



Course Syllabus

World Literature I: From Antiquity to the Renaissance

College of Arts & Sciences
ENGL 2413, Section 102
MWF 11-11:50, Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Course Description

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 mostly Western institutions, thought, literature, and arts. 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 contexts; 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. We will be using *The Norton Anthology of World Literature* and Norton's online resources, which are accessible through D2L.

Students will work on a semester-long project on the *Odyssey*, which includes a 3-5 page paper and a final presentation. We will experiment with AI in the writing process. In the revision stage, we will use the free pilot program MyEssayFeedback.ai. Use this [registration link](#).

Note: There is no university- or college-wide statement on AI use at MSU. Individual instructors make their own policies. Be sure that you understand whether/how AI may be used in each of your classes.

Core Objectives for LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE

- **Critical Thinking-** assessed by the Writing Rubric applied to the Final Paper
- **Communication-** assessed by the Writing Rubric and the Presentation Rubric applied to the Final Paper
- **Personal Responsibility-** assessed by the Writing Responses rubric applied to In-Class Writing Responses
- **Social Responsibility-** assessed by the Writing Rubric rubric applied to the Final Paper

Grading

Course Requirements	Weight
Participation	5%
In-Class Writing	15%
Quizzes	10%
AI Assignment 1 (Role-Playing)	5%
AI Assignment 2 (Brainstorming)	5%
AI Assignment 3 (Conference Questions)	5%
Peer Review (on D2L)	10%
AI Assignment 4 (AI Review)	5%
Draft of Final Paper	5%
Final Paper	15%
AI Assignment 5 (Final Presentation)	10%
AI Assignment 6 (Final Reflection)	10%

Course Requirements

1. Participation: It is essential that you participate in class discussion and activities to help you understand and master the material we cover. Please note that participation is different from attendance. Participation means talking in class.

2. In-Class Writing: At the beginning of most classes, I will give you a brief question on or a quotation from one of the texts assigned for the day to respond to. These are low-stakes assignments, and your grade for these reflections will be check plus, check, check minus, or X, which will be entered in D2L as 100, 85, 75, or 0. Your response should demonstrate critical thinking and an understanding of the text. Spelling and grammar will not count. The number of in-class writings as listed in the Gradebook may be subject to modification.

3. Quizzes: You will have frequent, brief quizzes on your reading for the day on D2L. In most cases, you will have thirty minutes to complete each quiz, and you will be allowed two attempts. Quizzes are due by 11 a.m. on the day of the relevant class.

4. Class Project: You will work on a project on the *Odyssey* in several stages, as follows. See the Assignment Sheet for detailed instructions for AI-related assignments:

a) AI Assignment 1 (Role-Playing).

b) AI Assignment 2 (Brainstorming).

c) AI Assignment 3 (Conference Questions).

d) Rough draft peer review: You will post a rough draft to a forum on D2L for peer review, and comment substantively on at least three other students' papers. Note: we will be using the PAIRR approach developed by the University of California Davis for your papers: after students have written a draft, they get both peer feedback (P) and AI feedback (AI), then reflect (R) and revise (R) before getting instructor feedback.

d) AI Assignment 4 (AI review). Use this [registration link](#) for MyEssayFeedback.ai.

e) Rough draft: You will submit a rough draft through D2L, and I will provide feedback.

f) Final paper: You will revise your paper with the help of my feedback and submit it through D2L.

g) AI Assignment 5 (Presentation).

h) Final Reflection.

Late Work

Late assignments 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.

Make-Up Work

If you miss an in-class writing, you may make it up in my office within one week of your return to class (or longer if you make special arrangements with me). You must take the initiative to schedule a time with me in person or by email to make up an assignment.

Attendance

You must attend class to help you master and contextualize the material. You are permitted three unexcused absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of a note from a doctor, dean, military official, or coach. However, if you believe you have a good reason for missing class but are unable to get a written excuse, please let me know, and if your excuse is valid, I will excuse you.

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 unless you provide me with a valid reason for lateness.

Any student with more than four absences for any reason may be dropped from the course.

Instructor Class Policies

Individual Assistance: I will be more than happy to meet with you during my office hours or at a time arranged in advance to discuss anything at all.

