

ENG L101-01H WESTERN WORLD MASTERPIECES I
HONORS: Love & War
FALL 2015
PROFESSOR DAMIAN FLEMING

CLASS MEETING: MWF 11:00-11:50
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 12:00- 1:00PM (and by appointment)
OFFICE: LA 149 (in English Department)
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COURSE WEBSITE: <http://users.ipfw.edu/flemingd/L101Fall15.html>
COURSE WIKI: <http://1101fall2015.pbworks.com/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will read and discuss a number of “important” works of literature from the earlier half of Western Civilization focused on the themes of “Love and War.” We will examine and debate why someone decided that these works are so important, not to mention what exactly the “western world” is. We will use these texts to practice reading slowly, closely, and carefully, and writing clearly and concisely.

‘In our days,’ continued Vera--mentioning ‘our days’ as people of limited intelligence are fond of doing, imagining that they have discovered and appraised the peculiarities of ‘our days’ and that human characteristics change with the times.

--Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*

The value of the study of ancient and medieval literature—the subject matter of ENG L101 Western World Masterpieces—is predicated at least in part on the notion elaborated by Tolstoy above that human experiences retain some fundamental characteristics throughout time. Thus the struggles and conflicts delineated in a 3000-year-old work like the *Iliad*, for example, can continue to teach even 21st century students lessons about human behavior.

This honors course is focused on two of the most important—and similarly devastating—themes of human experience: Love and War. Starting with the *Iliad*—and progressing through *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*—we will examine how these canonical texts treat the issues of Love and War, often in tandem.

ENG L101 is a general education course, which fulfills all of the following objectives of the Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing competency in the State of Indiana General Education Core:

6. Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowing

Humanistic thought is the attempt to resolve such abiding issues as the meaning of life, the role of the arts in our understanding of what it is to be human, and the limits of

knowledge. Humanistic inquiry assesses-across temporal, cultural, disciplinary, and theoretical divisions- how humans view themselves in relation to other humans, to nature, and to the divine. Studies in the humanities offer students the intellectual resources to develop mature self-concepts and heightened social consciousness.

Upon completion of the Humanistic and Artistic competency, students will be able to:

- 6.1 Recognize and describe humanistic, historical, or artistic works or problems and patterns of the human experience.
- 6.2 Apply disciplinary methodologies, epistemologies, and traditions of the humanities and the arts, including the ability to distinguish primary and secondary sources.
- 6.3 Analyze and evaluate texts, objects, events, or ideas in their cultural, intellectual or historical contexts.
- 6.4 Analyze the concepts and principles of various types of humanistic or artistic expression.
- 6.5 Create, interpret, or reinterpret artistic and/or humanistic works through performance or criticism.
- 6.6 Develop arguments about forms of human agency or expression grounded in rational analysis and in an understanding of and respect for spatial, temporal, and cultural contexts.
- 6.7 Analyze diverse narratives and evidence in order to explore the complexity of human experience across space and time.

Additionally

- 1.3. Read critically, summarize, apply, analyze, and synthesize information and concepts in written and visual texts as the basis for developing original ideas and claims.
- 1.5. Develop, assert and support a focused thesis with appropriate reasoning and adequate evidence.

REQUIRED TEXTS (AVAILABLE AT IPFW BOOKSTORE):

All texts are published by [Hackett Publishing Company](#)

Unless you can prove fluency in the original language of composition of these texts (Ancient Greek, Latin, and Old French) all students are required to have **THESE EXACT TRANSLATIONS**

You must have PAPER copies of each of these books

- HOMER: **The Essential Homer**, Translated and Edited by Stanley Lombardo, Introduction by Sheila Murnaghan, 2000 532 pp. ISBN: (0-87220-540-1)/(9780872205406)
- SOPHOCLES, **Antigone**, Translated, with Introduction and Notes, by Paul Woodruff, 2001 102 pp. ISBN: (0-87220-571-1)/(9780872205710)

- VIRGIL, **The Essential Aeneid**, Translated and Abridged by Stanley Lombardo, Introduction by W. R. Johnson, 2006 248 pp. ISBN: (0872207900)/(9780872207905)
- **Beowulf**, *A New Translation for Oral Delivery*, Translated, with an Introduction, by Dick Ringler, 2007 304 pp. ISBN:(0-87220-893-1)/(9780872208933)
- DANTE, **Inferno**, Translated by Stanley Lombardo, Introduction by Steven Botterill, Notes by Anthony Oldcorn, March 2009 512 pp. ISBN(0-87220-917-2)/(9780872209176)
- **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**, Anonymous, Translated, by Simon Armitage, Norton ISBN (ISBN 978-0-393-33415-9 [paperback] / (978-0-393-06048-5 hardcover)

Always bring the appropriate texts to class; it is necessary for informed discussion; **failure to bring your text to class is equivalent to an absence** (and you better check out the attendance policy). **THIS POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.** If you do not have your text, you will be asked to leave.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Daily attendance and vigorous participation in class fueled by close reading of all assignments
2. Weekly short response papers, to be posted online; daily participation on class wiki
3. 3 short formal essays
4. 3 objective exams
5. Memorization and classroom recitation of a speech from *Othello* of at least 10 lines long.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This course is based in active participation; as a result, attendance in class is essential

- 3 absences: participation grade = 0%
- 4 absences = **course failure**

NOTE:

- There are NO excused absences.
- Excessive lateness will count as an absence.
- Leaving class early will count as an absence.
- Sleeping in class will count as an absence.
- Doing work for another class will count as an absence.

Regardless of cause, **you are responsible** for all work missed during absences, including changes to the class schedule announced in class.

