

ENGLISH 2332: LITERATURE OF THE WESTERN WORLD

DR. MONICA SMITH

Office: 413C Classroom Center

Email: msmith@wtamu.edu

Office Hours: M – Th 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Office Phone: (806) 651-2477

Course URL: <http://homedirs.wtamu.edu/~msmith/2332/2332.htm>

PREREQUISITES: English 1302

COURSE DESCRIPTION: English 2332 surveys literature written in the western world from the ancient world through the Renaissance. We will engage with critically selected literary works, paying particular attention to genre as well as cultural movements and historical developments.


COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students should develop an understanding of literary culture; discuss and write critically about different literary genres, periods, and styles; discuss and write critically about film and stage adaptations and appropriations of literary works; and improve their critical thinking and writing skills.

CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE: This is an active, discussion-oriented class with considerable reading assignments. Many assignments will require multiple readings; thus, students should budget their time accordingly and responsibly. Students should come to each class prepared to articulate and defend their own readings, both on paper and in person, both in large group and small group discussion. Students who are unprepared for class discussion and/or activities may be dismissed for the day and counted absent. Although not specified by page number on the syllabus, students are expected to read and should anticipate quizzes over the introductory sections on each author we study.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *Literature of the Western World: The Ancient World through the Renaissance.* Eds. Brian Wilkie and James Hurt. Vol. I. 5th edition.
- *Beowulf* (excerpts). Available via WT Class.
- Behn, Aphra. *Oroonoko*. Available via WT Class.
- Materials from WT Class.
- Materials from the course webpage (<http://homedirs.wtamu.edu/~msmith/2332/2332.htm>).

To access materials via WT Class:

- Go to <http://wtclass.wtamu.edu/>. (Note that there is no “www” at the beginning of this URL.)
- Under “Courses for 2006 Fall Semester,” click on “E.”
- Scroll down and find our class: **ENGL 2332-03**.
- Click on the Course Area icon: 
- Enter the User Name and Password (I will give you these in class):
 - User Name:
 - Password:

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Daily Readings are substantial and demanding, and some readings—especially poetry—will demand multiple readings. All readings should be completed before coming to class, and I strongly recommend that you get in the habit of looking ahead on the syllabus; know when our next play, long poem, etc. is due, and plan to start reading in advance. Although not specified by page number on the syllabus, students are expected to read and should expect to be tested over the introductory sections on each author we study.

In-class Writings and Quizzes will vary from a quick, four or five line response to a question or prompt to a detailed analysis of a particular passage. **Presentations** will range from participating in staging a scene from a play to relating the substance of a small group discussion. Expect a quiz or in-class writing daily. These writings will be assessed according to the degree of engagement the student demonstrates with the question or assignment. At the end of term, I will drop your lowest quiz grade and your lowest in-class writing grade.

Discussion Leader: Once during the semester, you will prepare a list of “discussion starters” for the class. You should email these to me no later than 12:00 on the Wednesday you are scheduled to lead. I will provide details for this assignment in class.

Cultural Event Paper: Once during the semester, you will attend a cultural event and write a short essay discussing your experience and reviewing the event. Details about this assignment are available on WT Class.

Exams: Each exam will consist of two parts: identifications and an essay.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is essential. I will take roll every day. Students are allowed one absence without penalty (except for any missed in-class assignments that cannot be made up). Five points will be deducted from your final grade for each absence beyond the allowed absences, **regardless** of the reason for the absences. All absences will be treated the same, i.e. no differentiation between “excused” or “unexcused” absences. Habitual or excessive tardiness may be counted as an absence.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Assignments are due in class and are to be delivered in person unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Any assignment that does not adhere to this requirement is considered late.
- Late assignments will lose one letter grade per business day, **not** class day.
- Assignments are not considered submitted until I receive them. To be safe, then, papers should never be left in my mailbox or sent via email attachment.
- Each student is held responsible for all assignments, regardless of her/his class attendance on the day the assignment is made.
- If a previously scheduled event coincides with an exam or due date, a written request for an extension or make-up date will be considered. All such requests must be submitted prior to the date in question.
- Any requests for extensions based on illness or family emergency must be accompanied by written documentation verified by the Office of Student Services. All make-ups and extensions are at the instructor’s discretion.

COMPUTER ACCESS:

- Students are expected to check email daily and the course webpage several times a week or as indicated on the daily schedule.
- Students are responsible for securing working computer equipment; labs are available on campus. Please note that since “The printer wouldn’t work,” “Something’s wrong with my disk,” and “I don’t know what happened—I saved it but now it’s not there” have become the 21st century versions of “The dog ate my homework,” computer, software, or printer malfunction/failure of any kind will not constitute a valid excuse for missed, late, or incomplete work. Remember: save early, save often; print early, print often.

CONFERENCES: Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 1:00-2:00 or by appointment. You are always welcome to drop by during office hours. If you know you’ll be stopping by at a certain time, feel free to set up an appointment so that you’re not kept waiting if I’m with someone else.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

- All students are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers.
- **Any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.**
- Students are responsible for informing themselves of all university regulations concerning academic honesty. For more information, please see the Code of Student Life, Appendix III (<http://www.wtamu.edu/administrative/ss/code/index.htm>)

ACCESS STATEMENT: If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (i.e., physical, mental, psychological, learning), have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in VHAC 218.

GRADING:

In-class Writings, Quizzes, and Presentations	15%
Cultural Event Paper	15%
Discussion Leader	10%
Exam One Identifications	10%
Exam One Essay	10%
Exam Two Identifications	10%
Exam Two Essay	10%
Exam Three Identifications	10%
Exam Three Essay	10%

DAILY SCHEDULE: Subject to change. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The most up-to-date version can be found on the course webpage.

August 30: Introduction to class

September 6: Sophocles, *Oedipus*; Euripides, *Medea*; Print, read, and bring to class the requirements for the Cultural Event essay (available via WT Class); Possible film adaptations: *Oedipus Rex* (1967) and *Medea* (1970)

September 13: Homer, *The Odyssey* (Books One, Two, Five, and Nine); Film adaptation: *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

September 20: Homer, *The Odyssey* (Books Seventeen and Twenty-three); Review for Exam #1; Film adaptation: *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

September 27: Exam #1

October 4: *Beowulf* (on WTClass)

October 11: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

October 18: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (specific tales TBA)

October 25: Exam #2

November 1: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

November 8: Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Acts 1-3

November 15: Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Acts 4-5; Film adaptation: *Forbidden Planet*

November 22: No class; Thanksgiving Holidays

November 29: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (on WTClass)

December 6: Shakespeare: Sonnets 18, 30, 64, 73, 116, 129, 130; Donne, Holy Sonnets X and XIV; Milton, "On the Late Massacre in Piedmont," "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent"

Finals Week: Exam #3