

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

**Course:** ENGL 2423  
**Section:** 202  
**Place:** PY 209  
**Time:** 12:30-1:50 TR

**Instructor:** Dr. John Schulze  
**Office:** Bea Wood Hall 212  
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**Office Hours:** TR- 10:00- 11:00; W- 10:00-1:00; 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:** (available at the bookstore or Amazon)

You **MUST** use the starred editions.

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

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

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

Chekhov, Anton. *The Seagull*. (Full text available online; I'll share a link)

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*. (e-book version).

\*Voltaire. *Candide*. Norton Critical Edition, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1991 or 2016.

### **Movies**

*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 talking in class.
- 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 under **Dropbox**. In your response, you should answer at least one of my questions. If I group several questions together, you may choose to respond to only one of them. Your assignment must be submitted online by one hour before class, and it should be  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  page in length, double spaced. You must look at your grades and read my feedback on your assignments—it is for you, and it is meant to help you improve your responses in the future. You will receive grades for your responses based on a rubric distributed on the first day of class and posted on D2L. No late study question responses will be accepted, except as negotiated individually with me in the event of special circumstances.
- 3. Presentations (10%):** At the beginning of the semester you will sign up for a presentation. In the presentation you will elaborate on your response for about five minutes. If you don't think you can speak for at least five minutes on your response, you may also discuss an additional 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 without an acceptable explanation, you will get a 0 for the assignment.
- 4. Close Reading (3-4 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 **March 21**. 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 spoken to me about it beforehand.
- 5. Take-Home Essay (3-4 pages, 15%):** The take-home essay will be a comparative thematic paper. It is due on **Feb. 28**. If you have an A average and you prefer to write a paper on your own topic, please submit a brief, informal proposal by **Feb. 23**.
- 6. Final Exam (20%):** The final will be held on **May 15**, and it will include a close reading and an 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, informal topic proposal by **April 24**.

## 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, working with others on assignments, and 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, 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.
- **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 regular university email. Please use the address provided at the top of this syllabus. 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.
- **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

1/21- Introductions and Syllabus Distribution  
Close-Reading Strategies

1/23- **Read:** Voltaire, *Candide* (1759), ch. 1-3

### Week 2

1/28- **Read:** *Candide*, chs. 4-13

1/30- **Read:** *Candide*, chs. 14-18

### Week 3

2/4- **Read:** *Candide*, chs. 19-30

2/6- **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

2/11- **Read:** *Faust*, Scenes 7-16 (through *A Summerhouse*)

2/13- **Read:** *Faust*, Scenes 17-23 (through *A Cathedral*)

### Week 5

2/18- **Read:** *Faust*, Scenes 24-28 (through the end; skip *Walpurgis Night's Dream*)

2/20- **Read:** *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845), 3-38 (Preface-Ch. VIII)

### Week 6

2/25- **Read:** *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, 39-80 (through the end)

2/27- **Read:** Anton Chekhov's, *The Seagull*. Read through Act I

2/28- **DUE: Take-Home Essay – submit to dropbox on D2L by 10:00 PM**

### Week 7

3/4- **Read:** *The Seagull*. Read Act II & III

3/6- **Read:** *The Seagull*. Read Act IV

**Week 8- No Class: Spring Break 3/9-3/15**

**Week 9-**

3/11- **Read:** Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*, 1915, Section I

3/13- **Read:** *The Metamorphosis*, Section II

**Week 10**

3/18- **Read:** *The Metamorphosis*, Section III

3/20- **Read:** *The Metamorphosis*, General discussion of responses

3/21- **Due: Close Reading Paper – submit to dropbox on D2L by 10:00 PM**

**Week 11**

3/25- **Read:** Albert Camus, *The Stranger* (1942), Part I

3/27- **Read:** *The Stranger*, Part II

**Week 12**

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

4/3- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, Ch. 10-14

**Week 13**

4/8- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, Ch. 15-24

4/10- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, Ch. 25-30

**Week 14**

4/15- **Read:** *The Handmaid's Tale*, 31- 46 and *Historical Notes*

4/17- **No Class; I'll be at a conference**

**Week 15**

4/22- **Read:** J. M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (1999), ch. 1-6

4/24- **Read:** *Disgrace*, ch. 7-13

**Due: Optional Final Paper Proposal**

**Week 16**

4/29- **Read:** *Disgrace*, ch. 14-18

4/30- **LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITH "W" (WITHDRAWAL) GRADE**

5/1 **Read:** *Disgrace*, ch. 19-24

**Week 17**

5/6- **View:** *Persepolis*

5/8- **View:** *Persepolis*

**Final Exam- Thursday, May 15- 10:30 – 12:30** in our regular room