Spring 1-15-2009

ENG 2601-001: Backgrounds of Western Literature

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English 2601.001: Backgrounds of the Western Literature
Spring 2009
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Texts: Bloch and Bloch, trans., The Song of Songs
       Boccaccio, Decameron
       Burgess, ed., The Song of Roland
       Cervantes, Don Quixote
       Chrétien de Troyes, The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes
       Dante, The Divine Comedy: Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso
       Homer, The Iliad
       Marie de France, The Lais of Marie de France
       Wilkie and Hurt, Literature of the Western World, Vol. 1, 5th ed.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

January 13: Introduction to the Course

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

15: Homer, The Iliad, Book 1; Book 2.1-521; Books 3-5
20: The Iliad, Book 6; Book 8.1-70 & 502-end; Books 9-10; Book 11.633-end
22: The Iliad, Book 14.1-357; Book 15.1-418 & 712-end; Books 18-19
27: The Iliad, Book 20.1-360; Books 21-24
29: Homer, The Odyssey, Books 1-6 (in Literature of the Western World)

February 3: The Odyssey, Books 7-12
      5: The Odyssey, Books 13-18
      10: The Odyssey, Books 19-24
            ** Essay #1 Due **
      12: Aeschylus, Agamemnon (in Literature of the Western World)
       17: Sophocles, Oedipus the King (in Literature of the Western World)
       19: Aristophanes, Lysistrata (in Literature of the Western World)

24: The Song of Songs
26: Virgil, The Aeneid, Books 1-3 (in Literature of the Western World)

March 3: Virgil, The Aeneid, Books 4-12
            ** Essay #2 Due **
      5: The Song of Roland, Laisses 1-176

II. The European Middle Ages and Renaissance

10: The Song of Roland, Laisses 177-298
12: Marie de France, Lais, pp. 1-136

17: Spring
19: Recess
March 24: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*
26: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight with the Lion*

31: Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos 1-8

April 2: *Inferno*, Cantos 9-17

7: *Inferno*, Cantos 18-30
9: *Inferno*, Cantos 31-34

14: *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*, selections
**Essay #3 Due**

16: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 1-72

21: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 73-147
23: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections

28: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections
30: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections

May 7: **Final Examination**: 8:00-10:00 a.m.

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Course Requirements and Grading

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

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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 4 pages long (ca. 1200 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."