

## CMPL/ENGL266: World Literature to 1700

Recitation Building 112 | MWF 10:30-11:20pm

Instructors: Yuhan Huang & Tulin Tosun

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*Life is short, art is long. —Hippocrates*

### Course Introduction

We will embark on a journey of **cross-cultural and cross-temporal encounters**: how do different cultures explain the creation of the world and human being? What is the ideal life like in Ancient Greek and in Ancient China? What happens when the East meets the West for the first time and vice versa? And above all, what make some texts classics? Why are they still read across the world many years after they were written? Literature crystalizes the vast system of humanity: religion, philosophy, politics, art, and etc. Literary works from other time and places can be as strange to us as they are fascinating. We will learn to approach and compare these works in their context, the systems in which literature, art and culture emerge. This journey will take you to read between the lines, to wonder about the worlds delineated in our readings, and to ponder on their meaning and relevance to your world.

### Course Objectives and Themes

This course aims to explore world literature from a variety of authors, genres, cultures, and regions. Through careful reading, class discussion, and assignments, we will engage the ideas and aesthetics of our texts. Students will hone skills in close reading, critical thinking, and oral and written communication; they will learn to identify conventions of literary genres and modes including epic, lyric, and allegory.

As part of the Around the World Learning Community, this course will pay special attention to religious ideas in our texts. We will also focus our discussions on three main themes in our readings including **1) quests, 2) mortality and morality, and 3) love**. These themes will help us look for patterns and differences among our texts and they will also raise questions we can use as a starting point for our investigations. Like any activity, reading, writing and talking about literature are habits. The more you do it, the more likely it is your abilities will improve. This course will provide you with ideas, methods, and practice for improving your reading, discussion, oral presentation, and writing skills.

No prior knowledge of or familiarity with the pertinent languages is required. All reading materials will be provided in English translation.

### Required Texts and Materials

*The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, 3rd Edition, Vols. A, B, and C  
(ISBN: 978-0-393-93365-9)

3x5 notecards to turn in for daily attendance

Occasional supplementary PDFs to be printed for class, TBA

**Semester Grade Breakdown:**

10%	Attendance & Participation
20%	Homework & Quizzes
10%	2 LC Reflexive Journals
10%	In-Class Presentation
15%	Midterm Paper (5% Abstract and Bibliography; 10% Comparative Paper)
15%	Group Project
20%	Final Exam

%	- 97	- 93	- 90	- 87	- 83	- 80	- 77	- 73	- 70	- 67	- 63	- 60
Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-

**Attendance and Lateness**

Discussion is an integral part of this course, and thus your attendance is crucial. You are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty; after that, each absence incurs a 5% grade penalty. You will have up to two opportunities to make up your attendance by attending related events announced in class. You will need to turn in a report within a week after the event for each make-up attendance.

You are expected to arrive on time so that we can make the best use of our 50 minutes; if lateness becomes a problem, there will be a 2% penalty for each time you are late.

**Homework and Quizzes**

You are required to complete 20 homework assignments for the whole semester. Homework will be in the form of short essay questions and posted on Blackboard in advance. **All** homework should be **typed** and handed in during class period. Late assignments will be graded, but will **not** be accepted for credit.

There will be pop quizzes in class on basic information of the readings (if you've done all the assigned readings, they will be very easy for you). The two lowest grades will be dropped.

**Do not plan to leave campus before the date for the final exam has been announced.** Barring extenuating circumstances, you may **not** make up exams or quizzes.

**Comparative Paper**

This paper will give you the chance to spend more time on a work (or works) of your choice. You will write 5-7 pages comparing a work on the syllabus with a work from a different genre, culture, and/or time period. Beyond noting similarities and differences, you should make a thoughtful argument about their literary, historical, or cultural implications.

**Essay Format**

All writings except the reading notes have to be completed in 12 Font, Times New Roman, doubled space. Each paper will be headed with students' names, lesson's name and the type of the assignment. MLA-format is required for comparative paper.

**Group Project in Literary Adaptation**

In small groups, you will collaborate to produce a creative adaptation of a text from our readings. Your adaptation could involve changes in media and/or changes in setting and time period. You and your group will work with me to create a plan for the project, and you will give a 5 to 10 minute presentation of your finished product during our project Open House Day.

**Literature around the World Journals**

In this assignment, you will be asked to make a connection between your studies of literature in class and an event hosted by this class or another organization on campus, such as talks, poetry recitals,

art exhibit, theatre performances, or field trips. We will provide you a list of events (some are free, and some are at group discount rate) to choose from. In your writing, you will first summarize the event (e.g. if you go to a lecture, summarize the speaker's arguments and points); more importantly, you need to provide response to the event (e.g. whether do you agree or disagree with the speaker? Have you learned anything new? How do you relate it to our class?). You should submit your journal within **a week after the event**. You are required to write two journals, but we will be happy to read your responses if you submit more than two. The two highest grade will recorded.

