Goals: The premise of the course is that there are certain works so central to western literature that they simply must be read if that literature is to be understood. Writers often respond to earlier writers in their work; Homer, Dante, Petrarch, and others have served as models for countless English writers. Obviously, it's useful to have read them.

But these works also continue to fascinate in their own right, and the bulk of classtime will be devoted simply to talking about them: what they're saying, how we respond to them, what makes them work. As we talk about them, it's important to remember that we're reading them in translation and many centuries after they were written. In some ways they will remain unreachable, therefore; we read them only in the light of our own culture and language, and must struggle to penetrate the profoundly different worlds from which they emerged. In other ways, though, they are strangely contemporary, posing questions about how one should live, what one should value, whom one should admire . . . questions, obviously, that still concern us.

At the end of the semester you should have a greater familiarity with various literary genres, literary and historical periodization, and the western literary canon, as well as a bunch of new books to love.

Policies: English Department statement on plagiarism:
Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) --has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Plan to hand in papers on time. If you're having problems, let me know. Papers a week or more late will not be accepted at all.

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.

Requirements: two exams and a final
3 essays (2-4pp)
frequent brief in-class writing
assignments/quizzes
careful preparation of reading assignments
and participation in class discussion

Grades: 35% of the grade will be based on exams (10/10/15)
35% on essays (10/10/15)
30% on in-class writing/quizzes/participation

This class involves a heavy reading load; make sure you plan
your time so that you can keep up with the reading.
Quizzes will generally consist of in-class writing in response to
a few questions and will take place in the first ten minutes of
class. These may not be made up except in the case of excused
absences (illness or personal emergency).

Essay grades will be based on Standards for Grading Themes at
EIU. I plan to use number rather than letter grades; this will
convert into your final grade as follows: 91-100=A; 81-90=B;
71-80=C. 65-69=D. Because I grade on a 100-point scale, missing
assignments affect the grade tremendously.

Tentative Syllabus
I. The Ancient World: The Greeks
for W Aug. 27: Read Iliad (Richards transl.), pp. 33-63. Skip
intro, but note useful list of characters (28-9). Literature of
the Western World has good historical and biographical
introductions, as well as maps, which I suggest you read.
F29: Read 64-108.

M Sep. 1: no class
F5: 148-end

M8: Odyssey (Fitzgerald) Books 1-4.
F12: Books 9-12.

M15: Books 13-16.
W17: Books 17-20.

M22: Sappho in Wilkie and Hurt
W24: Exam: Ancient Greece

II. The Ancient World: The Hebrews
F26: Genesis, in Wilkie and Hurt
M29: Job, in Wilkie and Hurt
III. The Classical World: Fifth Century Athens
WOct 1: Sophocles, in Wilkie and Hurt
F3: Sophocles

M6: Euripides, Medea, in Wilkie and Hurt
W8: Euripides
F10: Plato, "Apology of Socrates," in Wilkie and Hurt

IV. The Classical World: The Roman Empire
M13: Virgil, Aeneid in Wilkie and Hurt: Book I. Hand in essay #1
W15: Book 2
F17: Book 4

M20: Book 6
W22: Matthew, in Wilkie and Hurt
F24: Exam: OT, Athens, Rome, NT

V. The Middle Ages
F24: Begin Song of Roland in Wilkie and Hurt

M27: Song of Roland
W29: The Lais of Marie de France (separate volume)
F31: Marie de France.

MNov 3: Dante, Inferno, I-III.
W5: IV-XI
F7: XII-XVII

M10: XVIII-XXVI
W12: XXVII-XXXIV

VI. The Renaissance
M17: Boccaccio in Musa and Bondanella
W19: Rabelais, Gargantua and Pantagruel
F21: Rabelais

Thanksgiving Recess
MDec1: Rabelais
W3: Don Quixote in Wilkie and Hurt 1972-1991

M8: DQ 2013-2053
W10: DQ 2053-2084
F12: Review. Hand in essay #3.

