SYLLABUS

COURSE NAME **World Literature I (before 1660)**

CODE **ENG-2205**

CLASS MEETING TIME: **Wednesday afternoon (from 1pm)**

LOCATION: **D8-106, HUST**

WORTH **3 credits**

PREREQUISITE **ENG 1102**

INSTRUCTOR **Le Nguyen Long**
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to various masterpieces of world literature
- To examine literary works that have become the cornerstones of the world's major literary traditions
- To enrich students' cultural understanding by bringing them into contact with great literary works created in different socio-cultural contexts.
- To improve skills of reading, presentation, and writing.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Attendance	**10%**
Assignments (at-home reading task) **(= (Average of Asgmts + Midterm)/2)**	**15%**
Presentation/Participation	**25%**
Midterm	**20%**
Final Exam	**30%**

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Description	Credit	Grade points per hour of credit
A (90-100)	Excellent	Yes	4
B (80-below 90)	Above Average	Yes	3
C (70-below 80)	Average	Yes	2
D (60-below 70)	Below Average	Yes	1
F (below 60)	Failure	No	0
FA	Failure due to excessive absences	No	0
INC	Incomplete	No	0
NG	No Grade Reported	No	0
P	Pass	Yes	0

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Puchner, Martin, gen. ed. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. Vol. A, B, & C. New York: Norton, 4th ed., 2018.
- Supplementary readings.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Session 1 (Wed, March 4)	• **Introduction** Review of syllabus Review of the course's policy Forming of presentation groups
Session 2	• **Creation, the Cosmos, and the World of Epics** *Gilgamesh* (2500–1500 B.C.E.) Homer (8th century): *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* The Hebrew Bible (ca. 1000–300 B.C.E.)
Session 3	• **Ancient Athenian Tragedy** Aeschylus (524?–456 B.C.E.): Introduction Sophocles (496–406 B.C.E.): *Antigone* Euripides (480–406 B.C.E.): Introduction
Session 4	• **The Birth of Philosophy** - Confucius (551–479 B.C.E.): *Analects* - Laozi: *Daodejing* - Zhuangzi (369–286 B.C.E.): "Free and Easy Wandering" - Aristotle (384–322 B.C.E.): *Poetics* *Politics* (supplemental reading)
Session 5	• **Literatures of the Roman Empire and Christian Europe** - Virgil (70-19 B.C.): Introduction - Ovid (43 B.C.-A.D. 17), *Metamorphoses* - The Christian Bible: *The New Testament* - Augustine: *Confessions*
Session 6	• **The Middle Ages and the Formation of a Western Literature** *Beowulf* (9th century) Petrus Alfonsi (1062-after 1116): *The Scholar's Guide* Marie de France (12th century): "Bisclavret" and "Laustic"
Session 7	• **Midterm Exam**

Session 8	• **The Rise of Islam and Islamic Literature** The *Qur'an* (610-632) • *The Thousand and One Nights* (14th century)
Session 9	• **Literatures of East Asia's "Middle Periods"** ***China*** - Ge Hong (283-343): *The Nei P'ien* (supplemental reading) - Gan Bao (?-336): *In Search of the Supernatural: The Written Record* (*Sou-shen Chi*): "Hsuan Ch'ao Visited by the Jade Lady" (supplemental reading) - Tao Qian (365-427): "The Peach Blossom Spring" - Tang Poetry: Introduction ***Vietnam*** - *Outstanding Figures in the Vietnamese Zen Community* (*Thien uyen tap anh*) (ca. early 14th century) (supplemental reading) - Le Thanh Tong (1442-1497): "Quarrel between Buddhas" (supplemental reading) - Nguyễn Dữ (16th century): "The Trial at the Dragon Palace" (Long đình đối tụng lục) (supplemental reading)
Session 10	• **Europe in the Transition from the Medieval to the Renaissance** Marco Polo (1254-1324): *The Diversity of the World* Dante Alighieri (1265-1321): Introduction Giovanni Bocaccio (1313-1375): *Decameron*
Session 11	• **The Renaissance in Europe** Machiavelli (1469-1527): *The Prince* Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616): *Don Quixote* William Shakespeare (1564-1616): *Hamlet*
Session 12	• **Final Exam**

ABSENCES: The following is the official policy of Troy State University as written in the Undergraduate *Bulletin*.

"In registering for classes at the University, undergraduate students accept responsibility for attending scheduled class meetings, completing assignments on time, and contributing to class discussions and the exploration of ideas.

"A student will be excused if he/she has been absent from a class by reason of circumstances beyond his/her control or if the student has been required to attend an activity sponsored by the University. Faculty members who sponsor activities that require class absences must send a list of student names to each faculty member concerned at least three days before the scheduled absence.

