



## ENGLISH 203 Spring 2015 WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE World Literature I

**Instructor:** Holly Bailey-Hofmann  
**Office:** GC 280E  
**Office Hour** Tu 11-12, 6 – 6:45p,  
W 11-1, Th 11-12

**Section** 4026 Tu 6:45p -10p  
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**Class Website:** <http://myetudes.org>

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### Course Texts

Norton Anthology of Western Literature, 9th Edition.

[This book is **recommended**, but not required, as ALL texts are available free online.]

### Course Description and Policies

English 203 is a literature course. This class will take a critical approach, and discussion and critical inquiry of the texts will be the core of this class. A lot of reading is involved, so schedule your time accordingly. Our survey of world literature in translation begins with works of the Near and Far East, continues with the Greek epic and drama, follows with Latin and Italian literature, and closes with major works from Spain, France, and Germany through the sixteenth century. Critical essays are required.

### Student Learning Outcomes

1. At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to *recognize poetry and drama* from the ancient world through the seventeenth century within world literature by identifying their distinguishing characteristics.
2. At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to *recognize different authors/poets* from the ancient world through the seventeenth century within world literature by identifying their distinguishing characteristics such as *language choice, imagery, theme and context*.
3. At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to *analyze in specific detail a given passage for meaning* by identifying literary elements such as language, setting, imagery, tone, theme and context.

### Other Course Objectives

- Analyze Literature.
- Use literary terms in discussing/writing about literature.
- Compose college-level essays which reveal critical responses to short fiction, poetry, drama, and the novel.
- Scrutinize theme, character, motivation, conflict, irony, plot, vocabulary, etc.
- Write essays that are organized, logical, free of errors, possess clarity of purpose, solid and specific support.

### ETUDES

As a supplement to this class, an online ETUDES-NG site will be available to enrolled students. (Students adding the class will have a delay in access.) This site will feature lecture content, handouts, etc. and is a helpful resource for the class. You can access our class Etudes site at: <http://myetudes.org/portal> For help logging in, contact the Distance Learning Office at 310-287-4306.

### Attendance

You have two absences that do not count against you. Thereafter, I begin subtracting points from your participation grade.

### Disabilities

If you have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services Office in HLRC 121 at (310) 287-4450. The DSPS will then contact your instructors to notify them of needed accommodations,

such as additional testing time, note taker, etc. Do not be embarrassed to seek help. Disabilities are not a reflection of who you are, but of how your brain works. Understanding how you learn is the first step to success.

### **Standards**

- No late papers are accepted. **1 Exception Per Student, per Semester.** 10 point penalty applies per class, not to exceed 2 classes.
- Missed quizzes cannot be made up, even if you just arrive to class after it has been given.
- If you are absent two weeks in a row, I reserve the right to drop you from the course. If you plagiarize (submit work that is not your own, either entirely or in part) you will fail the essay and you therefore risk failing the class.
- It is not appropriate to email your professor about personal matters, or to ask what assignment you missed. Read your syllabus or contact a classmate to find out what you missed.

### **Dropping the course**

According to college policy, you may be excluded for excessive absences or for not following the Standards of Student Conduct (printed in the Schedule of Classes). If you drop the course, be sure to do so at the Admissions and Business Offices. Otherwise, the grade drops to a "D" or "F" and cannot be removed. Pay attention to drop dates in the Schedule of Classes.

### **Extenuating circumstances...**

Nearly every WLAC student works 40 hours a week. We all have personal responsibilities: bodies that get sick, cars and computers/printers that break down, loved ones that get sick and (heaven forbid) die. Some have families and children to attend to. This is a given. That's what makes it necessary to manage time and plan ahead in order to succeed! We all go through tough times, myself included, which is why I can sympathize with your troubles, but I cannot make exceptions. There's nothing that feels as good as a grade that you earned, despite difficulties. If your 'extenuating circumstances' become too overwhelming, withdraw and take the course at a more convenient time (if you can find one!)

