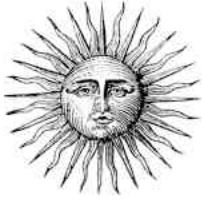


ENGLISH 231: World Literature I, Comparative Mythology



Instructor Carl Lindner
Office CDC 3-322 (or SU Starbucks)
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Office Hours M/W 10:00-11:30AM and by appointment

Fall 2016

Sec 1003: MW 8:30-9:45PM CBC C213

“Myth plays on the analogy between meaning and form, there is no myth without motivated meaning.” –Roland Barthes

Required Text: *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, Custom Package 1 (Vol. A-C), Third Edition, which includes the following supplemental texts:

- *Writing About World Literature: World Literature Supplement*
- *Othello: A Norton Critical Edition*

Bring your textbooks every day except for exams, or if instructed otherwise. After the first week, you are expected to **always** do the readings **ahead** of our discussion **including** the introductory material for every work. Also, please bring copies of the Online/WebCampus readings when listed in the syllabus.

Course Description

English 231 is a Second-Year Seminar (SYS) course that explores issues relevant to contemporary global society through the reading of original literature from antiquity to the present day. Students study these issues within their larger contexts, which include aspects of literature, history, politics, economics, philosophy, and scientific discovery. The SYS reinforces the University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs) introduced in the First-Year Seminar (FYS).

The focus of this particular class is on mythology and religion with an emphasis on the nature of religious experience and the human pursuit of meaning through literature. The class will examine the various forms and central themes of religious literature as well as analyze the belief systems, moral codes, and symbolic rituals of the major world religions from a historical and comparative perspective. We will seek to better understand the tension between faith and reason, the nature of divinity, and ultimately the place of religion in human life as displayed and recorded in literature.

Note: Although this class has a primary theme, the readings, notes, and discussions will consider a wide range of literary topics, including: literary movements, historical events, genres, styles, and critical theories.

Course Objectives

As a natural consequence of learning to study and appreciate literature, some of the specific abilities you should develop in this course include the following:

- The ability to understand major literary works from antiquity to the present day
- The ability to interpret works of world literature in light of their historical, social, and/or economic contexts
- The ability to write and speak effectively about literature to both general and specialized audiences, as well as analyze and evaluate reasons and evidence in order to construct coherent and logical arguments
- The ability to relate and apply the complex social and ethical situations illustrated in literature to your personal and professional lives
- The ability to understand the effects of political, economic, and social institutions on literature in order to better articulate awareness of your own place in the world
- The ability to respond to diverse cultural perspectives on identity, religion, politics, race, gender, and sexuality in an informed way

For a more comprehensive explanation of the course objectives and the UULOs, please refer to:

<http://generated.unlv.edu/uulo.html>

Course Requirements

Assignments include both in-class and out-of-class work such as research, informal writings, quizzes, and discussions on assigned readings from the texts. To successfully complete English 232, you need to:

- COMPLETE WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS
- Attend AND Participate in Class and Group Discussions
- Write five (5) informal 600-800-word Reading Journal entries
- Write one (1) formal 6-8-page Literary Analysis
- Take a Midterm Examination
- Take a Final Examination

Grading

Grades will be determined on a percentage basis. Your overall grade is based on the following percentages:

A = 100 – 92 %	A- = 91 – 90 %	B+ = 89 – 88 %	B = 87 – 82 %	B- = 81 – 80 %
C+ = 79 – 78 %	C = 77 – 72 %	C- = 71 – 70 %	D+ = 69 – 68 %	D = 67 – 62 %
D- = 61 – 60 %	F = 0 %			

Assignments

Major assignments will be evaluated on the standard plus/minus letter-grade scale and total 100 points. Use the table below to track your performance in the class.

Components	Overall %	Points
Reading Journal	20%	20.00
Midterm Exam	15%	15.00
Final Exam	25%	25.00
Literary Analysis	25%	25.00
Class Participation	15%	15.00
	100%	100.00

Reading Journal

The *Journal* section of WebCampus will be treated (as the name implies) as a virtual journal where you will record and collate your critical insights to our weekly readings. You are required to write at least **five (5)** substantive entries, **600-800 words** each, in your journal by the end of the semester.

The purpose of these responses is to demonstrate that you have read the assigned material, you understand the material, and you can articulate what you have learned. **I do NOT want plot summaries**, but your reactions, ideas, and/or specific comments about the reading for a given week. Grading will be based on the level of critical thought, the depth of analysis in each response, the use of direct quotations and paraphrasing, and the overall quality of the entry.

Note: I only accept **one (1)** Journal entry per week since I refuse to be bombarded with 125 responses at semester's end.

