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ENG 2602-001: World Literature since the Renaissance

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Course Description:
Every society, big or small, has a concept of the world, the cosmos. In this course, we will look at how several cultures construct their own worlds and the world at large, without privileging the European, or any one particular site, as offering the governing perspective. We will examine texts of actual exploration of the world and texts that imagine the world: the traveler who roams the world and also the woman who never leaves her home but dreams of a world. Our guiding concern will be what it is to build a world, what are the assumptions people make in doing so and how do these affect the worlds they create, both figuratively and literally. In our time of globalization, what understanding of the worldly or the planetary must we be reaching toward? That is the answer we will seek through an examination of texts from the Reniassance to our very own present.

One objective of this course is to develop further a critical appreciation of and a confidence in reading and discussing literature and the ways literature speaks of and to the human condition. Furthermore, in this course, you will have many opportunities for extending and enhancing skills in reading, writing, and speaking in general, in ways that will benefit you throughout your University career, and, indeed, your life.

Texts: The Bedford Anthology of World Literature volumes 4, 5, and 6.
Please note: You will also need a College Level Dictionary to succeed in this course.
Course Assignments: To achieve the objectives described above students will need to keep up with the rigorous reading schedule and actively participate in the class discussion. The following assignments will foster the active engagement necessary to make this a productive and exciting learning experience.

I. Key Passages: On ten out of fourteen Mondays that we have class, you will turn in a 4” by 6” index card that contains a passage of no more than four lines with author and title of the work on one side and your analysis of its significance on the other, taking up one full side of the card. (10 points each = 100 points)

II. Papers: Three short “close-reading” essays (3-4 page, 100 points each = 300 points)
One longer essay based on a topic you develop derived from your reading (200 points)

III. Extending Your World: The word “university” carries with it the idea that part of your education includes an exploration of the universe, that is, the world around you. This course “World Literature Since the Renaissance” offers you the opportunity to gain credit for participating in activities in ways that stretch you intellectually, politically, personally. For this assignment you are encouraged to go to an event or performance, a lecture, a concert that in some way that extends you beyond what you have previously experienced. Thus for example, most of you have been to movies or concerts but maybe you have never watched an “art film” or listened to live classical music or attended a ballet. “Extending your world” means doing something that takes you beyond the range of what you would ordinarily do. Each one of your personal field trips needs to be different. Here are some ideas 1) go to an art museum and look at an exhibit then focus on one particular painting for 15 minutes and do some research on the artist for the write-up. 2) go to an ethnic restaurant that serves food other than Mexican, Chinese, Italian, or any other food you are familiar with. Pay attention to the ambience, décor, what you order, how it tastes, etc. 3) do something different; for example give blood, volunteer in the community NOT because your fraternity or sorority has mandated that you do it but for its own sake. 4) attend a lecture/presentation in a field that is different from the one you are studying in. 5) other—clear with me.

The experience itself is part one of this assignment. Part two is writing it up in a thoughtful, well-crafted way that clearly describes the experience itself and explains in what ways this experience has taken you beyond your usual realm of experience, and finally reflects on this experience in relation to something we have discussed in class. This paper should be type written, carefully proofread and its length should run 2 full pages or more. You will write three of these papers. (100 points each).

IV. Participation: Please note that this class is DISCUSSION-DRIVEN. This means that there is an expectation that each student will be fully prepared for each meeting having read and thought about the text assigned for the day and able to initiate or contribute to discussion with relevant and meaningful questions or comments that indicate a serious effort to grapple with the readings and the questions that frame this course. (100 points).

Attendance Policy: You may miss 2 classes no questions asked, no excuses needed. After 2 classes your grade will drop one level. For example, if you were earning a B and you miss a third class, your grade would drop to C; if you miss a fourth class, your grade would drop to a D. If you miss 5 or more classes you will receive a failing grade for this class. This means you will probably not want to squander your allowable absences but save them for when you need them.
Course Schedule:
Please note this schedule is provisional and subject to change. Also, students should read assigned text(s) prior to the class in which the text(s) will be discussed.

Week One:
1/09 Introduction to Class:
1/11 Discuss Assigned Reading
HMWK: Read Intro to Aphra Behn, and Oroonoko (88-140).

Week Two:
1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/ No Classes
1/18 Discuss Oroonoko
HMWK: Read section on Jonathan Swift and Gulliver’s Travels (141-198)

Week Three: DUE: EXTENDING YOUR WORLD #1
1/23 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: Read section “In the World: Travel Narratives” (199-205), intro to Voltaire (269-274) and Candide chapters 1-13 (275-296)
1/25 Discuss assigned reading

Week Four:
1/30 Discuss end of Candide and Descartes
HMWK: Olaudah Equiano (400-470)
2/01 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: Thomas Jefferson (556-564) In the World: Declarations of Rights and Independence (564-578 and 590-596); “In the World: Love, Marriage, and the Education of Women” (719-723) and Mary Wollstonecraft (741-753)

Week Five:
2/06 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: Japan: The Tokugawa Era (625-630) and Matsuo Basho (650-684)
2/08 Discuss assigned reading
HMWK: First Essay due Monday, February 13th
Paper workshop

Week Six: DUE: FIRST PAPER. Intro to volume 5: The Nineteenth Century
HMWK: read section Introductions (1-12, 13-22, 179-186)
Also, Friedrich Nietzsche section (198-201) and George Eliot Section (202-203)
2/13 Discuss assigned readings
HMWK: Charles Darwin Section (349-379) and introduction to “In the World: Science and Creation” (380-384).
Week Seven:  
2/20  Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: Alfred, Lord Tennyson section (389-392)  
Syed Ahmed Khan section (408)  

2/22  Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: Fyodor Dostoevsky “Notes from Underground” (462-540)  

Week Eight:  
2/27  Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: Introduction to “In the World: Society and Its Discontents” (663-668)  
Also, William Wordsworth (669-670), Charles Dickens (670-674), Karl Marx (680-688)  

3/01  DUE: EXTENDING YOUR WORLD #2  
Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: Introduction to “The Americas from Independence to Emancipation” (749-753); Harriet Jacobs, “Incidents in the life of a Slave Girl” (754-803)  

Week Nine:  
3/06  Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: In the World: Emancipation (814-820); Frederick Douglass and “Emancipation Proclaimed” (821-824); Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott and “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, Seneca Falls (827-830); John Stuart Mill section (834-839); Muhammed Iqbal (841-842).  

3/08  Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: Read India: Jewel in the Colonial Crown (955-959); Ghalib section (960-972).  

SPRING BREAK: No Classes March 13-17th  

Week Ten:  
3/20  DUE: EXTENDING YOUR WORLD #3  
Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: “In the World: East and West” (1034-1038); Rudyard Kipling section (1039-1042); Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1045-1048); and Rabindranath Tagore (1055-1057).  

3/21  DUE: SECOND PAPER  
Discuss assigned readings and Introduction to volume 6, Twentieth Century.  
HMWK: Read Introduction: The Twentieth Century (1-29) and Joseph Conrad Section (30-96).  

Week Eleven:  
3/27  Discuss assigned readings.  
HMWK: Read “In the World: Colonialism: Europe and Africa” (97-103).  
Rudyard Kipling section (104-106); Frantz Fanon section (128-134); Ngugi Wa Thiong’o section (149-157).  

3/29  Discuss assigned readings  
HMWK: “In the Tradition: The Literature of War, Conflict, and Resistance”
(502-511); Wilfred Owen section (514); Bertolt Brecht section (525); Nellie Sachs section (526); Paul Celan section (527); Mahmoud Darwish section (543-546).

**Week Twelve:**
4/03  Discuss assigned readings  
**HMWK:** Anna Akhmatova section (552-567) and Pablo Neruda section (672-691).

4/05  Discuss assigned readings  
**HMWK:** “In the World: Existentialism” (746-751); Albert Camus section (756-759); Oe Kenzaburo section (765-769).

**Week Thirteen:**
4/10  Discuss assigned readings  
**HMWK:** “In the World: Imagining Africa” (853-859); Claude McKay section (875-876); Leopold Sedar Senghor section (884-886).

4/12  **DUE: THIRD PAPER**  
Discuss assigned reading  
**HMWK:** Gabriel Garcia Marquez section (924-932); Bessie Head section 1205-1216)

**Week Fourteen:**
4/17  Discuss assigned readings  
**HMWK:** “In the World: Crossing Cultures: The Example of India” (1278-1283); Mohandas K. Gandhi section (1284-1291); Martin Luther King, Jr section (1289-1291) and V.S. Naipaul section (1313-1315).

4/19  Discuss assigned readings  
**HMWK:** “In the Tradition: American Borderlands: Voices from the United States’s Many Cultures” (1340-1344); Sherman Alexie section (1349-1362); and Sandra Cisneros section (1370-1379).

**Week Fifteen:**
4/24  Discuss Assigned Readings  
Begin Final Paper 3” presentations

4/26  3” presentations continued  
Class Wrap Up

**Final Paper Due:** Monday, May 1, 2006 by 5.15pm.