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, even unintentional, is unacceptable, and will result in failure of the assignment and possibly failure of the class. Remember to credit words or ideas that are not your own. Submitting someone else's paper or importing other sources whole scale is the kind of thing that will get you in serious trouble. I advise you to keep your work to yourself, and do not show it to classmates. It takes more energy to cheat than to write something yourself, and you only cheat yourself. I take plagiarism as a personal insult and a waste of my time and therefore am not inclined to be lenient.

### **How to Succeed in this Class**

Attend all class sessions, do the required reading, thinking, rereading and writing. **DO** look up vocabulary words you're not sure of. Observe due dates. Listen carefully and follow all instructions. Seek help as needed. Challenge yourself to do the very best work that you can.

Be sure to do the assigned readings on the syllabus *before* coming to class, preferably more than once. There may be unannounced quizzes to check on your comprehension of the readings. *Quizzes cannot be made up.* Look up words you are unfamiliar with or unsure about to ensure accuracy in your understanding/comprehension.

You are also welcome to visit the instructor during office hours to share your concerns and/or get extra help. **Office hours are the hours that the instructor is available to you.** Often you might catch me in early afternoons during "unposted" times as well. Ring my phone and see if I'm there.

## Summary of Responsibilities

### Writing

Several Reading Quizzes  
1 class presentation  
3 Short Essays (4 pages)

### Grading

Essays and Final Exam 60%  
Homeworks/Quizzes/Exams 30%  
Class Presentation 5%  
Attendance & Participation 5%

### **Assignments**

Students are responsible to read the syllabus and prepare assignments in advance of the deadline whether or not the teacher remembers to mention approaching due dates. All assigned readings, essays, and other tasks are due as per the Course Schedule dates unless otherwise announced.

### **Presentations**

For this assignment, each student should choose 1 topic from the discussion lists on the schedule, research it, and present it to the class in a 5 minute class presentation that you post in our online shell. Topics are first come, first served. To get full credit, students must submit a written copy of the presentation either in short outline form or your written script, if you read it verbatim. The information presented must be at least 90% accurate to qualify for full credit. You must identify your sources on your written work.

### **Extra Credit: Student Poster Showcase May 2014**

For additional credit, students may create a poster centered around their presentation topic OR any other work/author you wrote an essay on and showcase this poster on WLAC Student Showcase Day in May. In addition to qualifying for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the English & Humanities Poster Category, students will also receive extra credit, not least the experience of presenting a professional poster. Submission guidelines and applications are available at: <http://wlacpostershowcase.weebly.com/> In case of class conflict, students need not be present on Showcase Day to qualify for the prize and/or to earn the extra credit; only the poster has to be there. If this interests you, please sign up with me ASAP so I can save you a spot.

### **Paper Format**

All essays must be typed. Format is standard MLA: 12 point Times New Roman double-spaced, 1 inch margins. Other fonts will not be accepted. Please teach yourself how to use headers and footers and **number your pages with your last name and page number**. Title pages/binders are not necessary: just head the first page in the upper left or right-hand corner as follows:

Student Name  
Date  
Course  
Instructor's Last Name

As a rule, late papers and revisions are not accepted in English 102. **One exception per student, per term.** Your one late paper should not exceed four classes, and loses 10 points per class periods it is late. *The West Guide* features sample student essays formatted correctly in MLA style on pages 459-467.

### **Journals**

I recommend that you record an entry in "a journal" for every assigned reading. It need not be elaborate; it may be either in paragraph or note-taking form. You should see the journal as an opportunity perhaps to work ahead, if you wish. That way after you read the assigned text, even a week in advance, you will have your thoughts recorded so you are prepared for class discussion. You will also have your thoughts on literature immortalized forever in your notebook. © **Journals (or any notes taken while reading assigned readings) can be used on reading quizzes.**

### **Honors Requirements**

Students who wish to take the class for Honors credit should consult me for the requirements.

*Why You Should Take This Class*

This course will give you not only a survey of important literature in the British/American canon, but all the literary and cultural references that come with it. It will give you the tools to successfully woo the opposite sex, to entertain future business colleagues, to write convincing apologies, to choose a dramatic epitaph for your tombstone, and to make sophisticated conversation at parties.

