ENG 3090G-099: Literary Masterworks

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3090G-099 Literary Masterworks  
Fall 2000

Dr. Campbell  
CH 316B  
Office hours TTH 9:15-11:00, M, 10:50-11:20

TTH  8:00-9:15  
CH 202

Texts  

Course Focus  

This course is designed to provide an in-depth look at a selection of literary "masterpieces" from western literature. In general, we will discuss the question, what makes a text a "literary masterwork"? We will also discuss the traditional canon of literary masterworks and talk about how it was created and how it is currently in flux.

Our texts will focus on a period especially know for its masterworks, both in the visual arts and the literary arts, the Renaissance. This movement is considered to have begun in Italy, and it moved across the Continent, eventually making its way to England. We, too, are going to follow the literary path of the Renaissance, beginning with selections from Italian masters and their disciples, then moving on to works by French and English writers.

Goals for the semester include developing an historical understanding of the scope of the Renaissance movement, learning more about the trends in literary production that helped to shape the works we now find in anthologies and individual editions or collections of works by individual writers, and improving our research and writing skills as we confront these Renaissance texts and the stories of the lives behind them.

Policies  

--The English Department statement on plagiarism stipulates that 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.

--Hand papers in on time. If you're having problems, let me know. Papers a week or more late will not be accepted at all. Also plan to show up for exams. Again, if you have problems, let me know. You will have no more than one week to make up an exam, and the make-up exam will be different from the one given during class.

--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.

--Be prepared for class. You'll get a lot more out of class discussions if you are participating in them, and I'll notice if you do not seem prepared to participate.
Requirements

--Two exams ............ 30% (15% each of final grade)
--One 7-10 page paper .... 15%
--One presentation ......... 10%
--Response writings ...... 15%
--Final exam ............. 30%

The two exams will cover the units of the semester; however, there will be interplay between these units of study in our discussions and in the test questions, and the final exam will be comprehensive.

The paper topic will be chosen from subjects that arise in class, regarding the assigned texts. I will give you a list of possible topics and/or areas of study to consider. You should use at least three outside sources to support your arguments, and you will use MLA Parenthetical Style, with a Works Cited page, for documentation.

The presentation will be a short introduction (about 5 minutes) to some aspect of background material for each of the texts covered.

The response writings will be concerned with specific reading assignments and are meant to generate class discussion. I will give you a series of questions to answer or a short topic to address.

Tentative Schedule

Note: Readings may be shifted around during the semester to accommodate class discussion.

T. Aug. 22—Introduction to the course.
Th. Aug. 24—Introduction to the Renaissance period.

T. Aug. 29—Dante
Th. Aug. 31—Dante

T. Sept. 5—Boccaccio
Th. Sept. 7—Boccaccio

T. Sept. 12—Petrarch
Th. Sept. 14—Petrarch

T. Sept. 19—Poetry Handout
Th. Sept. 21—Poetry Handout

T. Sept. 26—Castiglione
Th. Sept. 28—Machiavelli
T. Oct. 3—Marguerite de Navarre  
Th. Oct. 5—Marguerite de Navarre

T. Oct. 10—Review  
Th. Oct. 12—Midterm Exam

T. Oct. 17—Discuss papers  
Th. Oct. 19—Catch up on presentations

T. Oct. 24—Montaigne  
Th. Oct. 26—Rabelais

T. Oct. 31—English Poets Handout  
Th. Nov. 2—English Poets Handout

T. Nov. 7—Shakespeare (Othello)  
Th. Nov. 9—Shakespeare

T. Nov. 14—Film  
Th. Nov. 16—Film

T. Nov. 21 & Th. Nov. 23—Thanksgiving break.

T. Nov. 28—Shakespeare (Ado)  
Th. Nov. 30—Shakespeare

T. Dec. 5—Film  
Th. Dec. 7—Film and Review

Final Exam: