ENG 2601-001: Backgrounds of the Western Culture

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English 2601.001: Backgrounds of the Western Literature
Spring 2006
Instructor: David Raybin
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Texts: Bloch and Bloch, trans., *The Song of Songs*
Boccaccio, *Decameron*
Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
Crétien de Troyes, *The Complete Romances of Crétien de Troyes*
Homer, *The Iliad*
Marie de France, *The Lais of Marie de France*
Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

January 10: Introduction to the Course

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

12: Homer, *The Iliad*, Bk 1-6

17: *The Iliad*, Books 7-12

19: *The Iliad*, Books 13-18

24: *The Iliad*, Books 19-24

26: Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 1-6 (in *Literature of the Western World*)

31: *The Odyssey*, Books 7-12

February 2: *The Odyssey*, Books 13-18

7: *The Odyssey*, Books 19-24

** Essay #1 Due **

9: No Class: Conferences

14: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

16: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

21: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

23: *The Song of Songs*

28: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Books 1-3 (in *Literature of the Western World*)

March 2: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Books 4-12

7: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, selections (in *Literature of the Western World*)

** Essay #2 Due **

II. The European Middle Ages and Renaissance

9: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*

28: Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos 1-8 (in Literature of the Western World)
30: *Inferno*, Cantos 9-17

April 4: *Inferno*, Cantos 18-30
6: *Inferno*, Cantos 31-34

** Essay #3 Due **

11: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 1-72
13: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 73-147

18: Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, selections
20: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections
25: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections
27: The Canon and Review

May 4: 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 (ca. 1000-1200 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."