Cellphones: You may not use your cellphone in class except to consult the texts we are discussing, or to google a question we cannot answer. If I see you using a cellphone or a computer in class for any other reason, I may give you an unexcused absence for the day without warning.

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

Computers: You may not use a computer in class except to consult the text.

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 D2L email. You should set up D2L so that D2L emails are delivered to your preferred 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 online course 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.

Extra Credit

In the interest of fairness, I generally do not give extra credit assignments because some students may be unable to attend extracurricular events. If the occasion arises, I may give an extra credit writing assignment that everyone can do.

Important Dates

- Deadline to file for December graduation: Sept. 21
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": Nov. 23
- See also: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Recording Classes

Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission. Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from

librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

MSU Policies

See the [Student Handbook](#)

College Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#).

Note: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Aug. 24 Introduction

26 Why Literature Matters; AI Discussion

Before Class: Watch the five short videos on D2L about why literature matters and the one on active reading; read "An Introduction to Thoughtful Reading and Annotation"

28 Further AI Discussion

31 Introduction to Homer and the *Odyssey*, *The Odyssey*, Book 1

Before Class: Watch "The Homeric Poems and Greek History"; listen to "Among the Ancients: *The Odyssey*"

Sept. 2 *The Odyssey*, Books 2-4

4 *The Odyssey*, Books 5-7

7 No Class: Labor Day

9 *The Odyssey*, Books 8-9

11 *The Odyssey*, Books 10-12

14 *The Odyssey*, Books 13-15

16 *The Odyssey*, Books 16-18

18 Close Reading Workshop

21 *The Odyssey*, Books 19-20

23 *The Odyssey*, Books 21-22

25 *The Odyssey*, Books 23-24

28 *Epic of Gilgamesh* Introduction, Tablet 1 (Standard Version)

30 Role-Playing and Discussion of Ideas

Role-Playing Assignment and Reflection Due (Assignment 1)

Oct. 2 *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablets 2-6

5 *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablets 7-11

Brainstorming Assignment and Reflection Due (Assignment 2)

7 Introduction to Greek Drama

Before Class: Watch the four videos on ancient Greek drama

Proposal Due

9 Euripides, *Medea*

12 Catullus, poems; Translation Lab

14 In-Class Writing

16 Ovid Introduction, *Metamorphoses*, Book 1, lines 1-88 (through the creation of the cosmos)

19 *Metamorphoses*, Book 1, lines 1-88 (through the recreation of the human race)

21 *Metamorphoses* 1.89-747, 3.131-251, 339-520 (through Io; Acteon; Narcissus)

23 Close Reading Workshop

26 *Metamorphoses* 4.55-166; 5.341-571; 6.1-145, 411-674 (Pyramus and Thisbe; Proserpine; Arachne; Procne and Tereus)

28 *Metamorphoses* 8.611-724; 10.1-297; 12.39-61 (Philemon and Baucis; from Orpheus and Eurydice through Pygmalion; Rumor)

**"Conference Presentation" Assignment and Reflection Due
(Assignment 3)**

30 *Metamorphoses*, 13.1-381, 740-895 (Ulysses and Ajax; Galatea and Polyphemus)

Nov. 2 *Metamorphoses*, 14.621-771; 15.745-878 (Vertumnus and Pomona; ending)

4 Introduction to Dante

Post Draft on D2L for Peer Review

6 Dante, *Inferno*, Canto 1-2

9 *Inferno*, Cantos 3-4

11 Translation Lab

Peer Review Due

13 *Inferno*, Cantos 5-7, 11

16 *Inferno*, Cantos 13, 15, 17, 20

AI Review and Reflection Due (Assignment 4)

18 *Inferno*, Cantos 24-26

20 *Inferno*, Cantos 27, 33-34

23 Introduction to Boccaccio

Draft Due

25 *Decameron*, Day 2, Story 10; Day 3, Story 1

27 Thanksgiving Break

30 *Decameron*, Day 4, Story 1; Day 5, Story 8

Dec. 2 *Decameron*, Day 8, Story 7; Day 10, Story 10

4 *Decameron*, Conclusion of Day 10 and Author's Epilogue

Final Paper Due

7 10:30-12:30 Presentations

8 Final Reflections Due