



Academic Inquiries: Jinan University

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# JINAN UNIVERSITY

## Introduction to Modern Western Literature

**Lecturer:** TBA

**Time:** Monday through Friday (June 17, 2019-July 19, 2019)

**Office hours:** 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

**Contact Hours:** 60 (50mins each)

**Credits:** 4

**Location:** MBA Center

**Office:** MBA Center 107

**E-mail:** TBA

### Course Description

This survey course will involve reading selected samples of literature of the Western World (not just from the United States and England) and discussing their historical and literary contexts. Readings from the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism and Modernism will be considered. The characteristics of different genres will be explored through lectures, class discussions, and oral and written assignments. Short papers, presentations and exams will be required.

### Course Goals

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Explain the active and reactive processes of Western literary developments
- Differentiate fundamental characteristics of different literary genres.
- Identify and describe a number of different writers and styles from each period.
- Give an general overview of the historical context of certain literary movements
- Explain the subjective and objective characteristics of different literary periods.

### Required Text

*The Norton Anthology of Western Literature, Vol. 2 (2005).*

### Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The

course meets from Monday to Friday.

### Course Evaluation

Quizzes/Homework	25 percent
Poetry Exam	25 percent
Drama Exam	25 percent
Fiction Exam	25 percent

### Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90-100
Good	B	80-89
Satisfactory	C	70-79
Poor	D	60-69
Failed	E	Below 60

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Be on time and stay for the duration of each class. Students are allowed three free absences without penalty. Beginning with the fourth absence, students will receive a two point penalty from their final grade for every day missed. Any students with more than six absences will automatically fail the course. I will make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences, so there is no need to provide me with a doctor's note or any other written excuse. Attendance reward: Any students with perfect attendance will receive two points on their final grade.

### Class Policies

- Classroom Courtesy: Be courteous to your fellow students. At times our discussions may become heated, and when that happens please remember that the bedrock of successful scholarship is the ability to disagree with someone without disliking or insulting them.
- Grading: You may drop your lowest quiz grade if you complete a play critique within one week of the grade you wish to complete. Ask me for instructions if you wish to do this.
- Quizzes: Quizzes may be given at any point during the class. They cannot be made up. Once the first quiz or exam is turned in by a student, no additional

quiz or exam will be given to students arriving to class late.

- Electronic Devices: Stow away and turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones and laptops, during class. I have zero tolerance for use of devices during class time.
- Required Conferences: Any student who makes a D or lower on any exam must schedule a conference in my office. Don't think of this as some type of punishment, but rather a time for us both to brainstorm and determine how you can improve your writing.
- Responsibility: Do not blame your computer or printer for late, missing, or unsatisfactory work. Use common sense: back up every file and don't wait until the last minute to print your assignments.
- Proofreading: I expect you to submit your best work. If you have obviously not proofread—if your essay is rife with careless, distracting errors—I will return it to you ungraded.

### Course Schedule

#### Week 1

##### Monday

- Syllabus, Introductions, Course Expectations

##### Tuesday

- NARRATION
- THEME
- READ: Jean De La Fontaine Fables (202-207)
- READ: Coleridge "Kubla Khan" (737)

##### Wednesday

- CHARACTER
- POINT OF VIEW
- READ: Lord Byron (743-748); Lermontov "No, I am Not Byron" (790)

##### Thursday

- SATIRE
- IRONY
- READ: Jonathan Swift "A Modest Proposal" (341-346)

##### Friday

- Student review of week's materials; exam prep

#### Week 2

##### Monday

- IRONY
- TONE
- READ: Walt Whitman "Song of Myself" (918-923)

##### Tuesday

- IMAGERY

- SYMBOLISM
- READ: Pablo Neruda (2189-2205)
- READ: Wallace Stevens (1880-1887)

Wednesday

- THEME
- SYMBOLISM
- T.S. Eliot “The Wasteland” (2006-2018)

Thursday

- DICATION
- William Faulkner “Barn Burning” (2071-2082)
- Exam Review

Friday

- Poetry Exam

Week 3

Monday

- READ: Edward Said “Orientalism” (2400-2405)
- READ: Judith Drake “An Essay in Defense of the Female Sex” (237-242)

Tuesday

- FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
- SATIRE
- Edward Albee “The Zoo Story”

Wednesday

- VOICE
- WIT
- Edward Albee “The Zoo Story”

Thursday

- METAPHOR
- SIMILE
- Edward Albee “The Zoo Story”

Friday

- Drama Exam

Week 4

Monday

- MOTIF
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Tuesday

- PLOT
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Wednesday

- CHARACTERIZATION

- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Thursday

- POINT OF VIEW
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Friday

- Student workshop on readings; review of key themes and motifs

Week 5

Monday

- KEY SYMBOLISM
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Tuesday

- HISTORICAL CONTEXT
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Wednesday

- PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTEXT
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

Thursday

- ECONOMIC CONTEXT
- Novel Review

Friday

- Fiction Exam

### **Academic Honesty**

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.