

Literature Humanities
Section 42
Fall 2009

Anjuli Raza Kolb
ark35@columbia.edu
Office hours T/Th 1-2

Course Description

Literature Humanities is a course in a canon of influential Western literary texts in the Humanist tradition. It is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of great works of literature. The texts we read center on the idea of narrative or story telling as an instrument of discovery. We will consider how writers have used language and plot to examine human nature and the human condition, and how literary and philosophical works have inherited from and built off of one another in this endeavor.

Readings

Books for the course can be purchased at the Columbia University bookstore. Our supplementary readings [*The Bacchae* and *The King James Bible*] can be purchased at Book Culture on 112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam. Please purchase the correct editions. All standard Lit Hum books are also on reserve at Butler Library, in room 208.

Writing Assignments

You will write three five-page papers over the course of the semester on texts and topics of your choosing. Each will engage a **close reading** of a passage from one of our texts. We will talk more about possible paper topics as we move through the syllabus, but you should mark places as you read that are particularly interesting, confusing, or troubling to you. These often generate the best paper topics. **Late Papers will be graded down** 1/3 of a grade for every class period of lateness. I would be happy to look over drafts of papers in advance of the due date during office hours.

Twitter

Please make a Twitter account at www.twitter.com following the format lithum_[your uni] and request to follow lithum_ark35. Make your account private and keep your followers only to members of the class. You will use this platform to post **two questions** on the reading before each class (by 10AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays), as well as to share links/resources with each other as you read.

Attendance

More than **two** unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered. More than four absences mean that you have not fulfilled the Lit Hum requirement, and may be dropped from the course. If you need to miss class (for illness or any other reason), please email me well in advance (i.e. not the morning of class) to let me know.

Grading

Your final grade will be based roughly on 1) your three essays (21% each) and 3) your midterm (12%) and final (25%) exams. Enthusiastic class participation may affect borderline grades.

Emailing Etiquette

I'll often be available by email, but I'm not a constant checker, so nothing last minute will work. In general, expect me to receive your email 1-2 days after you've sent it. I'll be sure to extend you the same courtesy: no last-minute assignments or readings. *Also, please start your messages with "Dear....," not "Hey" and remember to sign-off with your name. Treat emails like short letters and our exchanges will run smoothly.

The Writing Center

UWP (<<http://uwp.columbia.edu/>>) sponsors a Writing Center in 310 Philosophy Hall that offers writing instruction and consultations.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is the passing off of another's words or ideas as your own, and it is a serious academic offense. Cases of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with your school's policy on academic dishonesty and disciplinary procedures. Penalties for plagiarism range from *failing* an assignment or course to *suspension or expulsion* from the university. In this class, we will discuss conventions for using and citing sources. If you have any questions about plagiarism, I invite you to speak with me.

Course Schedule

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Text</i>
1	Tue Sept 8	Homer, ILIAD (I-VI)
2	Thurs Sept 10	Homer, ILIAD (VII-XII)
3	Tue Sept 15	Homer, ILIAD (XIII-XVIII)

4	Thurs Sept 17	Homer, ILIAD (XIX-XXIV)
5	Tue Sept 22	HYMN TO DEMETER
6	Thurs Sept 24	GILGAMESH
7	Tue Sept 29	GILGAMESH * first paper due
8	Thurs Oct 1	Homer, ODYSSEY (I-XII)
9	Tue Oct 6	Homer, ODYSSEY (XII-XXIV)
10	Thurs Oct 8	Herodotus, THE HISTORIES [pp. 3-64, 78-97, 108-116, 126-128, 137-141, 169-186, 195-208...404-429, 438-457, 470-488...526-527, 536-540, 588-590]
11	Tue Oct 13	Aeschylus, ORESTEIA [Agamemnon & The Libation Bearers]
12	Thurs Oct 15	Aeschylus, ORESTEIA [The Eumenides]
13	Tue Oct 20	Sophocles, OEDIPUS [Oedipus Rex & Antigone]
14	Thurs Oct 22	Euripides, MEDEA
15	Tue Oct 27	Euripides, THE BACCHAE ** second paper due
16	Thurs Oct 29	Thucydides, HISTORY OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR [pp. 35-87, 118-123, 124-173, 194-245, 400-408, 414-429, 447-449, 465-470, 525-537]
***	Tue Nov 3	University Holiday
17	Thurs Nov 5	MIDTERM
18	Tue Nov 10	Aristophanes, LYSISTRATA
19	Thurs Nov 12	Plato, SYMPOSIUM
20	Tue Nov 17	GENESIS [Revised Standard Version]
21	Thurs Nov 19	GENESIS [Revised Standard Version]
22	Tue Nov 24	LEVITICUS, JOB [Revised Standard Version]
***	Thurs Nov 26	University Holiday
23	Tue Dec 1	LUKE [Revised Standard Version]
24	Thurs Dec 3	JOHN [Revised Standard Version & King James]
25	Tue Dec 8	EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS [King James] *** third paper due
26	Thurs Dec 10	REVELATION [King James]
EXAM	Fri Dec 18	FINAL EXAM 12.30 PM





