

Fall 8-15-2011

ENG 3010G-001: Literary Masterworks

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ENGLISH 3010G - 001: LITERARY MASTERWORKS

FALL 2011

Instructor: Dr. John Allison

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Office Hours: M: 10:00-12:00; T: 11:00-12:00; TR 11:00-12:00; and by appointment.

Objectives of the Course

- To provide an opportunity to read, discuss, and enjoy works that have come to be known as masterworks;
- To encourage reflection about why certain works are called “masterworks” and whether the term means anything;
- To encourage reflection about ways that epic and anti-epic works express diverse world-views from antiquity to modernity;
- To promote the expression of independent, critical thinking in discussion and writing;
- To promote the use of reasoning and evidence in supporting interpretations of works;
- To contribute to continuing development of substantive, coherent, competent writing

Requirements of the Course

- Three Essays of Interpretation (about four pages each in 12 point type): 60%
- Six to Eight Pop Quizzes: 20%
- Final Examination (essay of 600-800 words, two shorter responses of 200-300 words each): 20%

Criteria for Evaluating Essays and Examinations

When I evaluate your essays, I will consider content (depth, reasoning, evidence), coherence (organization, transitions, word choice), style, grammar, and punctuation. Of these criteria, content is most important, but a response can fail if it is severely deficient in any one of the categories. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the course, and may lead to further consequences as determined by the Judicial Board.

Attendance and Grading

If you have a verifiable excuse from a doctor, Health Service, or an appropriate university employee, I will drop missed quizzes from your average. I'll do the same if you can verify attendance at a family member's wedding or funeral or to assist a sick or injured family member. You can't make up missed quizzes. After three unexcused absences, you will incur a 10% deduction from your final grade; each subsequent absence will carry a penalty of 5%.

Late Work

Late essays will incur a penalty of 5% per day.

Revision

You may revise one of your first two essays for a new grade.

Calculation of the Grade

I use a simple percentage scale, along with a letter grade, for each essay and examination. For example, an 88% is a B+ and a 92% is an A-. You can easily calculate your overall grade for the course by using the weighting indicated in the section "Requirements of the Course." Each quiz includes ten items, with each item counting ten points. Thus, the grading scale for quizzes mirrors that for the essays.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

3010G: Literary Masterworks (Epics/Anti-Epics)

1. Week of August 22
 - Introduction to Course
 - Homer, Odyssey: Book I-III
2. Week of August 29
 - Books IV-IX
 - Books X-XIV
3. Week of September 5
 - Books XV-XX
 - Books XXI-XXIV
4. Week of September 12
 - Preparation for Virgil's Aeneid; Books I-III
 - Books III-IV
5. Week of September 19
 - Books IV-VI
 - Books VI-VII
6. Week of September 26
 - Books VIII-X
 - Books XI-XII; Discussion of Essay Topics and Plans
7. Week of October 3
 - Preparation for Beowulf; Beowulf (3-87)
 - (87-147); **Essay I Due**
8. Week of October 10
 - (147-213)
 - Preparation for Cervantes's Don Quixote; Don Quixote (23-90)
9. Week of October 17
 - (111-171)
 - (171-227)
10. Week of October 24
 - (324-45, 391-45)
 - (445-514)
11. Week of October 31
 - (514-79, 926-940)

-Preparation for Moby-Dick; Moby-Dick (7-96)

12. Week of November 7
-**Essay II Due**; (96-180)
-(181-227)

13. Week of November 14
-(227-344)
-(354-407)

Thanksgiving Break

14. Week of November 28
-(407-427); Preparation for As I Lay Dying; As I Lay Dying (3-52)
-(52-93)

15. Week of December 5
-(94-203)
-203-50; Handout of Take-Home Final; **Essay III Due**