

World Literature from Antiquity to the Renaissance

ENGL 2413/101, Fall 2022

MWF 9-9:50, PY 201

Professor Kirsten Lodge

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Office: 217 Bea Wood Hall, 940-397-4363

Office Hours: MWF 12-2 and by appointment

This course is designed to introduce students to a selection of classic texts from antiquity to the Renaissance, which have been chosen for their significance in shaping the institutions, thought, literature and arts of both Western and non-Western civilizations. As we study these texts, we will develop skills and habits of close observation, analysis and argument, as well as respect for different ideas and cultures. We will discuss the importance of these texts in their cultural context; their significance in shaping cultural norms; their influence on literature and art throughout the centuries; and their meaning for us today. We will focus primarily on three skills: a firm knowledge of the content of the works; the ability to do close reading and analysis; and the ability to integrate various works through the discussion of common themes.

- Aug.** 22 Introduction
24 Homer, *The Odyssey*, Book 1
26 *The Odyssey*, Books 2-4
29 *The Odyssey*, Books 5-7
31 *The Odyssey*, Books 8-9
- Sept.** 2 *The Odyssey*, Books 10-12
5 **No Class: Labor Day**
7 *The Odyssey*, Books 13-15
9 *The Odyssey*, Books 16-18
12 *The Odyssey*, Books 19-20
14 *The Odyssey*, Books 21-22
16 *The Odyssey*, Books 23-24
19 *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (Standard Version), Tablets 1-5
21 *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablets 6-11
23 Sappho (<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Sappho.php>)
26 Euripides, *Medea*
28 Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 1
30 *The Aeneid*, Book 2
- Oct.** 3 *The Aeneid*, Books 3-4 (focus on Book 4)
5 *The Aeneid*, Books 5-6 (focus on Book 6)
7 *The Aeneid*, Books 7-8 (focus on Book 8)
10 *The Aeneid*, Books 9-10 (focus on Book 10)
12 *The Aeneid*, Books 11-12 (focus on Book 12)
14 Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Book 1, lines 1-415 (through the recreation of the human race)
Optional Midterm Paper Proposal Due

- 17 *Metamorphoses* 1.416-747, 3.131-251, 339-520 (through Io; Acteon; Narcissus)
- 19 *Metamorphoses* 4.55-166; 5.341-571; 6.1-145, 411-674 (Pyramus and Thisbe; Proserpine; Arachne; Procne and Tereus)
- 21 *Metamorphoses* 8.611-724; 10.1-297; 12.39-61 (Philemon and Baucis; from Orpheus and Eurydice through Pygmalion; Rumor)
- Midterm Paper Due**
- 24 *Metamorphoses*, 13.1-381, 740-895 (Ulysses and Ajax; Galatea and Polyphemus)
- Last day for “W”**
- 26 *Metamorphoses*, 14.621-771; 15.745-878 (Vertumnus and Pomona; ending)
- 28 Dante, *Inferno*, Canto 1-2
- 31 *Inferno*, Cantos 3-4
- Nov. 2 *Inferno*, Cantos 5-7, 11
- 4 *Inferno*, Cantos 13, 15, 17, 20
- 7 *Inferno*, Cantos 24-26
- 9 *Inferno*, Cantos 27, 33-34
- 11 Boccaccio, *Decameron*, Prologue and Introduction
- 14 *Decameron*, Day 2, Stories 7 and 10
- 16 *Decameron*, Day 3, Stories 1 and 10
- 18 *Decameron*, Day 4, Story 1; Day 5, Story 8
- 21 *Decameron*, Day 8, Story 7; Day 10, Story 10
- Close Reading Paper Due**
- 23, 25 Thanksgiving Break**
- 28 *Decameron*, Conclusion
- 30 Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, excerpts TBD
- Dec. 2 *The Book of the City of Ladies*, excerpts TBD
- 5 **Final Exam (or optional essay), 8-10 a.m.**

Course Requirements:

1. Participation (10%): Participation in class discussions will help you to understand and remember the material. It will also demonstrate that you have done the reading and improve your critical thinking and verbal communication skills. I encourage you to speak with all of your classmates and respond to one another’s ideas during discussion, rather than addressing your thoughts only to me. Please note that participation is different from attendance. Participation means **talking in class**.

2. Study Questions (30% in total): I will post study questions on D2L’s **Dropbox** for each class meeting. Please submit your response to one of the questions by 8 a.m. through the Dropbox, and be prepared to discuss the other questions as well. The questions should also serve as a guide to your reading, so you know what to look for. Your written response should be brief: between half a page and one page long, double-spaced. Most questions will consist of several parts, but you need only respond to one or two. Your responses will be graded using a rubric that I will distribute on the first day of class and post on D2L. If you have an excused absence, you may submit the assignment for the day

you missed by the day after you return to class. If you are absent and your absence is not excused, you are nevertheless responsible for submitting the day's assignment on time. ***No other late study question responses will be accepted, except as agreed upon between the student and the professor in exceptional circumstances.***

3. Two presentations (5% each): At the beginning of the semester you will sign up for two presentations. In each presentation you will elaborate on your response for at least five minutes. If you don't think you can speak for at least five minutes on your response, you may also discuss an additional study question or topic of your choice. You should then pose an open question to initiate class discussion. If you are absent on the day of your presentation and do not have a written excuse, you will get a 0 for the assignment.

