Books 7-9, Close Reading

F – *Odyssey* Books 10-12, Organizational Structures; Outlines
Essay 1 Peer Review Part 1

Week 5: February 2-6

Ancient Greece.

M – *Odyssey* Books 13-16
Essay 1 Peer Review Part 2

W – *Odyssey* Books 17-19

F – *Odyssey* Books 20-22
DUE: Essay 1

Week 6: February 9-13

Ancient Greece. Scandinavia.

M – Conclude *Odyssey* Books 23-24

W – Introduce *Norse Myths*: 1-17, 26-53, 59-74

Introduce Essay 2

F – *Norse Myths* 80-94

Week 7: February 16-20 *Scandinavia. Medieval Italy*

M – *Norse Myths* 104-142, Looking at character transformations

W – *Norse Myths* 143-178, Looking at character transformations

F – Dante's *Inferno* Canto 1-4; Effective Use of Examples.

Week 8: February 23-27 *Renaissance Italy*

M – Dante's *Inferno* 5-8. Quotations.

W – Dante's *Inferno* Canto 9-11

F – Dante's *Inferno*

March 2-6 – SPRING BREAK

Week 9: March 9-13 *Renaissance Italian Perspectives on Asia*

M – Complete *Inferno*; Petrarch's *Letters: Ascent*

W – Complete Petrarch; Marco Polo and travelogues; beyond borders

F – Hans Staden's *True History*

Week 10: March 16-20 *16th Century Germanic and French perspectives on Brazilian Cannibals*

M – Hans Staden's *True History*; Othering
Essay 2 Peer Review

W – Hans Staden's *True History*
DUE: Essay 2

F – Montaigne's *Of Cannibals*

Week 11: March 23-27 *Germany/Brazil. Renaissance England.*

M – Hans Staden's *True History*
Introduce Final Essay and Annotated Bibliography

W – Hans Staden's *True History*

F – Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

Week 12: March 30-April 3

Renaissance England.

M – Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*.

W – Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*

F – In-Class Library Research; Discussion of citations, sources

Week 13: April 6-10

Renaissance England

Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography Due in Conferences

M – Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*

W – Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*

F – Discussion of Topics, Prospectus, Sources; Conferences

Week 14: April 13-17

Renaissance England. Edo Period Japan.

M – Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*

W – Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*; Peer Review

F – Basho Excerpt

Week 15: April 20-22

Edo Period Japan

M – Basho Excerpt

W – Comparative Wrap up Discussion
Final Papers Due in Class

Final Paper due Wednesday April 22nd in Class