Assignment Submission Requirements

All outside writing assignments must be typed or word-processed unless otherwise noted. All final documents must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch margins and formatted according to MLA guidelines. Papers that do not meet these criteria, or do not meet the minimum length requirement will be returned *ungraded*.

Quizzes and Exams

There is **one (1)** midterm and **one (1)** final examination in this course consisting of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, quotation identification, and short essays. Questions will focus on authors, genre, country and language of origin, date of composition, literary terminology, and/or thematic understanding of the readings. We will discuss the format of each exam a class or two before it is given. I *might* also administer random “pop” reading quizzes designed to make sure you carefully read the assigned material and picked up key content.

Extra Credit

Periodically throughout the semester I will offer opportunities for extra credit. The points for these will be added to the points for in-class Participation or Reading Responses. Writing additional Journal Entries is a simple way to improve your grade since I accept up to **ten (10)**. Significant extra credit can raise your grade.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required, and absences will be recorded. Keep in mind that the allowed absences are intended for unavoidable absences due to illness or emergencies. If you have a medical or otherwise legitimate reason to have a missed class excused, discuss it with me *beforehand*. Students who will miss class because of religious holidays or official activities should refer to: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=839>.

- Absences exceeding the equivalent of **four (4)** classes result in a final grade reduction of **one letter grade**.
- Absences exceeding the equivalent of **six (6)** classes result in a grade of **F**.

Students who are late, leave early, or are unprepared for class will be penalized **1/2 absence**. It is possible to have a grade deduction or to fail the class simply from being late consistently. This is department policy and I have no authority to bend the rules for lazy students. **YOU'VE BEEN WARNED**.

Late Work

Unless there's a good reason, this class operates much like the real work world does, where employees who habitually turn in their work late tend to be ex-employees. If you miss class for any reason, you are *still responsible* for content of the day and for any assignment given for the next class. **There is no way for you to "make up" missed in-class assignments or quizzes**. Asking me repeatedly to make up work will not change this policy. If illness or emergency will prevent you from completing an assignment by its due date, contact me *beforehand*.

Note: Late Major Assignments will be downgraded **one letter grade per day late**.

Class Participation

The participation grade consists of in-class reading quizzes, writing, discussion, and group work. Therefore, **active participation is a must**. You are expected to participate in class discussion. Participation involves more than "talking" in class. You should also be thinking about and listening to what is going on around you. In other words, just talking about your ideas without engaging with your classmates is **not** discussion. We are here to investigate and interpret these texts *together*, so always be prepared to discuss each text *in class*. My purpose is to teach you the *process* of intellectual discovery rather than give you my particular interpretation of the text.

Class Conduct

You are expected to behave courteously and professionally with your peers as well as with me. The classroom is not the place for taking naps, texting, playing Trivia Crack, updating your Facebook status, surfing celebrity Twitter feeds, posting silly photos to Snapchat, eating savory, delicious food truck food, or studying for other classes. Respect your classmates and teacher as you would have them respect you. General rudeness, abuse, and/or ridicule directed toward others or myself will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to administratively drop any student who disrupts the harmony of the classroom.

Electronics

In general, this is a **NO TECHNOLOGY CLASSROOM**. All electronic devices, including laptops and cell phones, **must remain on silent/off** and under the desk during class. There are only **two (2)** exceptions:

1. If we are discussing Online/WebCampus texts, you can use a laptop or tablet in order to save paper.
2. If you require special accommodations or assistance in order to fully participate in the class.

I reserve the right to ask students to place their electronic devices on my desk for the duration of class or to leave the classroom if you are using technology inappropriately.

Grade Disputes

If you disagree with my evaluation of an assignment and the grade I have assigned, I am always willing to discuss it with you and to reevaluate my assessment. I will ask that you do **two (2)** things before we talk:

1. Take the time to carefully read and consider my comments on the assignment and re-read the requirements
2. Define the *specific* reasons that you feel that your assignment deserves a different grade

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, you accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. For a complete list of definitions, procedures, and sanctions, see:

http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=845#Stud_Acad_Misc

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism – using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any other source, without proper citation of the source – **constitutes grounds for failure in this course.**

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following

website: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Tutoring

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling 702-895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://www.unlv.edu/asc/tutoring>

Special Accommodations:

If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 143. Their numbers are: (702) 895-0866/Voice; or (702) 895-0652/TDD; and (702) 895-0651/Fax. For additional information please visit: <http://www.unlv.edu/drc>

Last Date to Drop:

The final date to drop or withdraw from the course without a grade being recorded is **November 4th**. No withdrawals will be permitted after this date.

A Syllabus is a contract. Your continued attendance in this class means that you have read and understood the rules, policies, and guidelines that this syllabus details.