5. Close Reading Paper (2-3 pages, not counting the cited text, 15%): We will be doing a lot of close reading in class, and this paper will help you to develop this skill on your own. Late papers will be marked down one third of a letter grade per day, *including weekends and holidays* (i.e., A > A-), unless you have a good reason for lateness and have preferably spoken to me about it beforehand. Note: 2-3 pages means a minimum of two full pages.

6. Midterm Paper (2-3 pages; 15%): I will give you a list of topics for your paper. The paper will be comparative: you will be asked to compare a theme in at least three works we have read so far. If your grade to date is an A, you may choose instead to write a paper on a topic of your choice. If you would like to do this, please submit a brief proposal by **Oct. 14**. The paper is due on **Oct. 21**, and the same late paper policy applies.

7. Final Exam (20%): The final will include a close reading drawn from any of the books we have read this semester and an essay topic on the books we have read since the midterm. If your grade to date is an A, you may choose to write a 3-4 page paper rather than taking the test. If this is what you would like to do, please submit a brief paper proposal one week before the exam date.

8. Attendance. You must attend class to help you master and contextualize the material. You are permitted two unexcused absences. Absences will be excused only on the basis of a note from a doctor, dean, military official, or coach. Your final grade will be lowered by one point for each unexcused absence in excess of the two permitted unexcused absences. In addition, three "lates" will add up to one unexcused absence.

Course Policies:

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, including on the daily assignments. If you plagiarize on any assignments or papers, or engage in any other form of academic dishonesty as defined by the MSU Student Handbook and the Academic Dishonesty Policy (distributed in class and available on D2L), ***you will get an F in the course and disciplinary proceedings will be initiated.*** Other forms of academic dishonesty include, for instance, forging doctor's notes and lying to the professor.

Midterm Progress Report: I will submit a Midterm Progress Report to your WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on your transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. Students earning below a C at the midway point will receive an email from Tutoring and Academic Support.

Books: Please bring your books to class to consult them during class discussion and for close reading practice.

Cell Phones: No cell phones should be visible in class at any time! If I see you use your cell phone during class, you may be marked late or absent without any warning. You may not leave class to use your cell phone except under exceptional circumstances, of which you have informed me beforehand. You may not use your cell phone during the final exam. The same policy applies to iPods and other electronic devices. Exception: if you wish to read the text from your cell phone or another device, please inform me beforehand.

Food: In accordance with the building policy, you may bring only bottled water to class.

Computers: No computers are permitted in class unless you are using it to consult the text during class. If this is the case, please inform me beforehand.

Attention: Please be alert and do not lay your head down on your desk during class, or I may mark you late or absent without warning.

Class Dismissal: Please do not start to pack up your things or leave until I have dismissed the class. If you believe I have gone over the allotted time, please raise your hand and let me know.

Email Communication: The only way I can communicate with you outside of class is through D2L email. You should set up D2L so that D2L emails are delivered to your email account. *You are responsible* for checking your email or D2L daily for any reminders, clarifications, or other communications from me.

Safe Zone Statement: This classroom is a “safe zone” in which all students will be treated and will treat one another equally, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is encouraged.

REPEATED AND/OR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF ANY OF THESE POLICIES WILL RESULT IN A LOWERED GRADE WITHOUT WARNING, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR GRADE IS BORDERLINE.

Other Important Information:

Office Hours: My office hours are given above, and I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have, whether they are about the texts we are reading, assignments, exams, absences, or anything else—or you may just come by to talk. If you can't make my office hours, we can make an appointment.

D2L: Study questions, handouts, and additional course-related material, required or recommended, will be posted on D2L.

Academic Accommodations: If you require special accommodations, please contact Disability Support Service, 168 Clark Student Center, 397-4140, at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Arrangements cannot be applied retroactively.

Required Texts (available at the College Bookstore or Amazon, and on reserve at the library):

THE ODYSSEY (Harper, tr. Lattimore)
THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH (Penguin, tr. George)
THE BOOK OF THE CITY OF LADIES (Penguin, tr. Brown-Grant)
MEDEA (Euripides I, U of Chicago, tr. Warner)
THE AENEID (Bantam, tr. Mandelbaum)
METAMORPHOSES (Penguin, tr. Raeburn)
INFERNO (Bantam, tr. Mandelbaum)

You must use these editions! Translations vary widely, and there are a lot of really bad translations out there—especially on the Internet!

Writing Center: Take advantage of the MSU Writing Center, located off the 2nd floor atrium of Prothro-Yeager! Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

Research and Creative Activity Opportunities at MSU

Enhancing Undergraduate Research Endeavors and Creative Activities (EURECA) is a program that provides opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research and creative activities with faculty. EURECA provides incentives and funding through a system that supports faculty and students in a cooperative research process. For more information contact the Office of Undergraduate Research, (940) 397-6275 or by sending a message to eureca@mwsu.edu or better yet, stop by the UGR office located in the atrium of the Clark Student Center, room 161. Information and resources are available at www.mwsu.edu/eureca. I myself am seeking a student to collaborate with next semester on a critical edition of Lev Tolstoy's *Hadji Murat*, a novel about the Russian conquest of the Caucasus. Please contact me if you might be interested.