English 2601.001: Backgrounds of the Western Literature  
Fall 2010  
Instructor: David Raybin  
Office: 324 Coleman Hall  
Office Hours: TuW 9:30-11:30 (and by appointment)  
Telephone: 581-6980 (office); 330/678-2628 (home, weekends before 8:30)  
Electronic Mail: draybin@eiu.edu

Texts:  
Boccaccio, Decameron  
Cervantes, Don Quixote  
Chrétien de Troyes, The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes  
Marie de France, The Lais of Marie de France  
Norton Anthology of Western Literature, Vol. 1, 8th ed.  
Ovid, Metamorphoses  
The Song of Roland  
The Song of Songs

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

August  
24: Introduction to the Course

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

26: Homer, The Iliad, Books 1-6, 22-24 (in Norton Anthology)  
31: Homer, The Odyssey, Books 1-6 (in Norton Anthology)

September  
2: The Odyssey, Books 7-12  
7: The Odyssey, Books 13-18  
9: The Odyssey, Books 19-24  
14: Aeschylus, Agamemnon (in Norton Anthology)  
16: Sophocles, Oedipus the King (in Norton Anthology)  
21: Aristophanes, Lysistrata (in Norton Anthology)  
** Essay #1 Due **  
23: The Song of Songs

30: Study Day

October  
5: Virgil, The Aeneid, Books 4-12  
7: Ovid, Metamorphoses, Books 1-5  
12: Metamorphoses, Books 6-10  
14: Metamorphoses, Books 11-15  
** Essay #2 Due **

II. The European Middle Ages and Renaissance

19: The Song of Roland, Laisses 1-176  
21: The Song of Roland, Laisses 177-298

26: Marie de France, Lais, pp. 1-136  
28: Chrétien de Troyes, The Knight of the Cart
November  2: Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos 1-8 (in *Norton Anthology*)
        4: *Inferno*, Cantos 9-17
        9: *Inferno*, Cantos 18-23
        11: *Inferno*, Cantos 24-34
        16: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 1-72
        ** Essay #3 Due **
        18: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 73-147

23: Thanksgiving
25: Holiday

30: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections

December 2: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections

7: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections
9: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections

13: 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:

- Essays: 45 points
- Quizzes: 35 points
- Final Exam: 20 points

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 long (ca. 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.

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**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."