

English 260: Survey of World Literature
Professor Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall
Office Hours: MTWTh afternoons, 2:00-4:00

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Texts:

Gilgamesh. Trans. David Ferry
The Odyssey. Homer. Trans. Robert Fitzgerald
Beowulf. Trans. Burton Raffel
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Trans. Marie Borloff
The Inferno. Dante. Trans. John Ciardi
The Canterbury Tales. Chaucer. Trans. Nevill Coghill
Candide. Voltaire. Trans. John Butt
Great Expectations. Charles Dickens
Alice in Wonderland. Lewis Carroll
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Mark Twain
The Great Gatsby. F. Scott Fitzgerald
On the Road. Jack Kerouac
The Fellowship of the Ring. J.R.R. Tolkien

Jan. 18 introduction to the course

Jan. 23 Gilgamesh

Jan. 25 Gilgamesh, The Odyssey

Jan. 30 The Odyssey

Feb. 01 The Odyssey

Feb. 06 Beowulf

Feb. 08 Beowulf

Feb. 13 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Feb. 15 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Feb. 16 first essay due

Feb. 20 The Inferno

Feb. 22 The Inferno

Feb. 27 The Canterbury Tales

Mar. 01 The Canterbury Tales

Mar. 06 The Canterbury Tales

Mar. 08 Candide

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 12-16

Mar. 20 Great Expectations

Mar. 22 Great Expectations

Mar. 27 Alice in Wonderland

Mar. 29 Alice in Wonderland

Mar. 30 second essay due

Apr. 03 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Apr. 05 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Apr. 10 The Great Gatsby

Apr. 12 The Great Gatsby

Apr. 17 On the Road
Apr. 19 On the Road

Apr. 24 The Fellowship of the Ring
Apr. 26 The Fellowship of the Ring

May 01 wrap-up of the course

May 02 reading day; third essay due

May 07 final exam: Monday, 2:00-5:00

Course Requirements:

The successful completion of English 260 will require the following of each student enrolled in the course:

1. close reading of the literary works assigned
2. numerous brief quizzes on these works
3. frequent intelligent contribution to in-class discussion of these works
4. occasional facilitation of in-class discussion of these works
5. preparation of three critical or creative essays on these works
6. completion of a comprehensive final exam

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, you should have developed your ability to read closely and analytically, to think critically and creatively, and to write persuasively, in critical or creative modes, selecting, organizing, and presenting evidence sufficient to support (or suggest) meaningful theses in clear, correct, and effective prose, while acknowledging any sources used with appropriate documentation. You should also have developed your ability to contribute meaningfully to class discussion about the works we're dealing with and to facilitate that discussion upon occasion. Finally, you should end the semester familiar with some of the greatest works of world literature, from earlier times down to the present day.

Policy on Attendance:

You may have two absences with no penalty (though you will be considered responsible for work done or due in class on any day you miss for any reason and responsible for informing yourself about any assignments or announcements made on days which you miss). Absences three and four will count 1 1/2 point each off of your final grade in the course. Absence five will count 3 more points off. Each further absence will count 4 points each off.

Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse an absence (and note that students should inform me of the latter ahead of time).

Students who come to class late (after I have taken attendance) are responsible for asking me to correct the attendance record right after class. That record will not be adjusted at a later date. Frequent tardiness will result in a penalty (more points taken from the final grade).

Policy on Late or Missing Work:

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse late essays. Essays whose lateness is unexcused will lose one letter grade for each calendar day they are late. After four days, unexcused late essays will not be accepted at all. Furthermore, essays undone or done too late to count may not be made up by means of the make-up essay. Only an essay which has been done and properly submitted (in time to count) may be made up.

Missed quizzes may not be made up at all—unless the absence is excused. Quizzes missed during an unexcused absence will receive a zero.

Missed facilitations will lower your class participation grade significantly —unless you offer a valid excuse. And if you know you're going to miss a facilitation, I will expect you to make every effort to have someone else facilitate for you.

Determination of Final Grade:

three essays @ 20% each	60%
class participation (including regular participation in and occasional facilitation of discussion)	20%
reading quizzes	08%
final exam	12%

You will be graded (in part) on three essays (of a minimum of 1000 words each). See the syllabus for the possible due dates. Topics for each due date will be distributed well ahead of time. I will be available to advise you well ahead of time, too. Each of these three essays will be worth 20% of your final grade in the course.

Should you be dissatisfied with your performance on any one of these essays, you may submit a fourth essay, a make-up essay, on any course work or works about which you have not already written. If the make-up essay receives a higher grade than the earlier essay, the higher grade will be substituted for the lower one. The make-up essay may be submitted at any time during the semester, up to and including the afternoon of the final exam. Please note that only an essay which has received a grade earlier in the semester may be replaced with a make-up essay. An undone/ungraded essay may not be made up in this way.

Another 20% of your grade will reflect the quantity and quality of your regular contributions to the in-class discussion of the works assigned in the course as well as the success with which you facilitate the class discussion on the occasions when you are expected to do so.

You will also be graded on a series of short-answer quizzes, usually given on the first day a particular work is to be discussed. Your average on these reading quizzes will constitute another 8% of your grade in the course.

The final exam for the course is scheduled for Monday afternoon, May 7, between 2 and 5. It will be a comprehensive exam involving identification of and commentary upon passages from works we have read and one or more longer essays, pulling together the reading and thinking we have done during the semester. The exam will be worth 12% of the final grade.

You may also earn up to 2 points of extra credit in the course by seeing videos or DVD's and films that relate to the material we're dealing with in the course—other than any videos and films required as a part of the course. We may wish to schedule some group viewings, but you are welcome to attend or to rent things on your own, as well. You will earn 1/2 point for each such item seen. Just keep track of what you see and report it to me at the end of the term.

I will be grading the work you submit to me-- and assigning your final grade in the course-- using the plus/minus grading system.

Please note that all work for the course must be done in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code of the College. Your name on any work you do for the course constitutes an Honor pledge.