ENG 3100G-002: Cultural Foundations I

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Course Description: This team-taught course consists of three segments, introducing distinctive cultural foundations through the study of primary texts. The first segment examines the foundations of Western culture in classical Greek and Rome. Among the themes to be discussed are the differences in mythic and rationalist world views, relations between mind and body, concepts of reality versus appearances and the development of tragic dimensions in humanity.

The second segment will examine Jewish and Christian foundations for Western culture drawing on readings from the Hebrew Bible and continuing to trace the development of Judaism. As the segment unfolds, the foundations of Christianity are examined through passages from the Christian Gospels and letters of St. Paul.

The third segment introduces Sub-Saharan African culture. Through the reading of post-colonial literature, we will explore the relationships between colonizing and colonized cultures and will discuss the impact of Western culture upon non-Western African cultures.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Two 5 page papers (15% each) = 30%
Three exams (20% each) = 60%
Participation in class discussions and preparations of reading assignments – 10%
90 – 100 = A; 80 – 89 = B; 70 – 79 = C; 60 – 69 = D; 59 and below = F

Texts Required:

Homer, The Iliad, translated by Lattimore
Ovid, Metamorphoses, Trans. by Humphries
St. Augustine, The Confessions, Trans. by Boulding
Ngugi, The River Between
Derek Walcott, Omeros
Dante, Inferno, Trans. by Hollander & Hollander
Okot p’Bitek: Song of Lawino and Song of Okol
New Oxford Annotated Bible
Plato, The Great Dialogues, trans. Rouse

Course Policies: Participation in class discussions is an important component of this course. Your presence in class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Each unexcused absence will bring your final grade down by 1%. Three late appearances equal one unexcused absence.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. For each day that the paper is late, the grade will fall by one full grade.

Following the guidelines of the EIU Undergraduate Catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings.
as scheduled. When an absence does occur, the student is responsible for the material covered and for any assignments or assignment changes announced on the date of the absence.

Students will be granted make-up privileges for properly verified absences due to illness, serious emergencies or required participation in official University activities. Absences on test dates or assignment due dates will be greeted with special skepticism. Be prepared to document your illness or death of a loved one that requires your absence on these dates.

Students with disabilities or special needs should contact the instructor as soon as possible so accommodations or special arrangements can be arranged.

Students are expected to be knowledgeable about standards of Academic Integrity and should be forewarned that violators will be dealt with severely. See http://www.eiu.edu/~judicial/code.html.

**Tentative Schedule**

**Week 1**
8/26- Distribute syllabus; intro to concept of "West"; intro to Homer – *Iliad.*
8/28- *Iliad*

**Week 2**
9/2- *Iliad*
9/4 *Iliad*

**Week 3**
9/9- Plato, *Apology*
9/11- *Apology*

**Week 4**
9/16- Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*
9/18- *Oedipus Rex*

**Week 5**
9/23- Plato, *Republic*
9/25- *Republic*

**Week 6**
9/30- Vergil, *Aeneid*
10/2- *Aeneid*

**Week 7**
10/7- Midterm Test 1
10/9- Judaism, *Genesis - Exodus*

**Week 8**
10/14- *Genesis-Exodus*
10/16- *Genesis-Exodus*
Week 9
10/21- Job
10/23- Christianity, Gospel of Matthew

Week 10
10/28- Gospel of Matthew
10/30- Book of Acts, Epistle to Galations

Week 11
11/4- Augustine, Confessions
11/6- Confessions

Week 12
11/11- Dante, Inferno
11/13- Midterm Test 2

Week 13
11/18- Okot p’Bitek, Song of Lawino/Song of Ocol
11/20- Song of Lawino/Song of Ocol

Week 14
12/2- Ngugi, River Between
12/4- River Between

Week 15
12/9- Walcott, Omero
12/11- Omero

Test 3 will be given during Final Exams Week