

ENGLISH 231: World Literature I

Required Text:

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, 3rd Edition Vol. A, B, C
Writing About World Literature (Norton supplemental text)
Additional supplemental readings provided via WebCampus

Course Description:

ENG 231 is a Second-Year Seminar (SYS) course that explores issues relevant to contemporary global society through the reading of original literature from antiquity to the present day. Students study these issues within their larger contexts, which include aspects of literature, history, politics, economics, philosophy, and scientific discovery. The SYS reinforces the University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs) introduced in the First-Year Seminar (FYS).

This themed section will explore the similarities and differences between early and contemporary notions of female identity, as well as the position of women in society. Students will explore the ways in which different cultures, religions, and eras have viewed the relationships between love, sex, and marriage. Students will also pay careful attention to the cultural construction of gender and how these behaviors, roles, and expectations motivate the texts/characters under analysis. Our explorations will focus on how issues we see in the literature continue to express themselves in our modern popular culture, i.e. how are these ancient texts useful to a modern reader, how are these themes and motifs revisited through time and across cultures, etc.

Disclaimer:

As mentioned above, this course will focus on notions of female identity and the position of women in society. Many of the texts we are reading deal with these topics in frank terms and present ideas that may be offensive to you. If you believe you will have a problem reading this type of literature, you should discuss it with me as soon as possible and possibly find a different section of ENG 231 that suits you better.

The reading schedule is provided at the end of this syllabus, and on the "Reading Schedule" section of WebCampus. If we become overwhelmed by the readings, I reserve the right to substitute or cut selections as proves necessary. You will be notified of any updates to this syllabus, the course policies, or the course schedule via announcements on WebCampus and in class.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of major literary works and movements
- Interpret works of world literature in light of their historical, social, economic, scientific, and other contexts
- Construct arguments using the conventions of academic writing
- Apply and relate the ethical situations encountered in the readings to students' own experience

Course Requirements:

To successfully complete this course, **ALL** of the following work **is required**:

- 5 reading responses: 2-page typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, MLA-formatted
- 1 analytical paper: 4-5-page typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, MLA-formatted
- Timely completion of all assigned readings
- Daily participation in informal written responses, reading quizzes, and class discussions

Assignments:

Reading Quizzes

In order to provide accountability for the assigned readings, we will have quizzes on a bi-weekly basis. Most of the time, these quizzes will be standard short answer. In general, the quizzes will consist of three to five questions pertaining to the readings due that day. Unless otherwise stated, answers do not need to be in complete sentences. Read critically, however, because individual questions will often require a two or three-part response. There will occasionally be extra credit questions.

If you arrive late and miss the quiz, you miss out on those points. No exceptions.

Reading Responses

Over the course of the semester, you will complete **5, 2-page typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font and MLA-formatted** reading responses. You will post your response under the appropriate thread on WebCampus. Each one will be an informal analysis of one of the assigned readings, or of a set of assigned readings, as in the case of poetry or short fiction. Please note, informal does not mean inarticulate; although your response is not required to contain and prove a formal thesis, your analyses should be academically-worded and presented, and they should be supported with specific, concrete evidence from the readings to which they pertain. Furthermore, your responses should be just that—textually-based responses. That is—do NOT summarize the readings or their historical contexts. Instead, discuss your reactions, explore issues of identity—race, gender, ethnicity, religion, culture, sexuality, etc. within the readings you’re responding to, or, outline any concepts you find troubling or puzzling. Also, feel free to make connections between the text in question and any pertinent popular culture reference(s).

You are not required to complete one response per week. You may choose any assigned readings to complete responses on. Furthermore, please note that responses must be submitted no later than the start of the class period in which we will discuss the given text. Reading responses will not be accepted late. (Of course, you may turn them in as early as you would like.) It is **your** responsibility to manage your time and reading responses wisely. I will not remind you. If you wait until the last three reading assignments to start turning in reading responses, you will obviously not be able to submit more than three reading responses for the semester.

Reading responses are due at the beginning of class on the day the readings are to be discussed. You will post your reading response under the “Reading Response” discussion thread on WebCampus.

Analytical Paper

In order to facilitate deeper engagement with specific readings, you will write one **4-5-page typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font and MLA-formatted** analytical paper exploring one or more themes within certain assigned texts. You are encouraged to begin examining and reading the texts you wish to write upon as soon as possible so that you can begin working on your papers. You are welcome to expand one of your reading responses if you so choose, but unlike the reading responses, these will be formal essays, meaning they must each contain a clear thesis that will be supported and proven by your analyses. They will be textually-based. Any outside research should be in service of the claims you make based on your close reading of the text, not vice versa. You should aspire to offer unique and original insights on the text. Essay prompts and further details will be discussed in class.

