

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2015-2016 C LIT 501 B1: Studies in World Literature I
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Gary Kelly

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Personal Website: N/A

Time: 10:00 am to 12:50 pm

Place: HC 2-17

Office Hours: W 1 to 2 pm

or by appointment

Course Website: N/A

Course Prerequisite: consent of department

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 examines what is called “World Literature” (or “Comparative Literature” or “Transnational Literature”) as the circulation of texts, incorporated materially in media of different kinds, across real and imagined borders and boundaries of language, culture, society, geopolitical location, historical era, and social difference (class, gender, ethnicity, religion, age, sexuality, and so on). The course centres on the major World Literature genres of fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction prose but also tracks certain “texts” into other and modern media, as they circulate with endless vitality. The course examines texts produced before 1700 CE (AD), but also tracks them as they circulate into modern times. For example, we would want to examine the circulation of the verse epic *The Odyssey* from its formation in first-

millennium BCE Greece to such modern adaptations as the 2000 CE film *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?* We would likewise examine this and other “classics” of World Literature from “high” culture to “low” (or popular), and also from “low” to “high.” In the process, we would examine the history of the idea of the “classic” and of “literature.” In this process, we will also explore the wide range of research resources now available, from “hard copy” books to digital and online databases.

So this is a course in texts and media across time and place and in appropriate approaches and methodologies for studying them at the present time. To that end, the course examines relevant and current theoretical and methodological approaches, discussed in the seminar meetings. The course is based on case-studies, with each student choosing individual topics for research and then reporting that research in the seminar for the use of others and for seminar discussion. The course is “critical” in method, questioning the course’s own categories, such as “World Literature,” and even academic approaches to studying World Literature texts that, nowadays, mainly circulate in popular culture. These are also the skills and knowledges needed in teaching World Literature and using World Literature studies in other disciplines. In summary, the course does not aim to provide an overview or survey of World Literature and ways to study it. Rather, the course aims to furnish students with knowledge and experience useful in studying (and teaching) World Literature in their own way, for their own purposes, in various careers and settings.

Texts:

NOTE: These are the same collections used in C LIT 502. For the C LIT 501 we will use Vol. 1 of the Norton Anthology (Shorter), ed. Puchner.

D’haen, Theo, César Domínguez, and Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, eds. *World Literature: A Reader*. London: Routledge, 2013.

and

Puchner, Martin et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. New York: Norton, 2012. Vols. 1 and 2. Third Shorter Edition.

Both available through the U of A Bookstore.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

1. Participation	40%
2. Seminar reports and presentations	30%
3. Course project	30%
Total	100%

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

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

1. Participation: attendance at and contributions in discussion to seminars (see below for policy on missed seminars). Posting brief reports on course eClass Forum in preparation for seminar discussions.

2. Seminar reports and presentations: Reporting research case-studies orally in seminars for the use of others, designed as experience in both research-reporting and teaching.

3. Course project: a 20-page paper or similar project, agreed with the instructor, applying what the student has learned in the course to a topic of the student's own interest (e.g., "Comic-book Adaptations of the *Odyssey*"; Evolution of a Chinese classic: *The Water Margin* from oral folktales to modern manga"; and so on). The topic and nature of the project is agreed in consultation with the instructor.

Required Notes:

"Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) 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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which 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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or 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 directs 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 student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>.

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) 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 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. Recorded material 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 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 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: a missed seminar may be made up by meeting individually with the instructor and/or by submitting a piece of written work on the topic of the missed seminar. In fairness to all students, a missed seminar not made up in such a way will result in deduction of 10% from the absent student’s grade for Participation.

Policy for Late Assignments:

The instructor’s responsibility is to assist the student to complete the course and obtain the student’s academic objectives. Any extension needed for any assignment should be discussed in confidence with the instructor, preferably in advance, in order to avoid misunderstanding, be fair to all students, at the same time to recognize individual student situations and needs, and at the same time to do everything possible to ensure student success.

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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Graduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Graduate Grading Scale”

MLCS Graduate Grading Scale

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D-	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure