

# **World Literature**

(ENG04221)

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Office Hours: MW 11-12, Tue 11-12, 1-3pm, Thu 11-12, 1-3pm ...And by appt.

## *Course Overview*

We will read literary works from a variety of time periods throughout world history and come to appreciate the multitude of styles and themes available in great works of literature. From the early Epics to Shakespeare to the British and Irish Modernists – culminating with a small selection of post-Modern stories and poems -- we will work to discover the enduring intellectual, spiritual, and psychological preoccupations of great writers and thinkers throughout time. Additional works from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East may be included.

A theme we will pursue from the beginning of the course is “power struggles.” In any given work, we will ask: who has the power in this narrative? What is the power? How is it used? Who lacks power? Why? “Authority” will be a related theme. We will seek out relationships between texts based in part on the nature of authority and power within them.

## *Course Objectives*

Our primary objective in this course is to progress significantly as writers and thinkers. We will:

- \***Engage critically** with our stories, novels, and poems.
- \*Generate **critical questions** about our texts and use them as touchstones to our discussions.
- \*Write a sophisticated **formal thesis-based essay** using textual evidence.
- \*Write a literary research paper.
- \*Maintain an **on-going conversation with the texts and one another** through informal (but critically cogent) response papers.
- \*Develop as communicators in an academic setting through **in-class discussions**.
- \*Work towards developing **our own academic voices**.
- \*Develop academically sound papers with **good grammar, sentence structure, spelling, syntax, diction**, etc.
- \*Participate in **formal and informal discussions** with **civility and thoughtfulness**, listening to one another’s points-of-view and responding critically and intelligently, but kindly.

*Texts* (changes are possible)

*The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Vol. A, B, C* Maynard Mack  
*The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, expanded edition, Vol. 2,* Maynard Mack  
*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol 1.*  
*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol 2*

**Assignments**

**Grading**

Formal Essay (15%)	A	94-100
Research Paper (25%)	A-	90-93
Midterm Exam (15%)	B+	87-89
Creative Project (10%)	B	83-86
Participation (15%)	B-	80-82
*Writings / Class Activities (20%)	C+	77-79
	C	73-76
	C-	70-72
	D*	0-69

\*This 20% will encompass a number of points-based assignments and, in some cases, the participation grade will also include points-based assignments. All of your assignments will be points-based. The percentages you see above are the relative value of these activities, in total, over the whole of the semester. Additional formal assignments may be incorporated and you will be notified of any changes in percentages of the overall grade. I reserve the right to add and subtract assignments based upon the needs of a given class, and I have done so in the past. If that occurs, my decision is invariably in the best interest of class needs and abilities.

**Assignments Note**

***(All assignments and percentages are subject to change, depending upon class and instructor determinations of need, the schedule, and timing. Students will be informed of changes. Failure to complete any assignment, regardless of the percentage associated with the assignment, may result in a failing grade.)***

All assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Work that is turned in late will be penalized. The only exceptions to this rule are if you have a legitimate emergency and/or an excused absence (see below) and you and I have had an in-person discussion about a short extension. Technological problems (a broken printer, for example) are not acceptable excuses for late work. You should always back up your work and have contingency plans for logistical problems. This is a significant part of being academically responsible. Everything additional you do for this class, extrin and out of the classroom, can contribute positively to your overall course grade. I reserve the right, throughout the course, to make any adjustments I deem necessary based upon your on-going performance.

Excused Absences: In the event that you have an excused absence and cannot turn an assignment in on time, we will arrange for you to complete the assignment with a new due date, which is likely to be the next class.

**Participation**

Our classroom conversations are dependent upon your participation. While you are expected to have your readings and assignments done on time, *you are also expected to be prepared to share your observations, questions, and ideas with the class.* You will be evaluated on the overall effort and value of your daily engagement with our material. This includes in-class writing and workshops. Failure to be prepared or to contribute reduces your participation percentage and also your writings and class activities percentage.

