

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2019-2020 C Lit 101, A2: World Literature I

(Fall Term)

Instructor: Haiyan Xie

Time: M W F: 9:00-9:50

Office: 317-A, Old Arts Building

Place: HC 1-11

Fax: 780-492-9106

Office Hours: Wed 10:00-11:00

E-mail: hxie2@ualberta.ca

or by appointment

Personal Website: n/a

Course Website: eClass

Teaching Assistant Information (if relevant): n/a

Course Prerequisite: N/A

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

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)

N/A

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course aims to introduce students to a selection of classic literary works (from the beginnings of literary civilizations 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 the works of world literature and key authors
- 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 and popular works in relation to their form, content, (and/or medium)

Course Format:

The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, guest presentations, assigned readings and audiovisual materials.

Texts:

Required*

Puchner, Martin. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. Shorter Third Edition. (Vol. 1) New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013. (the PDF version will also be accepted)

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

Additional Course Fees:

Yes

No

Important Dates: See Academic Schedule in current Calendar

First Day of Class: September 4, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019

Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019
Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019
Final Exam Date (if applicable): December 11, 2019 at 2:00pm

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:
[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations \(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Attendance and Class Participation 20 %
Team Presentation 10%
Response Paragraphs 20% (2* 10%)
Mid-term Exam 20% (October 25, 2019 in class)
Final Exam 30% (December 11, 2019 at 2:00pm)

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2019-2020 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

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 irregularly and their participation in the forms of pair/group discussions in class will be evaluated throughout the course.

Team Presentation (10%)

In team of two, students are expected to prepare an oral summary and critical commentary of a writer/poet or a piece of literary work they learned in the preceding week. They cannot repeat what they have been taught in class. They should focus on one distinct aspect of the writer/poet or text, etc. For example, something that the instructor didn't cover about the writer/poet, or a trope, a stylistic point, a particular use of language, a particular theme in the text, etc. Length of presentation should be approximately and no more than 20 minutes for each team. (topics of presentation on the reading list)

Response Paragraphs (20%): Students are expected to hand in two response paragraphs (200-300 words) written on two titles from the reading list posted on eClass. Students are supposed to answer critical questions in texts that they will be offered 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 **25 October** in class. The midterm exam will cover readings up to the end of **Week 7** and will consist of two parts: 1) 30 multiple-choice questions, each worth 2 points; 2) long answers to two questions. Both will test not only basic knowledge of facts presented in the course, but also students' understandings of the historical importance of our various theories, how they were used, and what their implications are.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam for this course will take place on **11 December at 2:00pm** in class. The final exam will cover readings from **Weeks 8-14** and will consist of two parts: 1) 30 multiple-choice questions, each worth 2 points; 2) long answers to two questions. Both will test not only basic knowledge of facts presented in the course, but also students' understandings of the historical importance of our various theories, how they were used, and what their implications are.

Required Notes:

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

Student Responsibilities:

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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

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:

- 1) Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- 2) 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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at

<https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

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 consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1-80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64

insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.			
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

Copyright: Haiyan Xie, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2019