There will be a final exam during final exam week.
Major Gods

The elements

Chaos

Nox = Erebus

Love

Ether

Hemera (day)

Ouranos = Gaia (heaven) (earth)

Titans

Zeus = Mnemosyne
Cronus = Rhea
Thebas = Iapetus
Tethys = Oceanus
Codus = Phoebe

12

Muses

Olympians

Hestia

Hades

Poseidon

Zeus = Hera

Epimetheus

Prometheus

Dione = Zeus

Aphrodite

Ares

Hebe

Hephaestus

Demeter = Zeus

= Aphrodite

Eros

Persephone

Greeks

Akhaian (Akhaia)

Argive (Argos) = synonyms

Danaan

(among allies: Myrmidons)

Gk commander-in-chief: Agamemnon (= Clytemnestra; son Orestes, daughters Iphigenia, Electra)

Agamemnon's brother: Menelaus (= Helen), from Sparta

allies: Odysseus (= Penelope, son Telemachus), from Ithaka

Achilles, leader of Myrmidons

Nestor, old + wise

Trojan king: Priam (= Hecuba)

Helen + Clytemnestra, daughters of Leda = Zeus

his sons: Hector (= Andromache)

Paris (elopes with Helen)

Deiphobus

Trojans (Ilion)

Gods (12 main)

Zeus (king, heaven, thunder) = Hera

his brothers: Poseidon (sea) and Hades (underworld)

his daughter: Athena (born from his forehead, fully armed, without a mother, owl, handicrafts, intelligence, war/peace, virgin)

sons: Hephaestus (lame, blacksmith, = Aphrodite); Ares (war)

Hermes (messenger); Apollo (sun, music, prophecy)

daughters: Artemis (moon, virgin, huntress); Aphrodite (?)(beauty, love)

sisters: Hestia (hearth), Hera (marriage, maternity), Demeter (harvest, fertility)
Various translations of the opening lines of Homer's *Iliad*

Achilles' baneful wrath resound, O Goddess, that impos'd
Infinite sorrows on the Greeks and many brave souls los'd
From beasts heroic; sent them far to that invisible cave
That no light comforts; and their limbs to dogs and vultures gave:
To all which Jove's will gave effect; from whom first strife begun
Betwixt Atrides, king of men, and Thetis' godlike son.

--George Chapman, 1598, 1611

The wrath of Peleus' son, the direful spring
Of all the Grecian woes, O Goddess sing!
That wrath which hurled to Pluto's gloomy reign
The souls of mighty chiefs untimely slain,
Whose limbs, unburied on the naked shore,
Devouring dogs and hungry vultures tore;
Such was the sovereign doom, and such the will of Jove!

--Alexander Pope, 1718

Sing, goddess, the anger of Peleus' son Achilleus
and its devastation, which put pains thousandfold upon the Achaians,
hurled in their multitudes to the house of Hades strong souls
of heroes, but gave their bodies to be the delicate feasting
of dogs, of all birds, and the will of Zeus was accomplished
since that time when first there stood in division of conflict
Atreus' son the lord of men and brilliant Achilleus.

--Richmond Lattimore, 1951

Sing, goddess, the anger of Achillles, the anger which caused so
many sorrows to the Greeks. It sent to Hades many souls of
heroes and gave their bodies to be food of dogs and birds. So
the design of Zeus was worked out from the time when, first,
Agamemnon, king of men, and great Achilles were parted in anger.

Who of the gods did this? Apollo. He sent a plague into the
Greek army because Agamemnon had wronged Chryses, his priest.
For the priest came to their ships with gifts to free Chryseis,
his daughter, taken by the Greeks in war. In his hands were the
signs that he was priest to Apollo, the Archer, and he made this
prayer to all the Greeks:
Plot summary, ILIAD (based on Richards's version)
2. omitted
6. Glaucus and Diomedes. Hector and Andromache
8. Council of gods. Zeus tells others not to meddle. Day's battle goes with Trojans, but don't get ships; camp.
10. omitted
13. Omitted
14. Hera seduces Zeus while Poseidon helps Gks and turns battle.
16. Patroclus gets Achilles's armor. Told to come back after driving Trojans from ships, but rages on toward Troy, is killed.
17. omitted
20. Ach reenters battle. Apollo saves Hector
21. Ach devastates Trojans. Priam has gate of Try opened to admit fleeing Trojans.
22. Priam begs Hector to come inside; he won'ts. Hector flees Ach, stops to fight believing Deiphbus is there. Confrontation. Andromache's response.