### ***Attendance***

You are expected to be in class and on time daily. Failure to do so will hurt your overall grade. Sleeping in class constitutes an unexcused absence. If you have an emergency and cannot make it to class, I ask you that you contact me in person or through my office phone number.

**Tardiness:** If you arrive in class 5 minutes after the appointed time, you will be considered tardy. If you are more than 10 minutes tardy, you will earn an unexcused absence, but you will still be expected to attend class.

### ***Indiana Academy Unexcused Absence Policy***

“It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor.

\*You are expected to attend every class. You are allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will be penalized as follows: Unexcused absence (1) = 1-point subtraction from final grade. Unexcused absence (2) = 3-point subtraction from final grade. Unexcused absence (3) = 5-point subtraction from final grade. (For example, if you have an 89 final average with (3) unexcused absences your final grade will be 84). Four (4) or more unexcused absences will lead to academic and residential consequences beyond the scope of this class determined by the Office of Academic Affairs (i.e., residential groundings, parent/principal conference, and/or detention).

\*\*Any minor assignment/test/project/presentation missed due to an unexcused absence will be handled according to the late work policy of this class. You will be given an opportunity to retake any missed assignment/test/project/presentation worth more than 20% of the final grade but will be docked a full letter grade as a result.”

### ***Academic Honesty***

You are required to produce work that is academically honest. Direct and indirect plagiarism, both of which we will discuss in class, are unacceptable and have serious academic consequences. If you are even remotely uncertain about whether or not any part of your work is academically honest, then you are to contact me and we can discuss the situation. Please refer to the student handbook for additional information.

### *Accommodations*

If you require any special accommodations due to a documented disability, let me know as soon as possible and I will make whatever adjustments are necessary for your comfort in my class.

### *Laptops*

Laptops are to be closed and off your desks during class time unless I have specified otherwise (we will occasionally write in class and you may use your computer for your creative project). This class requires an intense engagement in literature and writing and the distraction of computers on any level in the classroom is unacceptable.

### **Homework Policy for Breaks**

As per Academy policy, I will not be giving homework before an official break with the expectation that the homework be due the first day back from break. You should rest and enjoy your time on extended weekends and holidays and I will do my best to ensure you are not burdened with homework you have just been given that must be done over break. However, in the event that you wait to do your homework over a break, where you feel that's an option, I bear no responsibility for your choice.

### *Literature Note*

Important literature is often about the deepest and most difficult struggles of humans to live authentically in a complex world. Through the thoughts and experiences of literary characters, we can examine and evaluate our personal responses to life's mysteries, complexities, disappointments, and joys. In addition, we begin to understand how a writer, in his or her own struggle to experience creatively, has responded to the social, political, and artistic environment of his/her times. The English Department at the Academy selects reading material that reflects these human struggles, has endured the test of time, and has earned a respected place in the universe of letters. The instructors will often include recently published poems, stories, and articles that reflect the diversity of contemporary cultures and experiences. If, because of the powerful nature of the reading experience, you are unable to read and study a specific text with reasonable analytic objectivity, please confer with your instructor. Alternative texts are available.

### **BSU Diversity Statement**

“Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.”

### **Indiana Academy Mask Policy**

The Indiana Academy will follow Ball State University's mask policy (see Section IV). Based on

current CDC guidance recommending the wearing of face masks for all people—regardless of vaccination status—in public indoor settings in communities where the rate of coronavirus transmission is high or substantial, all employees, students, and campus visitors are required to wear a mask while inside any University building. This requirement is effective on August 9, 2021. Fully vaccinated people are not required to wear masks outdoors.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are required to wear face masks while inside campus buildings and outside when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

If a student declines to wear a face mask as required, the student will be referred to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. If the situation occurs in a classroom or other academic setting, it is considered a classroom management issue, and the teacher will remind the student of the requirement and give the student a chance to comply with it prior to referring the matter to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. Wearing masks is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19 to others.