

World Literature II
Fall 2009
TTh 8:00-9:15
Irby 316

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Office hours: MWF 8:00-9:00, 12:30-1:30; TTh , 9:30-10:30, 12:00-1:00; and by appointment

Text: Mack, et al. *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, Second Edition, Volumes D, E, F.*

Course Description and Objectives: This course is a survey of World Literature from the sixteenth century to the present. It is one of the required general education courses in the World Cultural Traditions area. We will read and discuss works from different countries and cultures, and you will think and write about those works. There are three primary objectives: 1) that you gain a basic understanding of some of the world's different cultures (including our own) through their literature and through discussions of the historical and cultural context, 2) that you become a more skillful reader of literature in general so you can get more out of your reading, and 3) that you become more skillful at critical thinking, at exploring, developing, and expressing your thoughts in writing and in discussions. In the process, I hope you will discover something about the way you view and think about the world and something about what it means to be human. The course will consist mostly of discussions of the works—we will explore the literature together and you will learn about it by responding to questions and hearing the responses of your classmates. **This means that you must come to class having read and thought about the assignments.**

This particular course is also a **confluence course**. That means that we will meet four times during the semester with two other classes (American History II and World History II) for a discussion of important issues so you will get a sense of how those issues might be approached from the perspective of different disciplines

Assignments: You will take a midterm and a final exam (both primarily essay) that will test your ability to synthesize information—i.e., to bring together and see connections between the works we have read. You will also write a paper on a particular work or issue which will show your ability to read carefully and to make sense of individual works. You will have a chance to rewrite your paper for a better grade if you so choose. In addition, various quizzes and other exercises will reward you for having read the material and thought about it before class. You will have questions to answer in writing in connection with our confluence meetings.

Grading: The midterm will account for 15% of your grade, and the final for 30%. The paper will count for another 30%. The confluence meeting questions will count for 10% and quizzes and other forms of daily participation will account for the remaining 15%.

Classroom Behavior: You are expected to be in the classroom when the period starts. If you are tardy three times, it will count as one unexcused absence. You are also expected to remain in class during the entire period, unless you have arranged with me ahead of time to leave early. If you have a cell phone, please make sure that it's turned off the entire time you're in the classroom. If you use your cell phone during class time (to answer or make a call, use instant messaging, etc.) you will be asked to leave and counted absent for that day.

Dire Warnings, etc.: You are expected to turn your assignments in on time. Late papers will be penalized a grade point unless you have a good excuse. No assignment will be accepted if it is more than a week late. If you don't come and tell me why your paper is late, I will assume that you have no excuse.

Miss class at your own risk. Discussions are an important part of the course, and you can't participate in them if you aren't present. You won't have a chance to make up missed quizzes, though you may do extra-credit exercises to compensate for a couple of them. If you miss four times without a legitimate excuse, **your final grade will be lowered one grade point**, since you have not satisfactorily participated in the class. **If you miss five times without a legitimate excuse, I will drop you from the course.** If you have a legitimate excuse, **you must contact me as soon as possible and let me know.** If your absence is excused, you can do an extra assignment to make up for what you've missed by not being in on the discussion. If you need to miss class, you can find out about assignments or discuss a late paper by calling my extension, listed at the top of this syllabus, or by emailing me. If you're desperate, my home phone number is 470-1768. Please do **not** call the departmental office, since the secretary has enough to do and can't really answer your questions about the course.

Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words or ideas as if they were your own (e.g., copying a passage from the internet, a critical work or—heaven forbid—Cliff's Notes, or having someone else write a paper for you.) It's your responsibility to know what plagiarism is and to avoid it. If you plagiarize, you will fail this course.

Finally, UCA adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 450-3135.

Readings

To be read by the beginning of class on the date listed

8/20	Introduction–Buddhism and Chinese culture
8/25	Wu Cheng-en, <i>Monkey</i> , pp. 10-24 (Vol. D), Synopsis handout
8/27	<i>Monkey</i> , pp. 24-37
9/1	<i>Monkey</i> , pp. 37-41, handout
9/3	<i>Monkey</i> , pp. 42-61

- 9/8 *Monkey*, pp. 61-71, Synopsis handout
- 9/10 Wrap up *Monkey*, Introduction to European “Enlightenment”
- 9/15 Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle I (pp. 510-17)
- 9/17 Continue discussing *Essay on Man*
- 9/22 **Confluence class--** Read Voltaire, *Candide*, pp. 520-29
- 9/24 *Candide*, pp. 529-44
- 9/29 *Candide*, pp. 544-57
- 10/1 *Candide*, pp. 573-80
- 10/6 **Midterm exam**
- 10/8 William Blake, from *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, “Introduction,” “The Lamb,” “The Little Black Boy,” pp. 782-84 (Vol. E)
- 10/13 **Confluence class--** Blake, “The Chimney Sweeper,” p.785; “The Tyger,” p. 786
- 10/15 **Fall Break**
- 10/20 Blake, “London,” p.787; “The Chimney Sweeper,” p. 788
- 10/22 William Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey,” pp. 792-95
- 10/27 Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life . . .*, pp. 923-34
- 10/29 **Confluence class--** Douglass, pp. 934-49
- 11/3 Douglass, pp. 949-67
- 11/5 Douglass, pp. 967-80 **Paper due**
- 11/10 Premchand, “The Road to Salvation,” pp. 1910-17 (Vol. F)
- 11/12 Naguib Mahfouz, “Zaabalawi,” pp. 2531-38
- 11/17 Cherokee story, “The Bear Man,” Lame Deer, “The Circle and the Square,” (handouts)
- 11/19 Leslie Marmon Silko, “Yellow Woman,” pp. 3143-50
- 11/24 **Confluence class--** “Yellow Woman”
- 11/26 **No Class–Thanksgiving**
- 12/1 *Smoke Signals* (film)
- 12/3 Wrap-up
- 12/8 **Final Exam–8:00 a.m.**