

## LIT113: World Literature

**THIS COURSE DOES NOT REQUIRE A FINAL EXAM**

# SYLLABUS

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS NOW!**

Keep work organized by week, clearly labeled and typed or copy/paste onto your syllabus. Math and hand done projects: photograph, scan or screenshot and copy/paste to your syllabus. Keep images small so your file isn't too large to submit or save work as a PDF. Go to "Student Services" online for any issues with this course. If you need Microsoft Word, request an email from Student Services and follow the steps given to you.

- **SUBMITTING WORK: YOU MUST SUBMIT ALL WEEKS AT ONCE** on one file. Your syllabus may be submitted separately if you chose not to add your work to it. Go to the website and select "Submit Work", complete the form and attach your work. You may also share a public link such as Gdocs. You have two attempts at receiving a passing grade of "C" or better so submit your full effort original work. Do not mail work. You will receive a reply in about 5 business days. Do not call or email asking for us to verify your work. All components of your course must be completed by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> week from the time of your registration; 12 weeks for a 2 credit class. If you have a medical emergency or disability preventing you from completing your class, contact "Student Services" and send an email to request up to a 2-week extension

### Week 1

#### EPIC POETRY & LITERARY ART

#### TEXT: "BEOWULF EPIC POEM LESSON"

Download, Read, Study and Use for the following assignments

**AS YOU READ**, take notes and respond to the prompts in the right margin. This is important and will help you complete your submission assignments

**SUBMIT: AFTER READING** you must submit your responses to the following assignments beginning on page 71 – Comprehension, Literary Analysis, Literary Criticism, "Where do Monsters Lurk?", and Vocabulary in Context

**ADD BEOWULF ASSIGNMENTS BELOW**

### Week 2 – NON-FICTION

Current WORLD NEWS

INVESTIGATE THE WEBPAGE: <http://www.irinnews.org/environment-and-disasters>

**ASSIGNMENT:** You will investigate, read and study 10 online articles from the webpage using the link above. You will provide the following: 1.) What is the title of the article 2.) What is the problem or issue and how does it impact society and the earth 3.) What measures, if any, are being taken to help remedy or end the problem?

**ADD YOUR INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSES BELOW**

### American Non-Fiction

**TEXT: "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Be detailed in your responses and give support from the text/links provided**

1. What is Dr. King's purpose for writing this letter?
2. How does King address criticisms that he is breaking the law and how does he recommend that Americans concerned with social justice break laws?
3. In "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Martin Luther King Jr. invokes passages from "The Gettysburg Address," *The Declaration of Independence*, and the *Bible*. Why do you think he references these sources? How do these sources help make his letter more powerful? Support your answer.
4. Many critics of the Civil Rights movement urged Negroes in the U.S. to wait for their rights to be recognized. In "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," how does Dr. King answer these critics? Why does Dr. King believe that waiting is not the answer? Support your answer.
5. How does Dr. King make use of Gandhi's notion of non-violent civil-disobedience? Does Dr. King, like Gandhi, believe that non-violence needs to be an active process, or does he believe that non-violent civil disobedience must be passive? Support your answer.

**ADD RESPONSE/S/ HERE**

**SOUTH AFRICA: NON-FICTION**

### Nelson Mandela

**Be detailed in your responses and give support**

**TEXT: Mandela Booklet in your downloads**

Mandela. Read the attached document and write an essay on the principles of Nelson Mandela. Discuss his beliefs, what he stood for and what he fought against. Discuss your view of his character and the life he lived. Add it to your syllabus. No certain page count required.

**ADD RESPONSE/S/ HERE**

**WEEK 3**

**American Short Story**

**TEXT: Edgar Allen Poe, The Cask of Amontillado**

**Be detailed in your responses and give support from the text**

"The Cask of Amontillado" is a chilling story, but Poe also uses humorous elements as the narrator recounts his experience with Fortunato.

- Identify elements in the story that might be regarded as humorous?
- What does the humor add to the story?

**ADD RESPONSE/S/ HERE**

"The Cask of Amontillado" uses a first-person narrator (a narrator that is a character in the story), and, sometimes, first-person narrators can be unreliable.

- How reliable or unreliable do you regard the narrator?
- Are there any ways that the narrator might be manipulating the truth?
- How would you describe the narrator's attitude toward himself and his actions?

**ADD RESPONSE/S/ HERE**

Although the narrator seems to assume that his actions are justified, he certainly can be interpreted as a villain.

- What characteristics of the narrator make him an effective villain?
- Is there anything about the narrator that you find attractive or likeable?

**ADD RESPONSE/S/ HERE**

Every story must exist in a certain time and place, and we refer to the time and place of a story as the "setting."

- How does the setting of "The Cask of Amontillado" change as the story progresses?
- Why do you think Poe chose to bring together in this story the dreariness of the catacombs and the festive atmosphere of the carnival?
- What elements of the setting in this story would you consider typical of a horror story? What elements

seem unusual?

