

Fall 8-15-2005

# ENG 2601-001: Backgrounds of the Western Literature

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2601-001

**English 2601.001: Backgrounds of the Western Literature**  
Fall 2005

Instructor: **David Raybin**

Office: **324 Coleman Hall**

Office Hours: **Tu 9:30-11:30; W 9-10, 11-12** (and by appointment)

Telephone: **581-6980** (office); **330/678-2628** (home, weekends before 8:30)

Electronic Mail: **cfdbr@eiu.edu**

**Texts:** Bloch and Bloch, trans., *The Song of Songs*  
Boccaccio, *Decameron*  
Chrétien de Troyes, *The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes*  
Homer, *The Iliad*  
Marie de France, *The Lais of Marie de France*  
Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*  
Wilkie and Hurt, *Literature of the Western World*, Vol. 1, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

August 23: Introduction to the Course

**I. The Ancient World: Greece, Israel, and Rome**

25: Homer, *The Iliad*, Bk 1; Bk 2.1-521; Bks 3-5

Sept. 30: *The Iliad*, Bk 6; Bk 8.1-70 & 502-end; Bks 9-10; Bk 11.633-end  
1: *The Iliad*, Bk 14.1-357; Bk 15.1-418 & 712-end; Bks 18-19

6: *The Iliad*, Bk 20.1-360; Bks 21-24

8: Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 1-6 (in *Literature of the Western World*)

13: *The Odyssey*, Books 7-12

15: *The Odyssey*, Books 13-18

20: *The Odyssey*, Books 19-24

**\*\* Essay #1 Due \*\***

22: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

27: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

29: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

October 4: *The Song of Songs*

6: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, selections (in *Literature of the Western World*)

11: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, selections (in *Literature of the Western World*)

**\*\* Essay #2 Due \*\***

**II. The European Middle Ages and Renaissance**

13: Marie de France, *Lais*, pp. 1-136

18: Marie de France, *Lais*, pp. 137-233

20: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*

25: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight with the Lion*

27: Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos 1-8 (in *Literature of the Western World*)

- Nov. 1: *Inferno*, Cantos 9-17  
 3: *Inferno*, Cantos 18-23
- 8: *Inferno*, Cantos 24-30  
 10: *Inferno*, Cantos 31-34  
 \*\* Essay #3 Due \*\*
- 15: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 1-72  
 17: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 73-147
- 22: Thanksgiving  
 24: Holiday
- 29: Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, selections
- Dec. 1: Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, selections
- 6: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections (in *Literature of the Western World*)  
 8: The Canon and Review
- 15: **Final Examination:** 8:00-10:00 a.m.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

Essays	45 points
Quizzes/Exams	25 points
Final Exam	25 points
Participation	5 points

Course Grade: **A**= 91-100; **B**= 82-90.99; **C**= 73-81.99; **D**= 65-72.99; **F**= below 65

**Essays:** Your essays should each be about **3-4 pages** long (ca. 1000 words). Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it.

**Quizzes:** Frequent quizzes are intended to encourage you to read thoughtfully for each class session.

### Course/University Policies

**Typing.** All essays must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

**Honor Policy.** Education depends on trust. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

**Plagiarism.** If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

**Students with Disabilities.** "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."