



**ENG 2331.01W—Literature of the Western World
“The Relevance of Foundational Literature in the Digital Age”**

Fall 2012

Instructor: (Christopher Gonzalez, PhD – Assistant Professor)

Office Location: Hall of Languages 225

Office Hours: MWF 1:00 pm-2:30 pm and by appointment

Virtual Office Hours: TR 10:00 am-11:00 am

Office Phone: 903.886.5277

Office Fax: 903.886.5980

University Email Address: Chris.Gonzalez@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks Required:

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, 3rd Ed. (Vol. 1 & 2)

Additional readings uploaded in the course site’s Documents Sharing tab

Course Description:

ENG 2331.01W examines Western Literature from antiquity to the modern era. The selected readings for this course range not only throughout the span of centuries but also cover a variety of literary forms such as poetry, the epic, drama, philosophy, and narrative prose. The aim of this course is to provide students with a foundational understanding of Western Literature, its connections to history and its contribution to human culture, and innovations in narrative, dramatic, and poetic structures. The readings provide students with the opportunity to explore a wide range of texts that originate from various cultures, periods, and genres. Throughout the course, students should consistently seek to draw the connections between centuries-old texts and their relevance in the 21st century. What can these texts tell us about our world—an age where we can communicate effortlessly to the entire world thanks to Twitter? Is there room for such important works and ideas in 140 characters or less?

The selected readings are representatives of the idea of a Western canon of literature, but we will stretch beyond the established conception of Western Literature as a monolithic, inflexible set of texts. Therefore, in questioning how our texts inform the 21st century, we should also question whether or not these texts contribute to our (post)modern world. In order to do this sort of (re)evaluation effectively, we must attend to the formal elements, thematic contents, historical meaningfulness, philosophical

contributions, and cultural identities. Students should plan to engage regularly and productively in discussions; demonstrate knowledge and mastery of materials via quizzes and exams (midterm and final); an analytical paper (4-6 pages), and a multimedia presentation to be uploaded onto our course's site on eCollege.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will become active participants in the course, not only in staying current with readings and other assignments but also in sharing their understanding of the material with their classmates.
2. Students will become familiar with ways that foundational texts of literature have informed the development of Western civilization, and will discover ways of writing about how these texts continue to be relevant in the 21st century or argue why they are not.
3. Students will research subjects relevant to the course, including an assigned presentation and an analytical paper of their own selection pertaining to the course, and will present their research to their colleagues via the course's Learning Management System.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to synthesize ideas pertaining to the course as measured by a review of critical responses from the students.
2. Students will demonstrate their understanding of ideas pertaining to the course as measured by a review of each student's presentation on an assigned topic.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes and objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course the class will read and discuss eight novels.

During the semester you will complete several major assignments designed to build on each other intellectually and conceptually. These assignments are:

Quizzes

20%

Quizzes allow you the opportunity to demonstrate that you have a working knowledge of the concepts introduced in the week's readings. Major characters, significant events, and notable concepts from our novels will provide the source material for quizzes. Expect ten (10) quizzes in a semester (worth 10 points each). Please check the announcements each week to see if you will have a quiz. Complete the quizzes online and within the specified times and dates (identified when quizzes become available) by accessing the eCollege exam tool for the respective week in which the quiz is given. Quizzes are timed, and the

grades will be available shortly after submission of the quiz. Contact the eCollege Helpdesk immediately if you encounter technical difficulties.

Analytical Paper

20%

This essay is to be 4-6 pages in length and worth 25%. I will distribute viable topics for these essays well in advance of the paper due dates. This will unite concepts or ideas from the course readings in order to raise a significant complication to the ideas or perhaps to expand further on these concepts. The goal is twofold: to apply your own critical reasoning skills to illuminate a selection of literature, and to use your writing ability to express your argument in a convincing manner.

Midterm Exam

20%

The midterm exam will contain definition questions, identification of key terms and concepts, and several essay questions designed to test your ability to bring together theoretical concepts and class readings. The exam consists of multiple-choice questions and is worth 100 points. As with quizzes, exams are taken within specified times and dates by using the eCollege exam tool. Exams are times, and grades will be made available shortly after submission of the exam. If you experience technical difficulties, contact the eCollege Helpdesk immediately in order that your technical problem may be documented.

Multimedia Presentation

20%

You will be paired together with another student for this assignment. Pairs will choose any passage from any primary text from class we have discussed during the semester. The excerpt from the text must not be more than 500 words in length. The expectation is to analyze the passage. As you and your partner work through and explore your chosen passage, ask yourselves: what do you see in the passage, and how would you describe, evaluate, and/or interpret the passage? Analyze the passage in detail, looking at technique, style, theme, perspective, characterization, ideology, or other matters of interest to you and the critical perspective you are using. You are obligated to stay within the bounds of the excerpt; don't generalize the entire work. You and your partner will then present to the class an oral "close reading" of your exploration of the excerpt using multimedia to deliver your content.

Final Exam

20%

The final exam is comprehensive and will follow the same format as the midterm. It will not be comprehensive and will consist of the material covered since the midterm exam.

