Spring 8-15-2013

ENG 2601-001: Literature of the Western World

Olga Abella
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2013
Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
Abella, Olga, "ENG 2601-001: Literature of the Western World" (2013). Fall 2013. 63.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2013/63

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2013 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2013 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
I. TEXTS:

Literature of the Western World
Holy Bible (King James Version)
Dante's *Inferno* (Ciardi's trans.)

II. ASSIGNMENTS (with appropriate grade % for each):

1. **Reading Quizzes**: These will be unannounced short in-class writings given at the beginning of a class, lasting around 5 minutes. They should pressure you to keep up with the reading, to have some background for discussions. 6-7 quizzes will be given. The 5 highest grades will be averaged into one. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. (10%)

2. **Critical Papers**: Two papers (4-6 pages). Papers should be explorations of critical ideas that occur as you read the literature—NOT RESEARCH PAPERS (do not use secondary sources). Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins to allow for comments. (30%)

3. **Midterm**: An open-book exam covering the readings up to that point. (20%)

4. **Final**: This examination will cover most of the semester's readings. Any readings that are excluded will be specified before the exam date. This exam will be open-book and given during the final exam week. (30%)

5. **Class Participation**: Discussion is a very important part of this course. Expressing your reactions to the poems will help you to think critically about them and about your reactions to them, and that will help make writing the papers less intimidating. So, you will be expected to voice your thoughts. (10%)

III. **Course Purpose**: This course introduces some of the enduring literature of what has come to be known as "Western Civilization." Please recognize that the material you will be reading has been read and re-read for centuries. It was not written for students in college lit courses. Through these readings and a flexible, thoughtful reader's response to them, each of you will encounter writers trying to deal with some basic human problems: the substance of spiritual reality and the relationship between it and human beings in their cultures; definitions of love, of human interactions, of justice, of the ideal state and citizen. The issues are inexhaustible. The readings and writings (yours) and the discussions (ours) in this course should raise fundamental questions for you to think about critically.

IV. **ATTENDANCE**: Without regular attendance, you will probably not know enough about how the course readings have been examined and explained. A significant part of various test questions will be based on lectures and discussions. Without knowing about these, you may well be unable to cope with the exams. Therefore, each student is responsible for all of those parts of the classroom experience. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in a failing participation grade.

V. **LATE WORK**: All assignments are due on the dates specified. Late papers will be graded down, or not accepted if excessively late. If you cannot complete an assignment on time, you must see or contact me before it is due.

VI. **FINAL NOTE**: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disabilities Services (6583) as soon as possible.
Course Calendar:

Aug.
19 Introduction
21 Genesis 1-11; 17
23 Genesis 37-50
26 Exodus 1-21
28 Ruth; Job 1-14
30 Job 15-21, 28, 32-42

Sept.
2 Labor Day—No Class
4 Job
6 Jonah
9 Homer: Odyssey: Books 1-8, p.273
11 Odyssey: Books 9-16
16 Odyssey: Books 17-24
18 Odyssey
20 Aeschylus: Agamemnon, p. 612
23 Agamemnon
25 Aeschylus: The Libation Bearers, p. 669
30 The Libation Bearers

Oct.
2 Aeschylus: The Eumenides, p. 705
4 The Eumenides
7 Euripides: Medea, p. 844
9 Medea: PAPER #1 DUE
11 Fall Break—No Class
14 Sappho, p. 1141
16 Sappho
18 MIDTERM
21 Catullus, p. 1158
23 Virgil: Aeneid: Books I&II, p. 967
25 Aeneid: Books III&IV
28 Aeneid: Books V&VI
30 Aeneid: Books VII&VIII

Nov.
1
4 Dante: Inferno
6 Inferno
8 Inferno
11 Inferno
13 Inferno
15
18 De Pizan: The Book of the City of Ladies, p. 1762
20 Boccaccio: The Decameron, First and Third Days, p. 1876
25 Fourth and Fifth Days
27 Tenth Day
29 De Navarre: The Heptameron, Stories 8 and 18, p. 1916

Dec.
2 Stories 19 and 36
4 Story 55
6 PAPER #2 DUE (Final Exam: Dec. 11, 10:15-12:15)