Grading:

Category	Total %
Attendance	15%
Quizzes/In-Class Work	15%
Reading Responses	40%
Analytical Paper	30%
Total	100%

Class Policies:

Attendance/Participation

The UNLV Class Attendance Policy states, “Registration in a course obligates the student to be regular and punctual in class attendance.” (See this and other policies related to attendance and absences under Registration Policies at <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.)

You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to engage in the class activities that will be assigned. Participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged and should be constructive; comments should be relevant to the material being covered. **Students must do all of the reading before coming to class!** Keep in mind that coming to class late, leaving early, or failing to participate will negatively affect your grade. More than three weeks of absences (7 absences) will result in a failing grade for the semester.

Class Conduct

Class time is not used for sending texts, adding Snaps to your daily story, posting Instagram photos, updating Facebook statuses, or sending Tweets, so please, turn off your cell phones/tablets/laptops. If I can go seventy-five minutes without my phone, so can you! That being said, please be courteous and mindful of your fellow students as you will be working closely with one another throughout the semester. Respect should be shown for all other class members at all times. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior like falling asleep, reading newspapers, listening to headphones, talking to others during class, or engaging in similar behavior will negatively affect your grade. And I **will** ask you to leave.

Sharing reactions to and interpretations of the readings is an important step in improving your understanding of world literature. You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to engage in the class discussions and lectures, as well as in the activities that will be assigned. Please remember that the classroom is not the place for taking naps, eating meals, conversing with friends, checking voice mail, texting, or working on assignments for other classes. Cell phones must be turned off or muted during class time.

We will be reading and discussing a variety of texts from a variety of cultural contexts. Many of these texts may express or discuss concepts that will be new to you; furthermore, it is not unlikely that you will disagree, sometimes strongly, with some of these new concepts. While you have a right to express yourself, others also have a right to be heard. Please consider the word choices that you make in presenting your arguments, and be open to the counter-arguments of others. The classroom is a forum for respectful, thoughtful dialogue, not for unreasoned emotional confrontation. **Any student making disrespectful remarks—directed at anyone in the classroom, or at the content being covered—will be asked to leave, and will not receive credit for the day’s assignments.** This does not mean you cannot disagree with the texts and concepts under discussion—but instead, that you must do so in a well-reasoned, articulate, and *respectful* manner.

Late Work

If you miss class for any reason, you are still responsible for the content covered and the work assigned. If illness or emergency circumstances will prevent you from completing any part of a writing project by its due date, you must contact me **before midnight** of the due date to request an extension. Be careful with this privilege. All extensions are at my discretion, and students who abuse this policy will be denied further extensions. Also remember that all writing projects must be completed, even if the work is late and will not receive full credit.

Academic Misconduct—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching—The **Academic Success Center (ASC)** provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call [702-895-3177](tel:702-895-3177). The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Library statement:

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

World Literature 231 Schedule

Readings: Always read the introductory material that precedes each text selection about the specific work. Students are expected to read all material before the start of each week (except on the first day of class). Any of the introductory material is fair game for your in-class quizzes.

- Week 1:** Day One: Introduction / Syllabus
Day Two: Sappho; Egyptian Love Poems
- Week 2:** Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*
- Week 3:** Euripides, *Medea*
- Week 4:** Day One: Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
Day Two: Sophocles, *Antigone*
- Week 5:** Ovid, *Metamorphoses*: "Tiresias," "Narcissus and Echo," "Orpheus and Eurydice"
- Week 6:** Day One: *The Journey of the Hero*
Day Two: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*; *Genesis*
- Week 7:** *Thousand and One Nights (King's Son, She-Ghoul, Enchanted King)*
- Week 8:** Day One: Valmiki, *Ramayama*
Day Two: *Ramayama* movie
- Week 9:** Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*
- Week 10:** Excerpts from *Pele and Hi'iaka* (WebCampus)
- Week 11:** The Love Lyric: Petrarch, Franco, Shakespeare
- Week 12:** *Othello*
- Week 13:** *Othello* cont.
- Week 14:** Milton, *Paradise Lost (Book I, IV, VIII, IX)*
- Week 15:** *Paradise Lost* cont.
Rough draft for analytical essay
- Week 16:** **FINAL EXAM WEEK**
Analytical essay due