Grading

Students' assignment and course grades will be determined by the following:

Quizzes: (100 points)	20%
Analytical Paper: (100 points)	20%
Midterm Exam: (100 points)	20%
Multimedia Presentation: (100 points)	20%
Final Exam: (100 points)	20%
Total Points: 500	Total: 100%

Scale used to compute final letter grades:

Percentage	Points
A: 100-90	(500-450)
B: 89-80	(449-400)

C: 79-70 (399-350)
D: 69-60 (349-300)
F: 59-0 (299-0)

Technology

This course is conducted entirely online. All aspects of the course (e.g., grades, discussions, dropbox, virtual office) are accessed via eCollege, the Learning Management System used by TAMUC. The majority of your assignments will be submitted through eCollege, so it is essential to your success that you be able to access eCollege in a relatively convenient manner. Because the university provides students access to computers and other technologies, please make use of these items if you do not have a computer of your own. If you have technical questions, please contact Technology Services at 902-468-6000 or at helpdesk@tamuc.edu. Do not allow a technological problem or question keep you from a successful outcome in this course. Technology is designed to facilitate your learning experience in this class, not to hinder it.

There will be no extra credit assignments. As a rule, I do not accept late work.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Academic Honesty Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce and the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of **academic dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally-accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is important to the success of this class and to your development as a writer. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that you notify me of potential conflicts with course expectations. The expectation is that you will do more than simply log on to the course site. Your active participation, in the form of discussion responses and questions, is vital for success in this course. You must begin engaging in course discussions by Tuesday evening in order to stay current with the material. Deadline extensions and other allowances can often be accommodated before they are required, but this requires advance notice. Related to this, SEE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Classroom Policy

Tardiness is disruptive to the classroom environment, and prevents you from fully participating and assimilating the information and materials discussed in class. Excessive tardiness will lower your participation grade.

Assignment Policy

Student work must be completed and submitted on time. All assignments should be turned in during the class period when they are due. Students who know they will miss class when an assignment is due must contact the instructor as soon as possible in advance of class to arrange for submission of the assignment.

All papers should conform to the MLA style guidelines.

Late Work

I will not accept any assignment after its due date. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive a score of zero (0).

Drop a Course

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the Web page.

Incompletes

Incompletes (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances.

Administrative Withdrawal

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

University Specific Procedures:*ADA Statement*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. It is next to impossible to explore ideas in a classroom setting if students and instructors do not feel safe or otherwise supported. I will not tolerate discrimination in all its forms. Likewise, rudeness has no place in any classroom, and I will ensure that my classroom remains a rudeness-free environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Responsibility

You are responsible for understanding all of the material contained in this syllabus, as well as any announced changes to this syllabus. You are also responsible for understanding instructions and directives related to assignments, exams, and grades. This means visiting your professor during office hours if instructions and/or directives remain unclear. Unless you state otherwise, I will assume that you have understood what is expected of you in this class.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The following course schedule is subject to revisions and other modifications as the instructor deems necessary for the course. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced on the course website in advance of the week in which the change will occur.

Fall 2012

Date	Readings
Week 1 Aug 27-31	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> (pp. 95-151)
Week 2 Sept 3-7	The Hebrew Bible (pp. 151-221)
Week 3 Sept 10-14	The Iliad (pp. 230-331)
Week 4 Sept 17-21	Lysistrata (pp. 825-862)
Week 5 Sept 24-28	Symposium (pp. 868-907) The Aeneid (pp. 964-1072)
Week 6 Oct 1-5	The Christian Bible (Vol. B, pp. 18-33) A Thousand and One Arabian Nights (pp. 552-605)
Week 7 Oct 8-12	Don Quixote (Vol. C, pp. 386-515) Midterm Exam
Week 8 Oct 15-19	Hamlet (Vol. C, pp. 656-751)
Week 9 Oct 22-26	Kant (Vol. D, pp. 105-109) Descartes (Vol. D, pp. 110-113) Behn (Vol. D, pp. 200-246) De La Cruz (Vol. D, pp. 248-264) Pope (Vol. D, pp. 325-351)
Week 10 Oct 29-Nov 2	Rousseau (Vol. E, pp. 57-72) Melville (Vol. E, pp. 296-321) Whitman (Vol. E, pp. 448-465) Tagore (Vol. E, pp. 893-904) Analytical Paper Due
Week 11 Nov 4-9	Baudelaire (Vol. E, pp. 468-480) De Castro (Vol. E, pp. 505-508) Mallarmé (Vol. E, pp. 509-515) Martí (Vol. E, p. 520) Rimbaud (Vol. E, pp. 523-528) Darío (Vol. E, pp. 531-535)
Week 12 Nov 12-16	Proust (Vol. F, pp. 138-174) Joyce (Vol. F, pp. 178-207)

	Kafka (Vol. F, pp. 210-241)
Week 13 Nov 19-23	Borges (Vol. F, pp. 489-496) Lorca (Vol. F, pp. 577-583) Neruda Vol. F, pp. 585-599) Cortázar (Vol. F, pp. 689-692) Fuentes (Vol. F, pp. 832-852)
Week 14 Nov 26-30	Student presentations
Week 15 Dec 3-7	Student presentations
Week 16 Dec 10-14	Final Exam