

European Literature: Homer through Dante Section 01

ENGL 125

Spring 2023 4 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/24/2023

Contact Information

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office hours: Mondays, 2:00pm - 3:00pm in person, and by appointment. Students are invited to email the professor with their availability to schedule an appointment that best fits their schedule, either in person or via Zoom.

Class modality: In person, synchronous, attendance and participation required

Course Description and Requisites

Classical and medieval literature in translation: Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Virgil and Dante.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Letter Graded

Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System").

Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent;
- B = above average;
- C = average;
- D = below average;
- F = failure.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students

will be able to:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english>)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (<mailto:english@sjsu.edu>)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425

Course Goals

This course examines texts from European classical antiquity to the early modern era in a variety of genres and forms that include epic, drama, romance, chronicle, and theogony. We will primarily critique and examine the texts we read to understand how they have informed justifications for the rise of European imperial power and expansionism through the concept of *translatio imperii*, the historical notion that political power is meant to be concentrated in the hands of few—or often one—entity and transferred in linear succession. We will further explore how these texts have influenced major literary traditions.

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Students will learn how the elements of figurative language and literary fiction interact with central religious, political, and artistic concerns. Students will write essays of literary analysis by quoting textual evidence, making informed inferences about the evidence, and placing the discussion within the appropriate context of the literary piece and its conventions.

Course Materials

All required course readings will be made available through Canvas.

Students are NOT required to purchase any materials for this class.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation (L01 and L05): Students discuss significant features of the works, providing specific textual evidence sourced from the works. The participation grade includes class preparation and presence. Students earn participation credit by posing and answering questions.

Essays (L01, L02, L03, L04): Students will write two essays of literary analysis.

Midterm and Final (L01, L02, L05): This is a take-home exam. It will require you to connect and analyze specific literary features of a passage with aspects of literary history and/or thematic question. The exam will include a close-reading section and a literary history section.

✓ Grading Information

Grading Information

Please see the Rubric for Argumentative Literary Analysis Essays available on Canvas to review expectations for graded essays.

Your class participation will be assessed as follows:

A = Regular, pertinent questions and comments; fully engaged

B = Occasional, pertinent questions and responses; good listening

C = Infrequent, tangential questions or comments; attentiveness questionable

D = Rare interaction; disengaged from discussion; not prepared for class

F = Regularly absent, physically or mentally

All written work will be evaluated on the basis of a sustained argument based on (1) its demonstrated reading comprehension of the literary works, (2) the use of textual evidence, (3) the appropriate inference and contextualization of the textual evidence, (4) and its clarity of exposition.

Determination of Grades

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation (discussion and in-class activities): 18%

Essay 1: 18%

Essay 2: 20%

Midterm: 22%

Final Exam 22%

Late work is subject to grade reduction.

Extensions are available upon request. To receive an extension, you must provide work in progress and you must indicate how long an extension you need and if the instructor can provide any assistance.

All of the assignments above must be completed to a satisfactory level to earn a passing grade in the course.

Each graded component shall receive a score as a percentage which corresponds to the letter grade below.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
W 1/25	Introductions and course information
M 1/30	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 1 and 3
W 2/1	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 9 and 16
M 2/6	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 19 and 20
W 2/8	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 22 and 24
M 2/13	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 1 and 2
W 2/15	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 4, 9, and 10

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
M 2/20	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , 20, 21, and 22
W 2/22	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> , scenes 1 and 2 (pages 1-20) Essay 1 Due
M 2/27	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> , scenes 3 and 4 (pages 21-48)
W 3/1	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> , scenes 5 - 8 (pages 49-84)
M 3/6	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Books 1 and 2
W 3/8	No Class - Instructor Away
M 3/13	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Books 4 and 6
W 3/15	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Books 8 and 12
M 3/20	Midterm Review
W 3/22	Take-home Midterm Due
27 - 31 March, Spring Recess	
M 4/3	<i>Bible: New Revised Standard Version</i> , selections
W 4/5	<i>King of Tars</i>
M 4/10	<i>King of Tars</i>
W 4/12	<i>King of Tars</i>
M 4/17	<i>King of Tars</i>
W 4/19	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , cantos 1-5

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
M 4/24	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , cantos 8, 10, and 12
W 4/26	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , 32-34
M 5/1	<i>Popol Vuh</i> pages 48-61, 178-194, 221-227
W 5/3	<i>Popol Vuh</i> pages 48-61, 178-194, 221-227
M 5/8	<i>Popol Vuh</i> pages 146-176
W 5/10	Workshop Essay 2 Due
M 5/15	Final Exam Review
Final Take-home Exam Due Monday, 22 May by 11:59pm	