

World Literature II: From the Enlightenment to the Present Syllabus and Course Schedule

Course: ENGL 2423
Section: 202
Place: PY 203
Time: 2:00-3:20 TR

Instructor: Dr. John Schulze
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Office Hours: TR- 11:00- 12:30; W- 11:00-1:00; or by appointment

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to a selection of texts from the Enlightenment to the present, which have been chosen for their outstanding cultural and historical significance, as well as for their thematic emphasis on justice. 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 also examine various views on issues of justice, good and evil, sin, crime, and punishment. In addition, we will discuss the importance of these texts in their cultural context; their significance in shaping cultural norms; their influence on literature, art, and the performing arts; 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.

TRIGGER WARNING: If you feel you may have difficulty discussing any particular subject matter due to emotional trauma, please see me at the beginning of the semester to discuss your concerns and arrange alternative assignments if necessary. Some of the books contain controversial topics and adult situations, including violence, rape, and racial discrimination.

Core Objectives for LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE

- **Critical Thinking-** assessed by the Close Reading rubric applied to the Close Reading Paper
- **Communication-** assessed by the Close Reading rubric applied to the Close Reading Paper
- **Personal Responsibility-** assessed by the Writing Responses rubric applied to Responses
- **Social Responsibility-** assessed by the Close Reading rubric applied to the Close Reading Paper

Required Course Texts: You MUST use the starred editions.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Anchor Books, 2017.

Coetzee, J. M. *Disgrace*. Penguin, 2008.

Chekhov, Anton. *Anton Chekhov's Selected Stories*, 2014.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*. Norton Critical Editions, 1997.

*Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. *Faust, Part I*. Oxford, 2008.

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis*.

*Voltaire. *Candide*. Norton Critical Edition, 2nd or 3rd ed., 1991 or 2016.

Movies

Europa Europa, Directed by Agnieszka Holland

Persepolis, Directed by Vincent Paronnaud and Marjane Satrapi

Course Assignments:

- 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 participating in class discussions by actually talking.
- 2. Daily Responses (30% in total):** For each class meeting, I will post a list of study questions on the reading for the day on D2L. During the first fifteen minutes of class, you will hand-write a response to one of my questions. Your response should have your name at the top left corner, should be on lined paper, skipping a line, between each written line—double spaced—and should be no longer than one page. When I leave feedback on your assignments it is meant to help you improve your responses in the future. Each response will receive a (✓ -: 70), (✓ : 82), (✓ +: 92), or (U: 50). Grades are based on 1. Cogently responding to one of the questions; 2. Engagement with the text in your response; 3. Clarity of your sentences, illustrating grammatically proper written English; and 4. Adherence to formatting guidelines. Responses that fall short on all four criteria will receive a (U). No study question written outside of the classroom will be accepted. Each student is allowed five unexcused absences, so you can miss five responses without consequence.
- 3. Presentations (20%):** At the beginning of the semester you will sign up for two presentations. In each presentation, you will offer your response to the assigned reading for that day. At the end of the five minute presentation, pose an open question to initiate class discussion. If you are absent on the day of your presentation without an acceptable explanation, you will get a 0 for the assignment. On days that a student presents, they will be excused from the in-class daily responses.
- 4. In Class Close Reading (Bring a Blue Book: 20%):** We will be doing a lot of close reading in class, so by the time we get to this exam, you should have a clear idea of and this paper will help you to develop this skill on your own. The exam is on **March 31**.
- 5. Final Exam (Bring a Blue Book: 20%):** The final will be held on **May 15**, and it will include a close reading and a thematic essay topic. Students with an B+ average (88+) may choose to write a 4-5 page paper instead of taking the exam. If you choose this option, you must submit a brief topic proposal by **April 30**.

Course Policies

- **Attendance.** You must attend class to help you master and contextualize the material. You are permitted five absences. If you are absent, you are responsible for all material covered during that class section. Repeated lateness will also add up to an absence: three tardies will be counted as one absence.
- **Plagiarism, Academic Dishonesty, and AI:** Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, including on the daily assignments. If you deliberately plagiarize on any assignments or papers, or engage in any other form of academic dishonesty as defined by the MSU Student Handbook and the course Academic Dishonesty Policy (distributed in class and available on D2L), ***you will get an F in the course and disciplinary proceedings will be initiated. There will be no second chances!*** Other forms of academic dishonesty include, for instance, forging doctor's notes and/or lying to the professor.
- **Cellphones:** No cellphones should be visible in class at any time! If you try to hide your phone under your desk or behind your bag, don't think I won't see it. If I see you use your cellphone during class, you may be marked late or absent without any warning. You may not leave class to use your cellphone 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.
- **Food:** You may bring beverages to class if it has a lid, but please do not eat while class is in session.
- **Computers:** You may bring your computer to class only to consult the texts we are discussing (e-texts). If you do so, you must inform me before the class starts. If you use your computer for any other purpose during class, you may be marked late or absent without warning.
- **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.
- **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.

Course Schedule

(This schedule is subject to revision if needed)

Week 1

- 1/20- Introductions and Syllabus Distribution
Close-Reading Strategies
- 1/22- **Read:** Voltaire, *Candide* (1759), Ch. 1-3

Week 2

- 1/27- **Read:** *Candide*, Ch. 4-13
- 1/29- **Read:** *Candide*, Ch. 14-18

Week 3

- 2/3- **Read:** *Candide*, Ch. 19-30
- 2/5- **Read:** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust: Part I* (1808), Scenes 1-6 (through *Prologue in Heaven*; you may skip Scene 1, skim or even skip Scene 2, but focus on Scene 3-6)

Week 4

- 2/10- **Read:** *Faust*, Scenes 7-16 (through *A Summerhouse*)
- 2/12- **Read:** *Faust*, Scenes 17-23 (through *A Cathedral*)

Week 5

- 2/17- **Read:** *Faust*, Scenes 24-28 (through the end; skip *Walpurgis Night's Dream*)
- 2/19- **Read:** *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845), 3-38 (Preface-Ch. VIII)

Week 6

- 2/24- **Read:** *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, 39-80
- 2/26- **Read:** Anton Chekhov's- "The Lady and the Dog" & "Oysters"

Week 7

- 3/3- **Read:** Anton Chekhov's "A Doctor's Visit" & "Rothschild's Fiddle"
- 3/5- **Read:** Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*, 1915, Section I

Week 8- No Class: Spring Break 3/9-3/13

Week 9-

3/17- **Read:** *The Metamorphosis*, Section II & III

3/19- **View:** *Europa Europa*

Week 10

3/24- **View:** *Europa Europa*

3/26- **No Class; I'll be at a conference**

Week 11

3/31- **Close Reading Paper- In class exam**

4/2- **Easter Break- No Class**

Week 12

4/7- **Read:** Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985), Ch. 1-9

4/9- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, Ch. 10-14

Week 13

4/14- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, Ch. 15-24

4/16- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, Ch. 25-30

Week 14

4/21- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, 31- 46 and *Historical Notes*

4/23- **Read:** J. M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (1999), Ch. 1-8

Week 15

4/28- **Read:** *Disgrace*, Ch. 9-16

4/29- LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITH "W" (WITHDRAWAL) GRADE

4/30- **Read:** *Disgrace*, Ch. 17-24

Due: Optional Final Paper Proposal

Week 16

5/5- **View:** *Persepolis*

5/7- **View:** *Persepolis*

Final Exam- Tuesday, May 12- 3:30 – 5:30 in our regular room