

English 3113-01: World Literature I

Fall 2020 | The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
MWF 2:30-3:30 PM | Hybrid: Davis Hall 203 / Online

Instructor: Dr. Ben Wetherbee
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Office: Davis Hall 219B
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Digital Office Hours: MW 10:05-11:05 AM, 12:30-2:30 PM
F 12:30-2:30 PM
by appointment

someone will remember us

I say

even in another time

- Sappho

Course Description and Goals

This class surveys literature from antiquity to roughly 500 AD, chiefly in the Greco-Roman tradition, with a focus on genres – epic, lyric poetry, comic and tragic theatre, Socratic dialogue, civic oratory, and progenitors to the novel – and their cultural, political, and historical contexts. Course readings will include key literary representatives of these genres, as well as occasional critical and contextual works.

Class itself will emphasize participatory discussion. Within the thematic confines of the course, major writing assignments will allow students latitude to write about and research material they find interesting and relevant.

Broadly speaking, this course works toward the following outcomes. Students will:

- demonstrate knowledge ancient literature and its constituent genres, especially those in the Greco-Roman tradition.
- demonstrate a comfortable familiarity with the cultural context for such genres and an ability to “speak back” to dominant narratives of Western literary history.
- critically compare ancient Greco-Roman literature with their latter-day adaptations and with other traditions in world literature.
- demonstrate college-level skills in literary analysis and research.

Required Texts and Materials

Please do your best to procure the versions of course texts specified here:

- Aristophanes, *Lysistrata and Other Plays*, Penguin Classics, 2003, ISBN: 978014044-8146
- **(Optional)** Edith Hamilton, *The Greek Way*, any edition; a free PDF of the book is available on Canvas, but used print copies are cheap if you want one.
- Homer, *The Odyssey*, ed. and trans. Emily Wilson, Norton, 2018, ISBN: 0393356256; there are many extant translations of Homer, **but be sure you buy Wilson’s Norton translation!**
- Longus, *Daphnis and Chloe*, Oxford World’s Classics, 2009, ISBN: 0199554951
- Sophocles, *Antigone, Oedipus the King, Electra*, 2009, Oxford World’s Classics, ISBN: 9780199537174
- Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Oxford World’s Classics, 2008, ISBN: 0199231958
- Readings and resources accessible on Canvas. Please bring paper or e-copies (on your laptop, tablet, etc.) of assigned online readings to class.
- Physical or digital materials to write with, which should be brought to every class.

Hybrid Class Format

To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure, this class will occur in a hybrid format – that is, partly in person and partly online. Because this is a small, discussion-driven course, we'll use Zoom videoconferences to facilitate real-time, class-wide participation. Typically, Monday classes will occur in person and Friday classes will occur via Zoom. We'll figure out Wednesdays on a weekly basis.

In the event of a COVID outbreak on campus or other conditions that increase risk, the class will move fully online.

Overview of Required Work

Major writing assignments. Three major essay assignments – two short analyses and one longer final research/analysis essay – will allow you to analytically engage with texts and concepts from class while individually determining the focus of each project. Separate prompts will detail the purpose and scope of each major assignment. Unless otherwise specified, major papers will be due apply at the beginning of class, submitted through Canvas, in MLA format. Extensions are negotiable on a case-by-case basis.

Discussion forum posts. A total of five short forum posts (250-500 words each, MLA format without a works cited page, submitted through Canvas) should analyze texts recently covered in class and/or extend recent class discussions. These should be short, sweet, *specific* responses. Eight possible due dates are listed, but you can also submit posts early within the timespans specified on the schedule. **Submit five posts; skip three of your choice.** Alternately, if you submit more than five, I'll throw out the lowest grade(s) and keep the five best.

Additionally, each week, comment substantively (more than "Great job!" or "I agree!") on at least two of your classmates' posts. (Please comment on others posts even when you use one of your three freebies.)

Other work. Other work will include leading a short discussion about your research, participating in class conversations, and, of course, keeping up with assigned readings. Unless otherwise specified, all readings are mandatory.

Note that there are **no formal exams** in this course. Final exam week will be used to finish final

papers and facilitate presentations on final research.

Digital Office Hours

I will hold digital office hours on the schedule listed above. During this time, I will be available in real time to communicate with you via email and through Zoom videoconferencing. To talk with me on Zoom, email me requesting a meeting; I'll reply with a link to the meeting.

I will also respond to email periodically every day outside office hours. To set up a Zoom meeting outside office hours, email me in advance, and we'll work something out.

Canvas

You will need to access our course website on Canvas using your USAO login credentials. Canvas will house links to Zoom meetings, weekly discussion fora, grade information, assignment prompts, links to external resources, and PDF copies readings outside our print course texts.

Attendance

This is a small class, and the input of each individual member matters a great deal; class participation, accordingly, figures significantly into the overall grade. However, because of the pandemic and its associated complications, there will be **no punitive attendance policy**. Students who have to miss more than five class periods should contact me to negotiate a way to make up participation credit.

Grading Distribution

Major writing assignments

First analysis paper	15%
Second analysis paper	15%
Final research/analysis paper	25%

Other

Discussion forum posts	20%
Term-long participation	25%

A: ≥ 90%	C: 70-79%	F: ≤ 59%
B: 80-89%	D: 60-69%	

Disabilities Resources

Students with disabilities or conditions (physical or mental) that could affect class performance should meet with me to identify and discuss possible modifications. I want to help you succeed.