*Literature is a Love Affair!*

## ENG 203 Fall 2014 Hofmann Tentative Course Schedule

### Week 1

T 2/10

**In Class:** Syllabus. What is Literature? Archetype Activity.  
Literary History Lecture

**Homework:** Read Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching*

### Week 2

T 2/17

**In Class:** Discuss Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching* (6<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries)

**Discussion topics:** 1. Buddhism, 2. Confucianism, 3. Ancient Chinese civilization

**Homework:** Read *Gilgamesh* excerpt; other homework TBA

### Week 3

T 2/24

**In Class:** Discuss *Gilgamesh*

**Discussion topics:** 1. Composition of *Gilgamesh*, 2. Mesopotamian polytheism,  
3. The Flood (*Gilgamesh* vs. *Bible*)

**Homework:** Read Bible excerpts as assigned; read Malina excerpts (find in Etudes)  
Other homework TBA

### Week 4

T 3/3

**In Class:** Writing a Literary Essay; Discuss *Old Testament* excerpts

**Discussion topics:** 1. Collectivism vs. Individualism, 2. Reading the Bible as literature  
3. Honor in the Ancient Mediterranean world (Malina)  
4. Composition of the Hebrew Scriptures

**Homework:** Read excerpts from Homer's *Odyssey* as assigned.  
Write Essay 1 and submit it in turnitin.com by Saturday, 2/28 at 11:59pm.

### Week 5

T 3/10

**In Class:** Discuss Homer's *Odyssey*

**Discussion topics:** 1. Ancient Greek concepts of heroism, 2. Time' & Kleos,  
3. Nature of the Greek gods, 4. Ancient Greek concept of Afterlife, 5. Homer,  
6. *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

Homework: Read excerpt from Virgil's *Aeneid*.

Week 6

T 3/17

In Class: Discuss excerpt from Virgil's *Aeneid*.

Discussion topics: 1. Virgil, 2. Roman gods, 3. Roman heroism

Homework: Read *New Testament* excerpts; other homework TBA

Week 7

T 3/24

In Class: Discuss *New Testament* excerpts

Discussion topics: 1. Composition of the Christian Bible, 2. Rome & Christianity

Homework: Read Rumi poems as assigned.

Week 8

T 3/31

No Class; Campus Closed for Cesar Chavez Day.

Homework: Write Essay 2 and submit it in turnitin.com by Saturday, 3/28 at 11:59pm.

4/5 - 4/11 SPRING BREAK

Week 9

T 4/14

In Class: Discuss Rumi poems.

Discussion topics: 1. Sufism

Homework: Read *Koran* excerpts.

Week 10

T 4/21

In Class: Discuss *Koran*.

Discussion topics: 1. Composition of *The Koran*, 2. Arabic language & *The Koran*

Homework: Read *Thousand and One Nights* excerpts

Week 11

T 4/28

In Class: Discuss *Thousand and One Nights* excerpts

Discussion topics: TBA

Homework: Read Dante's *Inferno* Part I

Write Essay 3 and submit it in turnitin.com by Saturday, 3/28 at 11:59pm.

**Week 12**

T 5/5

**In Class:** Discuss Dante's *Inferno* Part I

**Discussion topics:** 1. *The Divine Comedy*, 2. Terza Rima, 3. Dante's Hell

**Homework:** Read Dante's *Inferno* Part II

**Week 13**

T 5/12

**In Class** Discuss Dante's *Inferno* Part II

**Discussion topics:** TBA

**Homework:** Read Cervantes' *Don Quixote Part I*

**Week 14**

T 5/19

**In Class** Discuss Cervantes' *Don Quixote Part I*

**Discussion topics:** 1. Picaresque, 2. Noble Fool, 3. Knight-Errant

**Homework:** Read Cervantes' *Don Quixote Part II*

**Week 15**

T 5/26

**In Class** Discuss Cervantes' *Don Quixote Part II*

**Homework:** Study for Final exam. Bring a Scantron 882 E, blue book, and pencils/pens.

**FINALS WEEK: Beginning June 1**

Our final will be June 2, 6:45pm, in our classroom. Essay 4 will be a portion of your final.

All revisions, late work as applicable, and Honors assignments are due on the day of the final exam.