"Faculty members may levy academic penalties upon unexcused absences; however, such penalties for unexcused absences will be a part of each course syllabus and will be distributed to each class at the beginning of each term, a copy filed in the departmental office."

For all sections, each student is to be in class and prepared for class each scheduled class day. A student whose absence is not warranted by an official excuse or by a doctor's written statement will receive a grade of zero for work due in class and for all work done in class on the day of the absence.

Your attendance and participation in class are essential for a complete learning experience. The type of learning that takes place between you, your instructor, and your classmates cannot be acquired on an individual basis. This class meets only 1 days per week, and much information must be covered to help you maximize your potential for success at Troy University and in life after the University. **Therefore, IF YOU MISS MORE THAN TWO SECTIONS—EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED—YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.**

INCOMPLETE WORK: A student who has not prepared the entire class assignment for a given day will receive a grade of zero for class work on that day.

LATE WORK: Only those students who have been excused from class may hand in work late, and they must hand in all assigned work within one week from the last day of the excused absence.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic dishonesty is not accepted in this course. Cheating on a map quiz will result in a deduction of 10 points from your overall assessment. Cheating on an exam or handing in plagiarized materials will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Any student whose disabilities fall within ADA must inform the instructor at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course.

THIS SYLLABUS IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. The instructor may make changes if deemed necessary. Changes will be announced in class.

More details of the course's policy

(in addition to the policies informed in the syllabus above)

1. This might be a difficult course for you as your majors are of technology and economics/business rather than of literature, so please adhere to the following points to help maximize your final score:

1.1. being present on time in (and during) every session. If you miss more than 2 sessions – excused or unexcused – you will receive a failing grade for the course. The whole attendance score makes up 10% of your final score. If you miss 1 session without excuse, you will lose 25% of your attendance score. If you miss 1 session with excuse, you will lose 15% of your attendance score. If you show up 10-19 minutes late, you will lose 10% of your attendance score. If you show up 20-29 minutes late, you will lose 20% of your attendance score. If you show up 30 minutes late, you will be counted as missing that session.

1.2. actively participating in discussing and answering questions in the sessions to have opportunities to get bonus score for your final score.

2. Presentation: Doing presentation is a required task for every student. The whole class will be divided into 9 groups matching up with the 9 theme-based sessions. Each group member needs to pick a sub-topic for her/his own presentation which is constitutive of the presentation topic assigned to that group so that all the group members' presentations work coherently to create an organized presentation. Each member's presentation should last about 15 minutes. You are expected to fulfill the requirements of generalizing, synthesizing, and reading in order to have a coherent presentation, making sure to provide and analyze examples from the textbook to support your ideas. Your presentation score will be evaluated based on your teamwork in creating a logical group presentation, your individual presentation, your PowerPoint, and your Q&A part. You all are also expected to have an **oral presentation** rather than reading scripts. If you just read scripts in any form (cellphone, laptop, paper, etc.), your presentation score will not be higher than 50 of a 100-point grading scale. Your final grade will be an F if you miss your presentation score.

3. Assignments (at-home reading tasks of each session): I will have questions prepared for you to answer before the session to check your understanding of the reading. They will not be too abstract or hard but instead, they will be focused on specific details of the texts, which means, you

should read the texts carefully. In addition, I can ask you to do certain task to support your understanding and interpretation of the texts, for example, doing a search to learn about specific literary terms. I can also ask you to do other forms of homework to help you improve specific skills of writing such as how to write an abstract, how to write a literature review for an essay, and how to write an essay in general.

4. Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be an in-class handwritten exam (without textbook, bluebooks, or electronic devices as a cellphone or laptop) which will help you review your reading and writing skills you will practice in your homework from the beginning to the session right before the midterm exam. Your final grade will be an F if you miss the midterm exam.

5. Final Exam: The final exam will be an in-class handwritten exam which consists of two parts: reading comprehension and essay writing. In the part of reading comprehension, you will have to present your reading of a short passage excerpted from a text you read during the course. Instead of rephrasing its content, you are expected to present your interpretation of its connotation in the context of the whole story it belongs to. In the part of essay writing, you will be asked to write an essay of about 1,200-1,500 words to present your opinion about a certain topic related to your readings during the course. Only the hard copy of the textbook and the related journal articles provided by the lecturer will be allowed to be brought in during the exam. Similar to the task of doing your presentation, you will also be expected to fulfill the requirements of generalizing, synthesizing, and reading in order to write a coherent essay. Your final grade will be an F if you miss the final exam.