## Australia

### TEXT: Australian Dreamtime Stories – Aboriginal -

**Be detailed in your responses and give support from the text**

- 1.) What is meant by the “Dreaming” and what impact does this have on their culture/ society? Give details.
- 2.) Choose 3 of their “beliefs”. What is your impression of each belief? Are they “believable” – explain?
- 3.) What is the role of “Ancestor Spirits”
- 4.) What are “Wandjina/Wondjinas”?
- 5.) BAJAME AND CREATION: Explain the importance of Bajame. According to their literature, how did the world come to be? What is your impression of this Australian Legend?
- 6.) Read the stories and... a.) What similarities do you see to American stories? b.) Are these stories you’d like to share with children? Why/Why not?
- 7.) Write your own “Dreaming” story in a form similar to the Australian Aboriginal stories you have read. Your topic is, “How the Ocean came to be...” Make your story believable! (no page requirement)

**ADD RESPONSE/S/ HERE**

## WEEK 4

### TEXT: ANTIGONE (GREEK TRAGEDY)

**Download, Read, Study and Use for the following assignments**

What is Antigone? Antigone is the third play in a trilogy known collectively as the Oedipus Cycle, which includes the archetypal tragedy Oedipus Rex as well as the more uplifting Oedipus at Colonus. Antigone picks up sometime after the second play left off—Oedipus, the cursed son of Laius and Jocasta, has died in exile, accompanied by his daughters Antigone and Ismene, while his brother Creon has taken control over the city of Thebes. Creon has been waging a war against rival city-state Argos, whose army was led by Antigone’s brother Polynices, a loyal Theban turned rebel who was killed on the battlefield. The principal plot of the play begins after Creon has dictated that the body of Polynices be deprived of funeral rites; Antigone, claiming fidelity to the unspoken law that requires all bodies be interred, defies Creon’s orders, thereby setting up a tragic tension. Surprisingly, the principal tragic content revolves not around the title character, but rather Creon, whose hubristic defiance of the gods’ orders sets up his own tragic fall. The play is a classic of Greek Drama,

perhaps the peak of the form (besides Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, Aeschylus' Orestia, and Euripides' Medea that is). These plays may exist in a semi-spiritual polytheistic society, but their concerns are devoutly human. In effect, these tragedies allow us to understand some of the mysteries of human behavior that arise when loyalties clash, when personal integrity bucks up against the integrity of a larger group (like the State), and when leadership becomes a curse. Like the Bible, Greek tragedies help us understand certain keys to who we are as a species, and reading them allows us the insight, the catharsis, that turns us into better, more thoughtful, more compassionate people. You are going to love Antigone

### **ESSENTIAL THEMES and QUESTIONS:**

BE CAREFUL TO RESPOND TO EACH QUESTION

**1. Power:** Is a King's power important for the good of the people or the good of the one who holds power? In what contexts can authority be challenged? Is Creon a good king? How does he exercise his power? a) Principled v. Personal Rebellion: [Listed as a subcategory of "Power", because this dichotomy presents an opposition to those who have power.] Which characters rebel for personal reasons, and which characters rebel to uphold their principles? Is Creon a rebel too?

**2. Identity:** How does Antigone's femininity shape her rebellion? How do Ismene and Antigone represent different types of female characters? How do they react to their subordinate status as women differently from each other? Why is Antigone's gender a problem for Creon? How does Creon's pride play a role in his downfall?

**3. Interconnectedness:** What role does the Chorus play in justifying or opposing the authority of Creon? How do Creon and Antigone's actions affect the world beyond themselves? How can we connect the lessons about power and rebellion to the world of today?

**ESSAY** Choose the character you think best exemplifies the tragic hero as defined by Aristotle and write a persuasive essay using your knowledge of Antigone and the Poetics. Be sure to use examples from these texts when making your argument. There is no right or wrong answer so long as you back up your position, though choosing a character like the Sentry would be considerably off target. **2 pages required**

**ADD "ANTIGONE" RESPONSES BELOW**

### **WEEK 5-6**

Russian Novelist

**TEXT: Crime E Castigo Fiodor Dostoievski/ Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky**

(There are versions of the movie to watch for free on the internet)

**ASSIGNMENT:** Your novel explores crime, internal conflict with guilt, and social behaviors. For this assignment your will carefully analyze each of these components through events and character analysis based on the character's behaviors. **BE CAREFUL TO RESPOND TO EACH PART OF THE PROMPT.**

- 1.) **The Protagonist:** Identify the main character. What crime is he initially charged with? How does being accused of this crime lead to him committing murder? Does he feel justified in committing murder? How does his crime of murder affect him psychologically? How does the antagonist – antagonize him – how does this affect him psychologically? Describe the behavior the main character has that shows he has compassion? Describe the behaviors the main character has that shows he is headed down a dangerous path. What other crime does he commit and why do you feel he does so? Is he justified in committing any of his crimes? – explain your answer. How does the main character resolve his internal conflict? Why do you feel he resolves this conflict as he does? Are there any incidences where the main character decides to confess any one of his crimes – does he feel sorry at all? Is the main character a “good man”. Give support for your answer. YOU MUST RESPOND IN FULL to each question and give support from the story?
- 2.) **The Antagonist:** Who is trying to the antagonist? What is his goal? How does he add to the mental unraveling of the main character? What type of man is this antagonist? What is his title and what power does he have? Describe the tactic he uses in his attempt to solve his case? Is he affective in his tactics? Does he get what he wants – support your answer. YOU MUST RESPOND IN FULL to each question and give support from the story?
- 3.) **The Love Interest.** Who wins the heart of our Main Character and how does she do so? Describe this supporting character. Who is she? How does she add complication in the story? How does the main character view her – does he see her as she actually is? How does her role impact the choices the main character makes? If she was not ever known by the main character, what events in the story may not have taken place – explain. YOU MUST RESPOND IN FULL to each question and give support from the story?
- 4.) **Setting of the Story.** Where does this story take place and how does this add to the tone of the story. Describe the various settings and locations and how they contradict each other. Describe the overall social issues and disparity that are evident in the story between the rich and the poor – how does this drive the story? YOU MUST RESPOND IN FULL to each question and give support from the story?

**ADD YOUR RESPONSES BELOW**