Welcome to English 212, a selective survey of world literature from the end of the Renaissance (really the beginning of the Enlightenment/Early Modern period) to the present. Among the authors we shall read are Goethe, Flaubert, Proust, and Kafka, names that you have probably heard even in non-literary contexts. Throughout the course we shall consider literary movements and exemplary works; our interpretive skills and cultural repertoire will be challenged and expanded as the semester progresses.

Clearly, to survey world literature from circa 1650 to the present adequately and representatively in a single semester is impossible, as there are simply too many great works from too many rich traditions. In line with my own strengths, I have emphasized the European context. Even having done this, however, I have had to omit many important texts. To cover what remains, we will need to read as much as we can as quickly as we can. Therefore, I ask that you apply yourselves and keep on track with the schedule (which I will change only with advance notice).


*Note that this text is required, and it is further required that you bring the relevant volume of this text to class with you every time that we meet. Every time.*

**Course Requirements:** As noted before, this course is a fast-moving survey that requires your commitment to steady reading. I am using periodic reading quizzes—both scheduled and unscheduled—to help in this matter. The subject matter of each quiz will be the material assigned for that day. Grades will be computed in terms of the 800 points possible for the semester according to this breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 scheduled quizzes</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pop quizzes and daily work</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Position essay</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Response essay</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<td>800 pts</td>
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To compute your grade at any point in the semester, simply divide the number of points you have earned by the number of points possible up to that date. The final course grade will depend on the points earned: 800-716=A, 715-636=B, 635-556=C, 555-476=D, 475 and below=F.

More specific information about the essays will be forthcoming, although you can expect the first to involve a comparison of Pope and Voltaire and the second to concern modern and/or postmodern texts. Essays will be graded both on substance (quality and accuracy of ideas) as well as expression (tone, style, syntax). Exams will include M/C and short answer formats.

**Course Objectives:** The Program Learning Outcomes for the English major are as follows:

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to read complex texts, closely and accurately.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend both traditional and contemporary schools/methods of critical theory and apply them to literary texts to generate relevant interpretations.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of literary history in regard to particular periods of world literature.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability to effectively conduct literary research.
5. The student will demonstrate the ability to write clear, grammatically correct prose for a variety of purposes in regards to literary analysis.

The relevant Exemplary Educational Objectives for ENG 212 as a general education core course are as follows:

1. Students will demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Students will understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Students will respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Students will articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
5. Students will develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the humanities and arts.
6. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

Finally, the Student Learning Outcomes are as follows:

1. Students will possess an increased understanding of and appreciation for key works in world literature (daily work and quizzes);
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of periodization in world literature (daily work and exams);
3. Students will read literature with increased critical acumen (daily reading, critical response essay); and
4. Students will be able to respond to literature with facility, both orally and on paper (daily discussion, personal response essay, critical response essay, exams)

**Attendance:** The attendance policy for this course is the official SFASU policy as stated at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class_attendance_excused_abs.asp; i.e., regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. Valid excuses are limited to health, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing written documentation for EVERY absence, from which a decision will be made regarding the absence’s excusability. Without written documentation, the absence will automatically be considered unexcused. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester when the nature of the work missed permits. However, no absences beyond the six that may be excused will be excused, and no student shall be allowed to pass the course whose unexcused absences exceed three (3)! Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, or in the case of a late add, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Also, you must take both major exams and turn in both essays to pass this course.

**Note regarding make-up and late work:** Make-up quizzes and tests (which will be given only in the case of excused absences) must be taken during my office hours on your own initiative within one week of the absence, and they may be more challenging than the original versions. Note that it is in the nature of pop quizzes and daily work that they cannot be made up. Late essays will lose one letter grade per business day of lateness. I will not accept the submission of material via e-mail without prior approval.
Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

E-mail and mySFA/WebCT/Blackboard: Per SFASU policy (as stated at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/email_uni_comm.asp), your SFASU-assigned e-mail address is considered an official method of communication from faculty to students. Thus, it is your responsibility to check, on a regular basis, for any e-mail messages that I may have need to send regarding this course. Such messages may direct you to the mySFA/WebCT/Blackboard area of this course for additional materials or instructions.

Schedule

Note: Always read the biographical and/or topical introduction(s) to the assigned material along with the literary text. Quiz and test material may come from this editorial material as well as from the primary text, although the primary text is the privileged material.
Week 1
30 Aug
Introduction to the course and course policies. “A Note on Translation”

The Enlightenment

1 Sep Jean Racine, *Phaedra*, acts 1-3 + pp. 295-303 (vol. D)

Week 2
6 Sep **Quiz 1.** *Phaedra*, acts 4-5; Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man*, epistle 1
8 Sep **Quiz 2.** François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire, *Candide*, chps. 1-15

Week 3
13 Sep *Candide*, chps. 16-30

Romanticism

15 Sep Jean-Jacques Rousseau, from *Confessions* + pp. 651-61 (switch to vol. E)

Week 4
20 Sep **Quiz 3.** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust* (pp. 678-733)
22 Sep *Faust* (pp. 733-80)

Week 5
27 Sep **Personal Position Essay due.** Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, “The Queen of Spades”

Realism and Symbolism

29 Sep **Quiz 4.** Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*, part 1+ pp. 1071-83

Week 6
4 Oct *Madame Bovary*, part 2
6 Oct *Madame Bovary*, part 3

Week 7
11 Oct **Quiz 5.** Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*
13 Oct Charles Baudelaire; Paul Verlaine (all poems)

Week 8
18 Oct **Midterm Exam**

Modernism

20 Oct Marcel Proust, from *Swann’s Way* (from *A la recherche du temps perdu*) + pp. 1579-96
(switch to vol. F)

Week 9
25 Oct **Quiz 6.** Thomas Mann, “Death in Venice”
27 Oct Virginia Woolf, from *A Room of One’s Own*

Week 10
1 Nov **Quiz 7.** Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*

Postmodernism/Later Twentieth Century

Week 11
8 Nov **Quiz 8.** Tawfiq Al-Hakim, *The Sultan’s Dilemma* + pp. 1597-1606
10 Nov Albert Camus, “The Guest”
Week 12
17 Nov Naguib Mahfouz, “Zaabalawi”; Doris Lessing, “The Old Chief Mshlanga”

Week 13
24 Nov Thanksgiving Break

Week 14
1 Dec Gabriel García Márquez, “Death Constant beyond Love”; Alice Munro, “Walker Brothers Cowboy” and “Gravel”

Week 15
6 Dec Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, part 1
8 Dec Quiz 10. *Things Fall Apart*, parts 2-3

Final Exam