ENGL/MODL 222-500 World Literature
Texas A&M University
Spring 2012
Lectures: MWF 9:10-10:00 am, (HEEC 2XX)
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Office: 2XX LAAH
Office Hours: MWF 10:05-11:05 pm

ENGL/MODL 222 World Literature. Survey of world literature from the seventeenth century to the present in relation to its historical and cultural contexts; texts selected from a diverse group of authors, traditions and genres.

Course Description
This course will examine some of the major texts of world literature from the 17th through the 20th centuries. We will direct our attention around a core group of central ideas as they are developed in the texts, and we will investigate the evolution and transitions in the literary tradition. Some of the issues and questions we will examine in particular detail include: the relationship between reality and fiction; the question of the human condition and its relationship to history or a catastrophic event; the question of good and evil; and what constitutes human experience. Furthermore, we will take up these topics and themes in their own right, and as a basis for living in the contemporary world.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the semester the students will be able to do the following:

1. Students will be able to articulate key concepts and identify major authors and works in the literary tradition from the 17th century to the present.

2. Students will also be able to identify principal themes and ideas in world literature.

3. The course will also allow us to better understand other cultures and broaden our historical and intercultural experience.

Core Curriculum Objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills (CTS): The course will enhance critical thinking skills through consistent reading and class discussion of key ideas in various literary traditions in world literature.

Communication Skills (CS): The course enhances communication skills through small and large group discussion of ideas, issues, questions, and themes central to course reading.

Personal Responsibility (PR): The course will enhance personal responsibility through engagement with moral and thorny ethical issues that arise in class readings.
Social Responsibility (SR): The course enhances social responsibility by providing students with a cross cultural understanding of how history, region, and broader social forces have shaped the distinctive literary traditions from around the world.

Evaluation of Core Objectives

CTS: The evaluation of critical thinking skills will be based on exams and class participation and may include written work. Exams will be designed to allow students to demonstrate their ability to evaluate and synthesize key ideas from the assigned reading. Class room discussion will focus on helping students better understand the nuances and complexities of literary works from around the world.

CS: The course will help students learn how to develop a greater understanding of written and visual texts from the 17th century to the present, that may involve guided writing assignments in which they will receive feedback, exams in which students will be expected to effectively convey key ideas from the course succinctly and clearly, and class room discussion in which students will learn how to express questions and thoughts about the subtleties of each text under examination. Material from this course will include written texts and such visual representations as photographs, illustrations, films, or theatrical performances.

PR: The course material throughout the semester will offer students an opportunity to reflect upon personal responsibility through such topics as the acceptance of the other, religious difference, questions of good and evil, duty to family, and the values of justice and freedom. Students will explore these topics through group discussion, writing assignments, and exams.

SR: The evaluation of social responsibility will be based upon an end-of-the-semester short writing assignment in which students will be asked to reflect upon how their knowledge of literatures from previous historical periods and world cultures outside of their own has changed in light of the new information that they now possess. Students will be expected to demonstrate how key insights from the course have helped broaden their understanding of how history, culture, and philosophical outlooks have shaped the literary traditions of world literature.

Grading: The midterm examination will constitute 30% of your grade; the final examination 50%; and 20% for the quizzes.

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Requirements:
- You are expected to attend class regularly and keep up with reading assignments. For absentee policy see: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07. There will be ten pop
(unannounced) quizzes (10 points each) based on the assigned reading for the day and lectures.

- There will also be a midterm (30%), and a final examination (50%) based on the readings and lectures. The midterm and final examinations will be made up of short and long answer questions that cover reading and material covered in class. For the midterm examination, students are responsible for all the material covered up until the day of the exam. For the final examination, students are responsible for all the material covered after the midterm examination. On the final exam students will be asked to reflect upon how their knowledge of literatures from previous historical periods and world cultures outside of their own has changed in light of the new information that they now possess.

**Grading:** The midterm examination will constitute 30% of your grade; the final examination 50%; and 20% for the quizzes.

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**Academic Integrity:** "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at [http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu).

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do."

**Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute providing comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637). For additional information visit [http://disability.tamu.edu](http://disability.tamu.edu).

**Book List**
- Cervantes: Don Quixote (electronically reserved by the library)
- Moliere: Tartuffe
- Voltaire: Candide
- Shelley: Frankenstein
- Tolstoy: The Death of Ivan Ylyich
- Camus: The Plague
- Marquez: Chronicle of a Death Foretold
- Achebe: Things Fall Apart
- Borges: The Garden of Forking Paths (photocopy)
CALENDAR

Week 1  Introduction  
  Don Quixote  (Read Chapters 1-10)  
  Don Quixote  (Chapters 11-13)

Week 2  Don Quixote  
  Tartuffe  (Read entire play)  
  Tartuffe

Week 3  Tartuffe  
  Tartuffe

Week 4  Candide  (Read Chapters 1-20)  
  Candide  
  Candide  (Chapters 21-30)

Week 5  Candide  
  Candide  
  Candide

Week 6  Frankenstein  (Read Introduction-Chapter 11)  
  Frankenstein  
  Frankenstein  (Chapters 12-16)

Week 7  Frankenstein  (Chapters 17-24)  
  Frankenstein  
  MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Week 8  The Death of Ivan Ylyich  (Read entire story)  
  The Death of Ivan Ylyich  
  The Death of Ivan Ylyich

Week 9  SPRING BREAK

Week 10  The Plague  (Read Part I-II)  
  The Plague  
  The Plague  (Part III-IV)

Week 11  The Plague  (Part V)  
  The Plague  
  The Plague

Week 12  Things Fall Apart  (Read Chapters 1-13)  
  Things Fall Apart  (Chapters 13-25)  
  Things Fall Apart
Week 13  
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Read Chapters 1-4)  
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Read Chapters 5)  
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Week 14  
*The Garden of Forking Paths* (Read entire story)  
*The Garden of Forking Paths*  
Conclusion

**FINAL EXAMINATION TBA.** On the final exam there will be one question in which students will be asked to reflect upon how their knowledge of literatures from previous historical periods and world cultures outside of their own has changed in light of the new information that they now possess.