

## English 2325--Readings in World Literature

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**Contact information:** Students who need to contact me should visit my office during office hours, email, call, or Skype to set up an appointment. I will respond to electronic communication within 24 hours, but students should not expect an immediate response after 5:00 or on the weekends. I do check my email after 5:00, but there is no guarantee I will email back that night. I check my email at least once Saturday and once Sunday. I do not check SKYPE after 5:00 or on the weekends.

### Required Texts:

Aeschylus. *The Oresteian Trilogy*. Penguin, 1956.

Alegheri, Dante. *The Divine Comedy*. Penguin, 1950.

Chekhov, Anton. *The Cherry Orchard*. Dover, 1991.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Penguin, 2003.

Ibsen, Henrik. *Hedda Gabler*. Echo, 2006.

McCarthy, Cormac. *Blood Meridian*, 1992.

Neruda, Pablo. *The Essential Neruda: Selected Poems*. City Lights, 2004. **(Bilingual Edition)**

Shakespeare. *Hamlet*. Washington Square Press, 2003.

Voltaire. *Candide*. 1950.

**Please note:** These works of literature explore complicated, and often uncomfortable, issues. If you are not prepared to read works that discuss race, religion, sex, violence, and other issues you will find in the daily newspaper, you should probably not remain in this class. You should also be prepared for some rough language within some of our works.

### PURPOSE:

"I know what you want. You want a story that won't surprise you. That will confirm what you already know. That won't make you see higher or further or differently. You want a flat story. An immobile story. You want dry, yeastless factuality." (Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*)

This course is designed as a sophomore introduction to world literature. The reading list is not comprehensive, nor is it designed to create an exhaustive list of "classic" literature. Instead, the goal of the reading list is to create opportunities for discussing movements and trends in literature and culture. In large part, I hope you leave the class with a renewed appreciation for literature and an increased aptitude for critical thinking. The works listed above will allow us to explore both culture and identity, while gaining a greater sense of our shared humanity.

**Course Objectives:**

1. to gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. to gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature);
3. to learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

**Learning outcomes:**

Upon completing English 2324, students will be able to

1. define specific terms related to genres;
2. analyze individual works of literature for meaning;
3. understand the diverse intellectual and cultural tradition of American literature.

**Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes:**

Learning outcomes will be assessed via exams, essays, and class participation.

**Essential Competencies** for this course include the abilities to (1) read, analyze, and interpret complex literary works and criticism of those works; (2) to write extended, coherent and grammatically correct essays; and (3) to participate in class discussions about the ideas in the literature.

**Prerequisites:** “Satisfactory completion of English 1301 or achieving credit through examination is prerequisite for any sophomore-level course” ASU Graduate and Undergraduate Catalogue.

**Attendance: (READ CAREFULLY):**

There is a direct correlation between attendance and performance. If you miss class regularly, you will decrease your chances of achieving a passing grade. I take and record attendance everyday; however, I do not deduct points from your average for multiple absences. See below regarding quizzes.

**ASU Policy of Religious holy days:** A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Accessibility/Disability Policy at ASU:** For students enrolled at ASU who have diagnosed disabilities, please contact [ASU's Disability Services](#) for an explanation of the services available and the documentation requirements for the university in order to receive academic assistance.

**Daily Student Responsibilities:**

This is not a class where you only come each day, listen, watch, and take notes! The primary method for learning new ideas will be reading the literature before class, participating in class activities and discussions, and working through homework assignments. This course makes extensive use of small group and large group activities and discussions to introduce ideas and content, as well as to deepen your understanding of material encountered in the readings. Your

learning experience is thus dependent—to some extent—on your classmates and vice versa. Because of this, it is essential that you not only attend class each day and participate in the activities and discussions, but that you show up prepared having completed the homework and reading assigned. Learning requires active participation and questioning both in and out of the classroom. I will provide you with many opportunities to learn the material through class activities, readings, and homework assignments, but in the end, you will have to do all of the hard work of actually learning that material.

**Readings and quizzes:** I will give pop quizzes with some regularity. These quizzes can be simple reading quizzes (ten questions at the beginning of class) or short essay questions (thirty minutes of writing). If you are habitually late to class, you will miss the quizzes. There are no make-ups and I do not repeat questions for late arrivals.