If you do not feel that this is a fair attendance policy or if you do not believe you will be able to fulfill it, the instructor asks you to please drop this class as soon as possible.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Engrave the following on your brain:

- **I do not accept any late work**
- **Grade for late work: 0%, returned without comment**

Give yourself plenty of time and leeway to get your work done and to deal with bumps in the road should they occur. Pretend, at least for this class, that you are operating in the real world.

SHORT RESPONSES / CLASS WIKI

Each student has been assigned to one of two **Groups, J or W**. When your Group is assigned, each student will individually write an informal response to that night's reading, and post it on our wiki before 3am the day it is due. The restrictions on these are pretty loose: it's basically a journal entry, except we'll be sharing them with each other instantaneously. You can address an issue we've raised in class; respond to the prompts on our course website; raise your own questions about the texts we're reading; make an argument about a text we're reading; express your opinion about the texts or the characters. These need not be formal, but must be **at least 300 words long**. What I am looking for in these is your own close reading of the text. NO secondary research is required, and is in fact discouraged. If you use any resources to supplement your reading, these must be explicitly acknowledged in your response. Using unacknowledged sources in your response will constitute plagiarism, and result in a failing grade for the course. **Failure to submit 2 of these on time will result in a failing grade for the class.** These responses are useless if submitted late, and thus will not be accepted late.

Students whose Groups are not assigned that day are required to read through your classmates responses, and briefly comment on at least three of them. These comments need not be more than a few sentences long. **Failure to comment on more than 3 occasions will result in a failing grade for the class.**

ESSAYS:

Each student will also write 3 short (2-3 page) formal essays on topics assigned by me or developed on their own in consultation with me. Due dates are noted in the schedule below. Late papers are not accepted. Failure to submit any paper will result in a failing grade for the course.

GRADING:

In-class participation:	9%
Office visit:	1%
Wiki Responses:	20%
Exams:	30%
Essays:	40%

GRADE SCALE:

A	94–100	Highest passing grade	4.0
A-	90–93		3.7
B+	87–89		3.3
B	84–86	Above-average passing grade	3.0
B-	80–83		2.7
C+	77–79		2.3
C	74–76	Average passing grade	2.0
C-	70–73		1.7
D+	65–69		1.3
D	60–64	Lowest passing grade	1.0
F	below 60	Failure or unauthorized discontinuance of class attendance; no credit.	

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to request accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations and should have equal access to learning. If you have any questions or you believe you need accommodations, contact the SSD office, Walb Union 113, Phone/TTD: 260 - 481 - 6657 <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd/>

Keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to register **as soon as possible** so that timely arrangements can be made.

FOR ALL STUDENTS:

No **retroactive** accommodations can be made. If you feel that you have an issue which may affect your ability to succeed in this class, you must come see me **before** you've defaulted on the class. Hopefully, any issue can be resolved, but no issue can be resolved after the fact.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

USING ANOTHER PERSON'S WORDS OR IDEAS WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION IS PLAGIARISM.

Plagiarism will earn you an **F** for the course, and possible expulsion from the University. If you borrow an idea or quote from another author, you must cite where you found the material. If you have any questions about citing sources, please ****ASK**** before your turn in an assignment. I am happy to help, or visit the Writing Center. <http://www.ipfw.edu/casa/writing/>)

LAPTOP/iPad policy

Recent research has shown that laptop use in the classroom can not only negatively affect students' learning, but it can also negatively affect the learning of those students sitting around you. This is not a lecture/note heavy course. Therefore laptops and other devices will not be allowed in class without my explicit permission. If you feel that the use of such a device is essential to your success in this course, please discuss the matter in private with me. I may ask that you

write a formal petition explaining why. I will evaluate such petitions on an individual basis.

CONCERNING TEXTING IN CLASS

Texting (or any other use of a phone/device) during the class period will result in a **failing grade** for the course.

SCHEDULE:

****NOTE:** This schedule is subject to change; missing class is **NOT** an excuse for not knowing about changes to the schedule (see above: attendance).

AUG		Date	Reading Due	Group	MoC	Other
1	M	24	Welcome!			
	W	26	Intro to Class			
	F	28	Iliad 1-3 (pp. 1-42)	J		
2	M	31	Iliad 4-7 (pp. 43-82)	V		
SEPT	W	2	Iliad 8-11 (pp. 83-121)	J		
	F	4	Iliad 12-15 (pp. 121-153)	V		Invent a system of punctuation
3	M	7	Labor Day	J		
	W	9	Iliad 16-21 (pp. 153-204)	V		
	F	11	Iliad 22-24 (pp. 205-210)	J		
4	M	14	Paper Day			Find other copies of the Iliad
	W	16	Odyssey 1-4 (pp. 241-269)	V		
	F	18	Odyssey 5-9 (pp. 269-314)	J		
5	M	21	Odyssey 10-12 (pp. 315-365)	V		
	W	23	Odyssey 13-18 (pp. 366-402)	J		
	F	25	Odyssey 19-22 (pp. 403-453)	V		
6	M	28	Odyssey 23-24 (pp. 454-482)	J		
	W	30	Exam and Paper thesis due			Everyone post theses here
OCT	F	2	Antigone 1			
7	M	5	Antigone 2			
	W	7	Aeneid 1 and 2			
	F	9	Aeneid 2 and 4			First Essay Due
	M	12	FALL BREAK			
	W	14	Aeneid 6 and 7			
	F	16	Aeneid 8, 9, 10			
8	M	19	Aeneid 11 and 12			
	W	21	Paper Day			