

Fall 8-15-2011

ENG 2601-001: Backgrounds In Western Literature

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Backgrounds in Western Literature
English 2601, Section 001, MWF 9:00-9:50, CH 3170

Prof. Caldwell
Email: mcaldwell@eiu.edu
Office: CH 3050
Hours: MWF 10-11, W 12-1, and by appt.

Texts

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*
Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
Desiderius Erasmus, *The Praise of Folly* (in *The Essential Erasmus*)
Homer, *The Odyssey*
Christopher Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*
Michel de Montaigne, *The Essays: A Selection*
Thomas More, *Utopia*
Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*
Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*
Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene, Book 2*
Vergil, *The Aeneid*

Course Expectations and Policies

Often the reading of this course will ask us to confront ways of thinking and viewing the world extremely different from our own, and in some instances the writings and ideas we encounter will be very challenging. I am absolutely committed to your success in this course, but ultimately you are responsible for your own education. Do not allow yourself to get behind in the course and do not ignore any difficulties that you are experiencing. You should consult with me early and often about your papers or any difficulties you are experiencing with the reading. I am happy to help at all stages of your writing process—from working through difficult passages to developing your thesis to constructing and/or revising drafts. In short, when you need help, be proactive and seek it out.

In order to succeed in this class it is *absolutely essential* for you do the reading, attend class regularly with your text in hand, and take notes. Much of the material on the exams will come directly from class lectures and discussion. Be forewarned that students who do not practice good reading and note taking skills typically do not pass exams. I reserve the right to raise or lower final grades on the basis of active, consistent class participation or poor attendance, respectively. Expect your grade to drop 1/3 a letter grade for each additional absence after your 6th absence.

Plagiarists will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and will fail the course. If you are confused about plagiarism, you must ask me about it before you turn in an assignment. Successful completion of English 1002 is a prerequisite for all upper level English courses. Enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement to the state of affairs outlined in this course policy and in the schedule of readings below.

Grades

6 of 10 short (2-4 page) essays, one of which must be on either Homer or Vergil	30%
Midterm (Monday, Oct. 17)	15%
Final exam (Tuesday, Dec. 13, 8:00-10:00 a.m)	25%
Final Paper (10-12 pages)	30%

Course Calendar

M 8/22 Course Introduction

I. Greek and Roman Epics

W 8/24 Beginnings: Lucretius (handout), Genesis (handout), Ovid, Book 1
F 8/26 Ovid

M 8/29 Ovid
W 8/31 Homer, Books 1-3, paper due date 1 (Ovid)
F 9/2 Homer, Books 4-6

M 9/5 Labor Day—No Class
W 9/7 Homer, Books 7-12
F 9/9 Homer, Books 13-15

M 9/12 Homer, Books, 16-18
W 9/14 Homer, Books 19-21
F 9/16 Homer, Books 22-24

M 9/19 Vergil, Books 1-2, paper due date 2 (Homer)
W 9/21 Vergil, Books 3-4
F 9/23 Vergil, Books 5-6

M 9/26 Vergil, Books 7-8
W 9/28 Vergil, Books 9-10
F 9/30 Vergil, Books 11-12

II. Ancient Comedy and Tragedy

M 10/3 Sophocles, paper due date 3 (Vergil)
W 10/5 Sophocles
F 10/7 Sophocles

M 10/10 Aristophanes, paper due date 4 (Sophocles)
W 10/12 Aristophanes
10/14 Fall Break—No Class

M 10/17 **Midterm**, paper due date 5 (Aristophanes)

III. Satire, Parody, and Critique

W 10/19 Pindar, Horace, Juvenal (handout)
F 10/21 More, part 1

M 10/24 More, part 2
W 10/26 Erasmus, paper due date 6 (More)
F 10/28 Erasmus

M 10/31 Class choice: Discuss *Volpone* or begin Cervantes, paper due date 7 (Erasmus)
W 11/2 Cervantes
F 11/4 No Class, conferences

M 11/7 Cervantes, paper due date 8 (Cervantes)

IV. Ethics, Allegory, and Ways of Reading

W 11/9 Augustine (handout), Spenser's letter to Raleigh, FQ canto 1

F 11/11 Spenser, cantos 2-3

M 11/14 Spenser, cantos 4-6

W 11/16 Spenser, cantos 7-9

F 11/18 Spenser, cantos 10-12, paper due date 9 (Spenser)

M-F 11/21 - 11/25 Thanksgiving Break—No Class

V. Subjectivity and the Self: Psychomachia and the Essay

M 11/28 Marlowe, Acts 1-2

W 11/30 Marlowe, Acts 3-4

F 12/2 Marlowe, Act 5

M 12/5 Seneca (handout), paper due date 10 (Marlowe)

W 12/7 Montaigne

F 12/9 Montaigne, course evaluations, final paper due