#### **\*For Non-LC Students**

You are given the option to replace one of the Literature around the world Journals with an essay of close-reading. You will still need to take advantage of one of the literature-related events on campus. This assignment asks you to write an essay focused on a particular element of ONE work on our syllabus. The point of this essay is to demonstrate your proficiency in *close reading* (i.e., detailed literary analysis). Length is 3-5 pages, double spaced, 12 point font (please use only Times New Roman), standard 1 inch margins. Please follow MLA format for all your writings in this class.

#### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Friends, do your own work. Plagiarism means using someone else's words or ideas without giving the appropriate credit. In this course, students who plagiarize, present others' work as their own, or cheat on exams or quizzes will receive a zero on the assignment, may fail the course, and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

#### **Classroom Conduct**

Courteous behavior is expected at all times. This includes listening attentively to others, participating in activities and discussions, and showing respect for others. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. Please bring any relevant problems to my attention immediately. See [http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea\\_eou\\_statement.html](http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html) for Purdue's complete Nondiscrimination Policy Statement.

#### **Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices, such as cell phones, pagers, tablet PCs, digital recorders, beepers, palms, MP3 players, digital cameras or laptops, are not to be used during class unless the instructor authorizes their usage for a class-related purpose.

#### **Statement about Disabilities**

Students with disabilities must be registered with Adaptive Programs in the office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided. If you are eligible for academic accommodations because of a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please talk with me about your needs as soon as possible, and we will make arrangements.

#### **Campus Emergencies**

In the event of a major campus emergency (such as swine flu epidemic, bubonic plague, or zombie apocalypse), course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar or other dire circumstances. I will communicate with you about any changes in class or else by email after we flee for our lives.

#### **Office Hours**

Good communication can help us to improve the class and can help you to succeed in it. Please come and see us if you would like further discussion, assistance, or clarification throughout the class. We have a mutual office hour at **Lavazza Caf é Marriot Hall on Fridays 12-1pm**, and separate office hours as well, or we can set up an appointment if none of our office hours fits your schedule.

### Tentative Schedule

\*Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change as the semester evolves.

Unit	Week	Monday:	Wednesday:	Friday:
<b>Creation Across the World</b>	Week 1 – August 24-28	Welcome to Class. What is World Literature?	<i>Hebrew Bible</i> (A. 151-67, 180-91) <i>Creation stories</i>	<i>Qur'an</i> (B 71-73 +PDFs) In-class Presentation Sign-up
<b>Early Literature and Philosophy: War, Journey, Ethics</b> *Movie Night over Labor Day Weekend, <i>Troy</i>	Week 2 – Aug. 31-Sep.4	<i>Gilgamesh</i> (A 95-132)	<i>Gilgamesh</i> (A 132-151) Homework 1	<i>Iliad I, VI, VIII, XI</i> (A 222-273)
	Week 3 – September 7-11	LABOR DAY	<i>Iliad XVI, XVII, XXII, XXIV</i> (A. 273-312) Homework 2	<i>Odyssey I, V, VI, IX</i> (A 332-42, 385-403, 427-38) Pre: Jacqueline
	Week 4 – September 14-18	<i>Odyssey X, XII, XIII, XXI</i> (A 438-51, 467-88, 577-87) Homework 3	Early Philosophy from East and West: <i>Plato &amp; Confucius</i> (tba) Homework 4	Aristotle & Horace (A 1149-1153, 1156-1159) Homework 5
<b>Love, Faith and Marriage</b> *Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Sat.) Chicago Field Trip	Week 5 – September 21-25	<b>Library Visit</b> <b>HSSE 142</b> <b>(STEW)</b>	Introduction to Greek Drama <i>Oedipus the King</i> (A 701-747)	<i>Oedipus the King</i> , discussion cont. Homework 6 Pre: Joanne
	Week 6 – Sept. 28 - Oct. 2	<i>Medea</i> (A 783-822) Homework 7	<i>The Ramayana</i> 2-3 (A 1170-1202)	<i>The Ramayana</i> 4-6 (A 1203-1234) Homework 9
	Week 7 – October 5-9	<i>The Thousand and One Nights</i> (B 552-577) Homework 10	<i>Christian Bible</i> (B 18-33+PDF) Homework 11	Medieval Lyrics (tba) <b>Abstract and Bibliography Due</b> Homework 12
<b>Travel, Religion and Encounters</b> *Guest speaker on cross-cultural encounters, tba	Week 8 – October 12-16	OCTOBER BREAK	Marco Polo (B 812-819) & Evliya Celebi (C 84-92) Homework 13 Pre: Yulin & Samantha	<i>Song of Roland</i> (tba)
	Week 9 – October 19-23	<i>Song of Roland</i> (tba) Homework 14 Pre: Isaiah	Tang Poetry (tba) Homework 15	<b>Essay Peer Review Workshop</b> <b>Midterm Paper Due</b>
	Week 10 – October 26-30	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> , “Prologue” (B 657-681) Pre: Austin	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> , “Wife of Bath” (B 682-709) Homework 16	<b>The Day of Travels</b>

