

Great Books in World Literature VR222

Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Amalia Jiva

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Office Hours: TBD

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Course Description:

The thematic approach of the course relies on the metaphor of life as a journey, quest, or pilgrimage. We will explore how movements through imagined spaces, in time, address the question of ultimacy, personal transformation, and social development. We will analyze how stories provide explanations of origins, evoke the human condition, and instruct or ponder what it may mean to live well with others in socially constructed settings.

We will read and discuss these works in order to appreciate both their relevance and their remoteness from our contemporary setting. The class will entail close and critical readings of the selected texts, reading of contextual information, class discussion and presentations, quizzes and written responses, three exams, and one paper.

Tentative Course Schedule - subject to change

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3/2 week 1	Introduction to course/ Journey Metaphor		The Great Book; Epic; Myth; Hero	The Power of Myth/Allegory of the Cave
3/9 week 2	Jonah and the Whale Epic stages	Power of Myth		Close reading Literature
3/16 week 3	Gilgamesh		Gilgamesh	Gilgemsh
3/23 week 4	Exam Review	Exam 1	Genesis	Genesis
3/30 week 5	Genesis		Hesiod's Theogony	The Odyssey
4/6 week 6	The Odyssey	The Odyssey	The Odyssey	Exam Review
4/13 week 7	Exam II		The Ramayana	The Ramayana
	The Ramayana	The Zhuang Zi	Paper Consultations	Exam Review

4/27 week 9				Final Exam Final Paper TBD
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Course Aims:

Upon completing this course, students will be able to

- read, analyze and critically respond to works of literature in oral and written form.
- apply theoretical frameworks to works of literature
- approach a work of literature from a culture other than their own.
- develop facility with literature of various genres

Sample Primary Texts (excerpts provided on Sakai)

The Epic of Gilgamesh

The Ramayana

“Genesis.” *The Bible*

The Odyssey by Homer.

The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri.

“Young Goodman Brown” by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Moby Dick by Herman Melville.

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett

No Exit by Jean Paul Sartre

Assignments and Values:

Exam I	15%
Exam II	15%
Final Exam	20%
Final Paper	20%
In-class Presentations	10%
Participation	10%
Homework	10%

Final Average and Course Grade

98% and above A+	93% and above A	90% and above A-
87% and above B+	83% and above B	80% and above B-
77% and above C+	70% and above C-	60% and above D
59.9% and below F		

Course Policies and Expectations

Homework: please submit an electronic version on Sakai prior to the beginning of the class.

Paper Format: Use MLA style. Please always double-space and use 12 point Times New Roman font.

Late penalties: Your grade for the assignments will drop by 1/3 of a letter grade for each day that they are late, including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted for marking one week after the due date.

Extensions will only be given in exceptional circumstances, such as personal illness or family emergency, with proper documentation.

Expectations: in general, students are expected to attend classes and participate, be polite, help classmates when needed, manage their schedule, speak English during class time and office hours with instructor and TAs, avoid plagiarism. Students must turn off electronic devices in class and concentrate on the lecture/discussion. Laptops may only be allowed in class as long as they are being used for educational purposes, such as note-taking. The instructor reserves the right to ban laptops in the classroom if this policy is violated. Policies regarding electronics for tests, quizzes, or other in-class assignments will be announced on a case-by-case basis.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Please come to each class, and to your assigned section. Failure to attend class will affect your grade. Students who miss over 1/3 of classes cannot pass.

To quote JI policy on leave/missed classes:

- a) "An advance request for leave of absence is required if the student cannot attend the class due to illness or other reasons. Absence without approval will be regarded as skipping classes."
- b) "A note that a student visited a medical facility is not sufficient excuse for missing an assignment or an exam. The note must specifically indicate that the student was incapable of completing an assignment or taking an exam due to medical problems and that this condition was sudden enough that it was impractical to contact the instructor in advance."
- c) Students will receive a zero for any in-class work or quizzes they miss due to unexcused absences. **Please note** that even with an excused absence, you are still required to hand in any work that was assigned in that class on time. In other words, if you have an approved leave of absence on Monday, you are responsible for handing in any homework that was assigned that day, and must hand it in at the same time as other students.

Participation (responses, homework, short presentations, and discussion) 15%

Attendance is not the same as participation. As you may know, any class relies on the active participation and contribution of students. You are expected to attend class regularly, do the weekly readings, bring at-home responses to class, contribute to class discussion, and be able to engage critically with the texts we will analyze.

Honor Code

You MUST refer to the 2013 JI Undergraduate Student Handbook, Section 9, for a description of what acceptable academic conduct is. Section 9 of the Handbook contains the Honor Code. In particular for this course,

- “it is dishonorable for students to receive credit for work that is not the result of their own efforts” (2013 USH, 19).
- “It is a violation of the Honor Code for students to submit, as their own, work that is not the result of their own labor and thoughts. This applies, in particular, to ideas, expressions or work obtained from other students as well as from books, the internet, and other sources. The failure to properly credit ideas, expressions or work from others is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously at JI. A student is required to follow the rules of citation and attribution as set down by the instructor.” (2013 USH, 20).
- “Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously at JI. A student is required to follow the rules of citation and attribution as set down by the instructor. The following list includes some specific examples of plagiarism:
 - Use of any passage of three words or longer from another source without proper attribution. Use of any phrase of three words or more must be enclosed in quotation marks (“example, example, example”).
 - Use of material from an uncredited source, making very minor changes (like word order or verb tense) to avoid the three-word rule.
 - Inclusion of facts, data, ideas or theories originally thought of by someone else, without giving that person (organization, etc.) credit.
 - Paraphrasing of ideas or theories without crediting the original thinker.” (2013 USH, 21).
- Please read carefully the following document:
<http://umji.sjtu.edu.cn/academics/student-handbook/> >
<http://umji.sjtu.edu.cn/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2013-Undergraduate-Student-Handbook.pdf>