Also, note that disability services are available at the Student Center Room 305, or online:

<https://usao.edu/current-students/services/disability-services>

Library and Student Success Center

The Nash Library and the USAO Student Success Center – particularly the Writing Tutors – are valuable resources to this course. More information about each is available online:

<https://library.usao.edu/home>
<https://usao.edu/student-success-center>

Technology and Social Media Policy

Technology is obviously essential to our digital class meetings. Furthermore, you may bring laptops, tablets, and smartphones to in-person classes. I encourage the use of electronics toward writing and research *pertinent to class* – but only insofar as they contribute to class and avoid distracting from it.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism occurs when a writer attempts to pass off the words or ideas of someone else as her/his own. I don't expect it to be an issue in this class, but deliberate and malicious plagiarism will automatically fail you and possibly bring further repercussions to your academic record – so just don't do it. That said, don't overstress about *accidentally* plagiarizing. Be careful, and it won't happen. And as always, contact me if you have questions.

Important Note

Things change: pandemics happen, weather happens, people get sick, and schedules and curricula sometimes evolve. I reserve the right to alter the content of this syllabus as the term progresses. You reserve the right to contact me with questions or concerns about the syllabus. I will take such queries seriously.

In the event of significant changes to the syllabus and/or schedule, a revised version will be available on Canvas.

World Literature I Term Schedule

ENGL 3113-01 | Fall 2020
 MWF 2:30-3:30 pm | Davis Hall 203 / Online
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GW

Reading due before class
 Writing assignment due in class
 Student-led discussion in class
 Edith Hamilton, *The Greek Way*

AUGUST

Wk. 1	M	17	First Day: Introductions
	W	19	Epic Poetry: Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> GW ch. 3: "The Way of the East and the West in Art" (53-69; Canvas) Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> bk. 1 (105-19)
	F	21	Wilson, first half of Introduction to the <i>Odyssey</i> (1-48) Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> bk. 2 (120-34)
Wk. 2	M	24	Wilson, second half of Introduction, plus Translator's Note (48-91) Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> bks. 3-7 (135-219)
	W	26	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> bks. 8-12 (220-315)
	F	28	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> bks. 13-17 (316-407) Forum post #1 due (any day week 1 or 2) Last day to drop
Wk. 3	M	31	GW ch. 4: "The Greek Way of Writing" (70-84; Canvas) Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> bks. 18-24 (409-525)

SEPTEMBER

	W	2	Lyric Poetry: Sappho and Pindar GW ch. 5: "Pindar, The Last Greek Aristocrat" (85-103; Canvas) Pindar, <i>Olympian</i> 1-4 (Canvas) Sappho, fragments (Canvas)
	F	4	Civic Oratory: Demosthenes and Gorgias Demosthenes, <i>Third Philippic</i> (Canvas) Gorgias, <i>Encomium of Helen</i> (Canvas) Forum post #2 due (any day week 3)
Wk. 4	M	7	NO CLASS – Labor Day Holiday
	W	9	Socratic Dialogue: Plato GW ch. 6: "The Athenians as Plato Saw Them" (104-25; Canvas) Plato, <i>Apology</i> (Canvas)
	F	11	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> (Canvas) Forum post #3 due (any day week 4)
Wk. 5	M	14	Comic Theatre: Aristophanes GW ch. 8: "Aristophanes and the Old Comedy" (126-58; Canvas) Aristophanes, <i>The Clouds</i> (65-132)

	W	16	Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i> (133-94)
	F	18	Workshop drafts of papers
Wk. 6	M	21	First paper due
	W	23	Tragic Theatre: Sophocles GW ch. 13: “Sophocles, Quintessence of the Greek” (258-70; Canvas) Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> (1-45)
	F	25	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> (47-100) Forum post #4 due (any day this week; may cover Aristophanes, too)
Wk. 7	M	28	Roman Epic: Virgil and Ovid Fantham & Ahl, Introduction and Translator’s Note to the <i>Aeneid</i> (xi-lij) Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , bks. 1-2 (3-53)
	W	30	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , bks. 3-5 (54-127)

O C T O B E R

	F	2	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , bks. 6-8 (128-207) Forum post #5 due (any day this week)
Wk. 8	M	5	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , bks. 9-12 (208-327)
	W	7	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , bks. 1 & 3 (Canvas) Midterm grades posted
	F	9	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , bks. 4 & 6 (Canvas) Forum post #6 due (any day this week)
Wk. 9	M	12	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , bks. 7-8 (Canvas)

Tuesday, Oct. 13: Last day to withdraw with automatic “W”

	W	14	Neoteric Poetry: Catullus Catullus, poems (Canvas)
	F	16	Workshop drafts of papers
Wk. 10	M	19	Second paper due
	W	21	The Proto-Novel: Longus McCail, Introduction to <i>Daphnis and Chloe</i> (vii-xxix) Longus, <i>Daphnis and Chloe</i> , preface, bks. 1-2 (3-44)
	F	23	Longus, <i>Daphnis and Chloe</i> , bks. 3-4 (45-86) Forum post #7 due (any day this week; can also cover wk. 9 Ovid readings)
Wk. 11	M	26	Early Chinese Literature TBD (Canvas)

Tuesday, Oct. 27: Last day to withdraw

	W	28	TBD (Canvas)
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	F	30	 TBD (Canvas)  Forum post #8 due (any day this week – last forum due date!)
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NOVEMBER

<i>Wk. 12</i>	M	2	Early Indian Literature  TBD (Canvas)
	W	4	 TBD (Canvas)
	F	6	 TBD (Canvas)
<i>Wk. 13</i>	M	9	Hebrew and Christian Literature  TBD (Canvas)
	W	11	 TBD (Canvas)
	F	13	 Student presentations on final research
<i>Exam Week</i>	M	16	Study Day – NO CLASS
	W	18	Final Exam Period: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1:30-3:00 PM  Student presentations on final research  Final research paper due