	Week 11 – November 2-6	Christine de Pizan (B 781-807) <a href="#">Homework 17</a>	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (B 725-751)	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (B 751-780) <a href="#">Homework 18</a> Pre: Maggie
<b>Renaissance: Mortality and Morality</b>  *Purdue Theatre: <i>As You Like It</i>	Week 12 – November 9- 13	<i>Introduction to Renaissance</i> Pre: Estefani	<i>Machiavelli, The Prince</i> (C 181-191) <a href="#">Homework 19</a>	<i>Hamlet</i> (C 682- 719)
	Week 13 – November 16- 20	<i>Hamlet</i> (C 719-751) <a href="#">Homework 20</a> Pre: Timothy	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (C 770-804) Pre: Oscar	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (C 804-833) <a href="#">Homework 21</a>
	Week 14 – November 23- 27	<b>Poetry Day</b>	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK
	Week 15 – Nov. 30-Dec.4	Montaigne, <i>essays</i> (tba) <a href="#">Homework 22</a>	<i>Don Quixote</i> (tba)	<i>Don Quixote</i> (tba) <a href="#">Homework 23</a>
*Class Project Open House	Week 16 – December 7- 11	<b>Group Presentation</b>	<b>Group Project Open House</b>	Discussion and Review
	Finals Week – December 14- 19	<b>(Final Exam; date TBA *Do not make any travel plans before the date of Final Exam is announced.)</b>		

## List of Literature around the World Events

**Wk2: Movie night, *Troy* (2004), location tba**

**Wk3: Wednesday, September 30, Jewish Studies Noon Lecture Series**

Dr. Ashley Purpura, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, presents, "Problematic Discourse and Producing Orthodoxy: 'Jews' in Byzantine Christian Hagiography and Hymns." 12:30 p.m., Stewart Center, Room 310

**Wednesday, September 30**

2015 Larry Axel Memorial Lecture in Religion

"Religion in Conflict: From Martin Luther to the Thirty Years' War (1500-1650)"

Presented by Dr. Sigrun Haude, Associate Professor of History, University of Cincinnati  
7:00-9:00 p.m., Stewart Center, Room 202

**Wk6: Chicago Field Trip**

**Wk12-13: Purdue Theatre: *As You Like It***

**Lecture on Greek Tragedies in translation, time & location tba**

\*We will announce more events in class after schedules are settled.

## In-Class Presentation Sign-up List

During your presentation, you are expected to give a very brief overview of the work and its cultural and historical context. You are also encouraged to raise a 2-3 discussion questions related to the reading. Your presentation should be limited to 5-7 minutes. You can either prepare handouts or ppt for the class.

- 1) F 9/4 *Iliad*
- 2) F 9/11 *Odyssey*
- 3) W 9/23 *Oedipus the King*
- 4) M 9/28 *The Ramayana*
- 5) W 10/14 Marco Polo
- 6) W 10/14 Evliya Celebi
- 7) M 10/19 *Song of Roland*
- 8) M 10/26 *Canterbury Tales*
- 9) M 11/2 Christine de Pizan
- 10) W 11/4 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- 11) F 11/6 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- 12) M 11/9 Renaissance Art
- 13) M 11/16 *Hamlet*
- 14) W 11/18 *Paradise Lost*
- 15) F 11/20 *Paradise Lost*
- 16) W 12/3 *Don Quixote*
- 17) F 12/4 *Don Quixote*

### Participation Grading Criteria

**An A student:**

- ◆ is on time and has all their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class
- ◆ always prepared for class
- ◆ displays a positive attitude and enthusiasm for the subject
- ◆ works well with other students in groups
- ◆ stays on-task when working in groups or alone
- ◆ asks questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ almost always volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ almost always volunteers/answers when going over assigned work

**A B student:**

- ◆ is almost always on-time and has their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class
- ◆ mostly prepared for class
- ◆ displays a positive attitude and shows interest in the subject
- ◆ works well with other students in groups
- ◆ stays on-task when working in groups or alone
- ◆ asks questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ sometimes volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ sometimes volunteers/answers when going over assigned work

**A C student:**

- ◆ is generally on time and has their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class most of the time
- ◆ usually or sometimes prepared for class
- ◆ works ok with other students in groups
- ◆ sometimes gets off-task when working in groups
- ◆ does the bare minimum when working alone
- ◆ does not ask questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ rarely volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ displays an indifferent attitude

**A D/F student:**

- ◆ is often late to class and often forgets to bring the necessary materials
- ◆ does not pay attention to what is going on in class
- ◆ usually does not prepare for class
- ◆ chats with other students when they are supposed to be doing group work
- ◆ does little or nothing when they are supposed to be working alone
- ◆ never volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ never volunteers when going over assigned work
- ◆ is uncooperative in group work
- ◆ is disruptive to instructor and/or other students in the class
- ◆ displays an attitude that indicates that they would rather be anywhere else

**“Around the World”  
Learning Community Event Questionnaire**  
*\*Please turn in this form at our first Dining Court Meeting*

1) What will be your most available time for LC events? (Please give us a few time slots during evenings and weekends)

2) What frequency would you prefer LC events to happen?

3) What kind of events would you prefer?

4) Do you have any suggestions for our Wk4 team-building event?

5) Do you have any comments or questions for your instructors concerning the Learning Community classes and events?