

World Literature from the Enlightenment to the Present
Summer Session I (June 3-July 5, 2019)
ENGL 2423, MTWR 10:10-12:10, PY 204

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This course is designed to introduce students to a selection of modern 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, and 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, or as soon as possible, to discuss your concerns and arrange alternative assignments if necessary. Some of the books contain controversial topics and adult situations, such as violence and rape.

- June** 3 Introduction; Voltaire, *Candide* (1759), ch. 1
4 *Candide*, ch. 2-18
5 *Candide*, ch. 19-30
6 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust*, Part I (1808), Parts 1-6 (through *Faust's Study (I)*)
10 *Faust*, Parts 7-19 (through *Martha's Garden*)
11 *Faust*, Parts 20-24 and 26-28 (through the end, skip *Walpurgis Night's Dream*)
12 Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845)
13 Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground* (1864), Part I
17 *Notes from the Underground*, Part II
18 Frank Kafka, *The Trial* (1925), pp. 1-39
19 *The Trial*, pp. 40-118
20 *The Trial*, pp. 119-65
Last Day for "W"
24 Albert Camus, *The Stranger* (1942)
Close Reading Paper Due
25 Gabriel García Márquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1981)
26 J. M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (1999), ch. 1-6
27 *Disgrace*, ch. 7-15
Optional Final Paper Topic Proposal Due
July 1 *Disgrace*, ch. 16-24
2 Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis 2* (2002), pp. 92-137
3 *Persepolis 2*, pp. 138-87
5 ***Final Exam***

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. Daily Assignments (35%): For each class meeting, I will post one question on the readings on D2L under **Dropbox**. In your response, you should answer my question and pose one discussion question of your own. Your response should be about one page long, double spaced, and your question should not be a yes/no or a factual question, but an open-ended question that you believe will stimulate class discussion. Each assignment must be submitted online by 9 a.m. on the day of the class. Please write or copy your response in the Comments section on D2L in addition to uploading it (or any other file), so that I may copy and paste from it when I give you feedback. I may use your discussion questions in class anonymously. You must look at your grades and read my responses to your assignments—they are for you, and I will give you feedback on how to improve your responses in the future. If you have any questions about your feedback or would like additional feedback, make an appointment to see me. You will receive grades for your responses based on a rubric distributed on the first day of class and posted on D2L. If you have an excused absence, you may submit the assignment late. 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.***

3. Presentation (10%): At the beginning of the semester you will sign up for one presentation. You will be expected first to elaborate on your response to the question for the day, briefly discuss something else that interested you in the reading for the day, and pose at least one open-ended question to initiate class discussion. Your presentation should be 5-10 minutes long, and will be graded based on the rubric distributed in class and posted on D2L.

4. 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. The paper is due on **June 24**. Late papers will be marked down one third of a letter grade per day (i.e., A > A-), including weekends and holidays, unless you have a good reason for lateness and have preferably spoken to me about it beforehand.

5. Final Exam or Paper (30%): The final will be a comparative thematic essay. Students with an average of A or above as of June 26 may choose to write a 3-4 page paper instead of taking the exam. If you choose this option, you must submit a topic proposal by **June 27**.

6. Attendance. You must attend class to help you master and contextualize the material. You are permitted two unexcused absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of a note from a doctor, dean, military official, or coach. If you believe that your absence should be excused but you do not have a note, you must see me in person and explain your absence. Your explanation must be more detailed than "I didn't feel well" or "I was sick." I will then tell you whether your absence is excused. Having to work does not constitute an excused absence. ***Communication is essential:*** if you do not explain your absence to me immediately before or after, it will not be excused. 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 count as an unexcused absence. If you miss class, you are nonetheless responsible for everything covered that day.

Please check your grades online regularly and let me know if you have any questions.

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 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, working with others on assignments, and lying to the professor.

Cellphones: No cellphones should be visible in class at any time, unless you are consulting an etext (in which case you should inform me of this before class), or we are using them during class to look up information. If you use your cellphone for any other purpose during class, you may be marked late or absent without warning.

Food: You may bring beverages to class, 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 (etexts). 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.

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: I will communicate with you through email. You are responsible for checking your email 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:

D2L: Handouts, links, and PowerPoints 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 on Amazon and **on reserve at the library**). *Asterisks indicate that you must use that edition.*

Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*. Everyman's Library, 1993.

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

*Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Notes from the Underground*. Broadview, 2014.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Dover, 1995.

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

*Kafka, Franz. *The Trial*. Oxford, 2009.

Márquez, Gabriel García. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*. Vintage, 2003.

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return*. Pantheon, 2004.

*Voltaire. *Candide*. Norton Critical Edition, 1991.