Western Literature

Western Literature is over 2,000 years old and has recorded many civilizations, some disappeared long time ago but go on living through the written word. These writings and civilizations have influenced our culture, way of thinking, reading, seeing and feeling. During our semester together we will explore some of these civilizations and heritages by reading books, essays, poems and plays representing the great western literature since the Bible. You will be required to make your own choices of different forms of literature, to respond, react, evaluate and appreciate the writing and enhance your understanding of the roots of western literature: your own inheritance.

Course Objectives

- Enhance your reading
- Facilitate your ability to use books as space ships to other worlds
- Develop your inner voice
- Help to improve your written and oral skills
- Give you some experience in working alone and in group
- Enable you to distinguish between constructive and destructive criticism
- Allow you the freedom to shape your own literary taste and penchant

Required reading

*Western Literature* The Norton Anthology Volume 2
Recommended Reading

*Atonement* Ian McEwan

*Blindness* Jose Saramago

*Emma* Jane Austen

*Catch 22* Joseph Heller

*The Unbearable lightness of being* Milan Kundera

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Expectations

You are expected to show up to every class, and on time. Missing lessons and lateness will interfere with learning and hence affect your grade. Since there is a large emphasis on team-work you will be required not to disrupt your fellow student's creativity and to be considerate. No ringing cell-phones and no eating during class.

All assignments will be presented in print; hence you have to master computer skills.

Grading

Your contribution in class will determine 20% of your final grade
The work done in groups with other students will determine 15% of your final grade
The presentations you will give in class on your own, and/or with fellow students will determine 15% of your final grade
The written works you will be required to present throughout the semester will determine 25% of your final grade
The last assignment, *a research paper on your chosen topic*, (in lieu of final exam) will determine 25% of your final grade

Schedule- with possible modifications according to student researches

Week I
Tuesday January 17                      Introduction
Thursday January 19                    The bible

Week II
Tuesday 24                               Ancient Greece and Rome
Thursday January 26                      The Divine Comedy

Week III
Tuesday January 31                       Thousand and one nights
Thursday February 2                      Enlightenment

Week IV
Tuesday February 7                       Women's situation
Thursday February 9                      Swift and Voltaire

Week V
Tuesday February 14                      Samuel Johnson
Thursday February 16                     Religion and literature

Week VI
Tuesday February 21                      Romanticism
Thursday February 23                     Romantics and Revolution

Week VII
Tuesday February 28                      Realism and Symbolism
Thursday March 2                         Mid-term paper due

Week VIII
Tuesday March 7                          Spring recess
Thursday March 9                         Spring recess

Week IX
Tuesday March 14                         Madam Bovary
Thursday March 16                        Baudelaire and the cursed poets

Week X
Tuesday March 21                         European Empire
Thursday March 23                        Heart of Darkness

Week XI
Tuesday March 28                         Civilization on trial
Thursday March 30                              Mann and Rilke
Week XII
Tuesday April 4                                     All College Service Day
Thursday April 6                                   A room of One's own
Week XIII
Tuesday April 11                                  Metamorphosis
Thursday April 13                                War's literature
Week XIV
Tuesday April 18                                 Sartre and De Beauvoir
Thursday April 20                                Final essay due
Week XV
Tuesday April 25                                  Edward Said versus Primo Levi
Thursday April 27                                 Conclusion

Notes
1) You can expect to dedicate 3-6 hours per week outside of class, reading and preparing assignments.
2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Offices as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
3) Do not hesitate to address me with any kind of problem you have during class or after.
4) This syllabus is subject to change.