

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2017-2018 C LIT 101-A1: WORLD LITERATURE I
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Mimi Okabe	Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am-10:50 am
Office: 4-49B Old Arts (Convocation Hall Building)	Place: Tory Building Room 90
Fax: 780-492-9106	Office Hours: Tuesdays @ 11:00-12:00, or by appointment
E-mail: tokabe@ualberta.ca	Course Website: eClass
Personal Website: mimiokabe.com	

Course Prerequisite: N/A

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course aims to introduce students to a selection of classic literary works (from the beginnings of literary civilisations until the 17th century) across various cultural, national and linguistic boundaries. In a close reading of myths, epics, poems, novels and plays (in translation), we will discuss these works in relation to their socio-cultural and political context, but also in relation to the question of what constitutes “world literature?” The students’ critical engagement with various literary traditions, forms, genres, and themes will develop their critical reasoning, writing, and reading skills. Students will also demonstrate familiarity with Western and non-Western literatures and methods of analysing these literary works and other media from a global/comparative perspective. Furthermore, at the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Identify** and define major thematic concepts in world literature
- **Recognise** key works and authors of world literature
- **Identify** thematic connections between texts
- Effectively **articulate** personal responses to course materials
- **Develop** critical thinking tools in order to devise original ideas and interpretations of texts
- **Analyse** literary works and their adaptations in relation to their form, content, (and/or medium)

Texts:

Required (*Other required and optional readings will be available on eClass.)

- Puchner, Martin. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. Shorter Third edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013.
- Atwood, Margaret. *The Penelopiad: The Myth of Penelope and Odysseus*. Edinburgh: Canongate, 2005. Print.
- Gosick, Karen and Robert Kirschen. *Writing About World Literature*. New York: Norton, 2012. Print. **(Optional)**

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Attendance and Class Participation	20 %
Response Paragraphs	30% (3* 10%) <u>Hardcopy accepted only</u>
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): N/A

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Attendance & Class participation (20%): Students are expected to take an active role in class, ask questions and engage in and contribute to class discussions every session. In addition, class activities will be offered every week and their participation in the forms of pair/group discussions and individual/group written reports will be evaluated throughout the course.

Response paragraphs (30%): Students are expected to hand in three response paragraphs (200-300 words) written on three titles from the reading list posted on eClass. Students are supposed to answer critical questions in the texts that will be given to students based on specific topics and themes introduced each week. These response papers should be handed in

on designated dates throughout the term (see reading list).

Mid-term (20%): The midterm for this course will take place on **Thursday, October 26th 2017** in class. The midterm exam will cover readings up to the end of **Week 7** and will consist of questions such as multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blanks, short answers, long answers, passage identification and analysis, and/or definition of terms.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam for this course will take place on **Tuesday, December 19th 2017 at 9am**. The final exam will cover readings from **Weeks 8-14** and will consist of questions such as multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blanks, short answers, long answers, passage identification and analysis, and/or definition of terms.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that

on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, regular attendance of class lectures **is very important as it constitutes 20% of your total grade.** An absence without a valid excuse (family emergency, health, or personal) will result in a total loss of the participation segment of the day missed. Emergencies are unpredictable, but please consult with me at your earliest convenience if you know that you will miss a class or classes for any of the reasons listed above.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who cannot meet the deadlines for submitting their assignments need to consult the instructor at least one week in advance. The assignments which are submitted late will not be accepted.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility](#)

[Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59