**Exams:** You will take three in-class exams during the semester (one will be the final). These exams will consist of two parts: objective (multiple choice and quote identification) and short essay. Be aware that anything we discuss in class is potential test material. In addition, and this note is important, your answers must be legible, and your essay answers must be well-developed, well-written, grammatically, and mechanically correct short essays. I will keep in mind that you are writing in-class, but time constraints are no excuse for illiterate writing. Multiple errors in spelling, grammar, and other mechanical skills will influence your grade. I expect sophomore-level writing ability that is clear, concise, and contains complete sentences. You might want to review your freshman English class notes to review the thesis sentence and other important parts of the argumentative essay.

**Major paper:** You will write a paper outside of class on a topic TBA. Your paper needs to be 1000-2000 words and utilize no outside sources. Your paper should be a thoughtful response defended by a close analytical reading of the text. The out-of-class essay will be graded for content and mechanics. See the attached grading outline for a clear, concise explanation of the grading criteria. If you have not written about literature in the past (or recent past) visit [the Purdue OWL](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/618/01/) (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/618/01/>) for some useful help. They discuss research; we will not research for this paper. I will provide a detailed handout (some things we just cannot do on the web) as we get closer to the due date. Plagiarism, either intended or accidental, will result in automatic failure for the class. Visit the [Center for Academic Integrity](http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/home.php) (<http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/home.php>) to learn more about this important issue.

### **PLAGIARISM (Academic Honesty):**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

See the [Current Student](#) page and click on Academic Honor Code.

In essence, the willingness to cheat undermines our purpose at the university.

**Make-ups:** It is your responsibility to attend class on time. I will not offer make up quizzes and make up exams will be at my convenience. If you miss an exam, you must contact me within two

days of the missed exam in order to arrange a make-up exam. Any make up exams will be different exams from the exam the class takes. You may not make up the out of class essay.

**GRADES:**

Quizzes	10%
Major paper	20%
Exams	70%

Out of class papers will be scored in the following manner for organization, development, and content:

A+= 98	C+= 78	F= 59
A = 95	C = 75	
A-= 92	C-= 72	
B+= 88	D+= 68	
B = 85	D = 65	
B-= 82	D-= 62	

Once a letter grade is established, the following points will be deducted for mechanical errors:

You get 2 free points a page, for up to 5 pages. (3 pages= 6 free points. 4 pages= 8 points. 5 pages= 10 points. 6 pages= 10 points, etc.)

Each spelling error will be worth 2 points. (Typos are spelling errors.)

Each of the following errors in grammar will be worth 2 points:

1. comma splice in compound sentences
2. fused or run on sentence
3. subject/verb agreement error
4. person and number shift
5. pronoun antecedent unclear
6. pronoun antecedent agreement error
7. verb tense shift (only once)
8. sentence fragment (unless you write [sf] in the margin beside it).

Each of the following punctuation errors will be worth one point:

1. apostrophe in possessives missing

2. comma in complex sentences incorrect
3. improper punctuation at the end of the sentence
4. failure to underscore or use quotations marks with title
5. failure to use quotation marks with quotations
6. Capitalization mistakes.

Schedule of events (subject to change on any given day): Blanks in the schedule will be filled in closer to those dates

8-27 M	Course introduction
8-29	Greek myth—The Trojan War, the Ancient World, and the epic
8-31	The Odyssey—first 1/3
9-3 M	Labor day
9-5	The Odyssey—completed
9-7	TBA
9-10 M	Aeschylus--tragedy
9-12	Aeschylus
9-14	Aeschylus
9-17 M	Dante
9-19	Dante
9-21	Dante
9-24 M	TBA
9-26	Review for exam 1
9-28	Exam 1—objective
10-1 M	Exam 1--essay
10-3	TBA
10-5	TBA
10-8 M	Hamlet—The Renaissance
10-10	Hamlet
10-12	Hamlet
10-15 M	Voltaire—The Enlightenment
10-17	Voltaire
10-19	Voltaire
10-22 M	Chekhov--Realism
10-24	Chekhov
10-26	Review exam 2
10-29 M	Exam 2
10-31	Exam 2
11-2	Ibsen
11-5 M	Ibsen

11-7	The modern and postmodern world
11-9	The modern and postmodern world
11-12 M	McCarthy
11-14	McCarthy
11-16	McCarthy
11-19 M	Out of class essay conferences
11-21	Conferences out of class essay
11-23	Thanksgiving
11-26 M	Poetry
11-28	Poetry
11-30	poetry
12-3 M	Out of class essay due
12-5	TBA
12-7	TBA
12-10 M	Finals—exam 3
12-12	Finals
12-14	Finals