ENG 2601-002: Backgrounds of Western Literature

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ENGLISH 2601-002
BACKGROUND OF WESTERN LITERATURE
SPRING TERM, 2000
COLEMAN HALL 310

Instructor: Jeffrey Lynch, Associate Dean
            College of Arts & Humanities

Office: FAM 219 (east wing of the Fine Arts building)
        Office of the Dean, College of Arts & Humanities

Office Hours: I'm usually in my office, and my door is always open to
             you if you want to just drop in. However, if there is a best
time for you, simply call to make an appointment with
             my secretary.

Office Phone: 581-2917
Home Phone: 345-3360
e-mail: cfjpl@eiu.edu

TEXTS:

    The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, eds. Maynard Mack, et
    al., 6th ed., vol. 1
    The Iliad of Homer, trans. Richmond Lattimore
    The Aeneid of Virgil, trans. Robert Fitzgerald

ESSAYS:

    Five (5) short (ca. 3 pp.) essays will be required. Topics will be generated
by class discussion and readings.

    Nota Bene: Essays are to be submitted on the assigned day. Under only
the most extraordinary circumstances (e.g., plague, war, act of God) will a
late assignment be accepted. Creative excuses, while perhaps appreciated
for their originality, most probably will be ignored.

EXAMINATIONS:

    Two (2) examinations (one hourly exam and a final) will be required. The
hourly exams will consist of two parts. The first part, written in-class, will
consist of identifications and short essay questions. The second part, written out-of-class, will consist of a more substantial essay.

ATTENDANCE:

My attendance policy is pretty straightforward: I expect you to attend every class and to come to class prepared with questions and that you be appropriately caffeinated.

GRADES:

Examinations: 20% x 2 40%
Essays 10% x 5 50%
Participation 10% 10%

CONFERENCES:

I don't require conferences in a course like this, but I do encourage them if you are having any trouble with the readings, if you are having any difficulties following/participating in class discussions, if you are unsure about the level of your performance in the class, but especially if you just want to pursue ideas that we simply don't have time for in class. Frequently, as you know, more learning takes place outside of the classroom than within it. Come see me if you want to chat informally.

SYLLABUS

Tu, January 11: Introductory Remarks: Purpose and Scope
Th, January 13: Genesis: Chapters 1-3 (Creation)
Tu, January 18: Genesis: Chapter 3 (Adam & Eve)
Chapter 22 (Abraham and Isaac)
Th, January 20: The Book of Job ESSAY #1 DUE
Tu, January 25: Iliad: Introduction and Book I
Th, January 27: Iliad: Books II-IV
Tu, February 1: Iliad: Books V-VIII
Th, February 3:  Iliad: Book IX
Tu, February 8:  Iliad: Books X-XV
Th, February 10:  Iliad: Books XVI-XVIII  ESSAY #2 DUE
Tu, February 15:  Iliad: Books XIX-XXII
Th, February 17:  Iliad: Books XXIII-XXIV
Tu, February 22:  EXAMINATION #1
Th, February 24:  Aeschylus, Agamemnon
Introduction to the Greek Theatre
Tu, February 29:  Aeschylus, Agamemnon
Sophocles, Oedipus the King
Th, March 2:  Sophocles, Oedipus the King  (Mid-Term)
Tu, March 7:  Sophocles, Antigone
Th, March 9:  Euripides, Medea  ESSAY #3 DUE
Tu, March 21:  Aeneid: Introduction and Book I
Th, March 23:  Aeneid: Books I-II
Tu, March 28:  Aeneid: Books III-IV
Th, March 30:  Aeneid: Books V-VI
Tu, April 4:  Aeneid: Books VII-IX  ESSAY #4 DUE
Th, April 6:  Aeneid: Books X-XII
Tu, April 11:  Aeneid: Overview
Th, April 13:  Inferno: Cantos I-VI  (Circles 1-3)
Tu, April 18:  Inferno: Cantos VII-XI  (Circles 4-6)
Th, April 20:  Inferno: Cantos XII-XXX  (Circles 7-8)  ESSAY #5 DUE
Tu, April 25:  Inferno: Cantos XXXI-XXXIV  (Circle 9)
Th, April 27:  Course Overview
May 3--May 7:  FINAL EXAMINATIONS