

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: EN 205 Masterpieces of Western Literature I

Credits: 3

Prerequisites

Students taking English 205 shall have successfully passed English 102.

Description

Masterpieces of Western Literature is a literature survey course designed to introduce the student to some of the major works in Western literature from the time of the ancient Greeks to the period of the Renaissance. The works chosen for study reflect the traditional view of what are seen as seminal or significant literary masterpieces in the development of Western civilization. The course examines each work in terms of the historical context in which it was written and attempts to assess its impact on its historical period as well as on the subsequent development of Western institutions. Students are afforded an opportunity to examine and evaluate each work in terms of both its literary and historical significance. Such assessments are made through oral discussion or the works in the classroom and written analysis in required papers.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain literary and historical significance of the works studied.
- Recognize how each work reflects and contributes to the development of Western civilization.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each work in terms of its literary quality.
- Compose the preceding objectives in appropriate written form.

Related General Education Outcomes

Humanistic Perspective

- Students will describe commonly used approaches and criteria for analyzing works.
- Students will analyze works and applying commonly used approaches and criteria.

Topical Outline

Required Texts and Other Materials

The Iliad – Homer. Trans. Martin Hammond.

The Oedipus Cycle – Sophocles. Trans. Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald.

Great Dialogues of Plato – Plato. Trans. W.H.D. Rouse.

The Inferno – Dante Aligheri. Trans. John Ciardi.

The Canterbury Tales – Geoffrey Chaucer.

Don Quixote – Trans. Walter Starkie.

EN 205 – Selected Bibliography

Aligheri, Dante. The Divine Comedy. Trans. Carlyle-Okey-Wickstead. New York: The Modern Library, 1950.

Aristotle. Poetics. Ed. Richard McKeon. New York: The Modern Library, 1947.

The Bible.

Western Literature in a World Context by Davis, Paul, et al. Vol. I. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991.

Dante – A Collection of Critical Essays by Freccero, John, ed., Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc. 1965.

The Life and Times of Chaucer by Gardner, John. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977.

The Greeks and Their Gods, by Guthrie, W.K.C. Boston: Beacon Press, 1956.

Greek Drama by Hadas, Moses, ed. New York: Bantam Books, 1971.

The Iliad by Homer, – trans. Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin Books, 1990.

Poesis – Structure and Thought by Kitto, H.D.F., Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1966.

Dictionary of Classical Mythology by Zimmerman, J. E., New York: Bantam Books, 1966.

Student Assessment

Assessment of student performance will be based on the following criteria:

- Two short papers (4 pages maximum) on two of the literary works studied.
- Two objective examinations (one at midterm, the other at the end of the course) and an out-of-class midterm essay.
- A major term paper (7 pages minimum) in the form of a research paper, comparison paper (with a work not covered in class), or literary analysis (of a major work not covered in class).
- Positive contribution in oral discussion of material (to be used only for the student's benefit and in the event that the final grade is uncertain)

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation.

Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a "criminal" offense.

As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Available Resources

If you are having difficulty with work in this class, tutoring is available through the Success Center. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600, x1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

(List availability of open labs and/or writing center)

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.