Spring 1-15-2006

ENG 3010-001: Literary Masterworks

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ENGLISH 3010: LITERARY MASTERWORKS (Writing Intensive)

Spring 2006

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Office Hours: MWF: 11-12:00; F: 9-10:00

Objectives of the Course

• To provide an opportunity to read, discuss, and enjoy works that have come to be known as epic masterworks
• To encourage reflection about why certain works are called “masterworks” and whether the term means anything
• To encourage thinking about ways that epic works reflect diverse outlooks concerning human nature and society
• To promote the expression of independent, critical thinking in discussion and writing
• To promote the use of reasoning and evidence in supporting interpretations of works
• To contribute to continuing development of substantive, coherent, competent writing

Requirements of the Course

• Three Essays of Interpretation (at least four pages each in 12 point type): 60%
• Six-Eight Pop Quizzes: 20%
• Final Examination (essay of 600-800 words, two shorter responses of 250-300 words each): 20%

Criteria for Evaluating Essays and Examinations

When I evaluate your essays, I will consider content (depth, reasoning, evidence), coherence (organization, transitions, word choice), style, grammar, and punctuation. Of these criteria, content is most important, but an essay can fail if it is severely deficient in any one of the categories. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the course, and may lead to further consequences as determined by the Judicial Board.

Attendance and Grading

After three unexcused absences, you will forfeit one letter grade (10% of the total credit for the course). You will forfeit 5% percent for each subsequent unexcused absence. For an excused absence, you must provide evidence from Health Service, a doctor, or an appropriate university employee.

Late Work and Grading

You may turn in one of the first two essays one class-day late. Otherwise, late essays will carry a penalty of 5% for each class day. If you miss a quiz, I will not schedule a make-up quiz. However, missed quizzes will not affect your quiz average when you have an excused absence (see Attendance and Grading).

Revision

You may revise one of your first two essays for a new grade for the revised essay.
Calculation of Grades

I use a simple percentage scale, along with a letter grade, for each essay and examination. For example, an 88% is a B+ and a 92% is an A-. You can easily calculate your overall grade for the course by using the weighting indicated in the section “Requirements of the Course.” Usually I'll give a half quiz at a time -- five of the ten items for each complete quiz. Because each item counts ten points, the grading scale for quizzes mirrors that for the essays and examination.

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.

ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO

Because the course is designated “writing intensive,” you can submit one of the essays as a submission to the portfolio.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

3010G: Literary Masterworks (Epics/Anti-epics)

1. Week of January 9
   -Introduction to Course
   -Homer, Odyssey: Book I
   -Books II-III

2. Week of January 16
   -King’s Day: No Classes
   -Books IV-VII
   -Books VIII-XI

3. Week of January 23
   -Books XII-XVI
   -Books XVII-XXI
   -Books XXII-XXIV

4. Week of January 30
   -Preparation for Virgil’s Aeneid
   -Books I-II
   -Books III-IV

5. Week of February 6
   -Books IV-V
   -Books VI-VII
   -Lincoln’s Day: No Classes

6. Week of February 13
   -Books VIII-X
   -Books XI-XII
   -Discussion of Essay Topics and Plans

7. Week of February 20
   -Preparation for Beowulf
   -Beowulf (3-43)
   -(43-87); Essay I Due

8. Week of February 27
   -(87-147)
   -(147-213)
   -Preparation for Dante’s Divine Comedy
9. Week of March 6
   - *Inferno* (I-III)
   - (IV-VII)
   - (VIII-XI)

SPRING BREAK

10. Week of March 20
    - Cantos XII-XIV, XX-XXII
    - Cantos XXIV-XXVI, XXXI-XXXIV
    - *Paradiso* (I-IV, XXX-XXXIV)

11. Week of March 27
    - Discussion of Essay Topics and Plans; Preparation for Melville’s *Moby-Dick*
    - *Moby-Dick* (xxxvii-lii; 1-111)
    - (111-212)

12. Week of April 3
    - **Essay II Due**
    - (212-261, 277-327)
    - (327-362, 377-389, 400-423)
    - (426-440, 445-449, 469-79, 482-92)

13. Week of April 10
    - (495-508, 515-518, 521-546)
    - (Chapters 546-567)
    - Preparation for Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*

14. Week of April 17
    - *As I Lay Dying* (3-51)
    - 52-93
    - 94-142

15. Week of April 24
    - 142-203
    - 203-50
    - Student Evaluation of Instruction; Handout of Take-Home Final; **Essay III Due**