

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2016-2017 Comparative Literature 101 A1: World Literature I
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Mimi Okabe
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Personal Website: N/A

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30am-10:50am
Place: Tory Basement 90
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-1:00pm
or by appointment
Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite: None. Not open to students with C LIT 100

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?” Throughout the course, we will also explore how classic works have been revised for the 21st century audience in our examination of selected texts and other media. Finally, this course also offers in-class poetry and creative writing workshops for

students. Overall, the students' critical engagement with various literary (and non-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.

Texts:

Required Texts:

- Puchner, Martin, gen. ed. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature Shorter Third Edition*. Vol. 1. New York: Norton, 2012. Print.
- 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.

Recommended Texts:

- Abrams, M. H., and Geoffrey Galt Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. n.p.: Australia, 2015. Print.
- *The Modern Language Association. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. Modern Language Assn. of America.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation and Attendance: 15%

Midterm Exam: 20% (October 27th 2016 @ 9:30am)

Short Essay: 15% (October 13th 2016) Hardcopy accepted only

Long Essay: 25% (December 6th 2016) Hardcopy accepted only

Final Exam: 25% (Thursday December 15th 2016 @ 9:00am)

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2016-2017 academic year can be found at the following site: <http://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2016-Winter-2017-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Please consult the following site:

[http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_\(Exams\)](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation and Attendance 15%

It is mandatory for students to attend all lectures and to engage in class discussions as they will be graded for their attendance as well as participation in class. An attendance sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class for students to sign-in. An absence without a valid reason will result in a complete loss of the grade for the day missed.

Midterm Exam 20%

The midterm for this course will take place on **October 27th, 2016** in class. The midterm exam will cover readings up to the end of Week 8 and will consist of questions such as multiple choice, short answers, passage identification and analysis, and/or definition of terms.

Short Essay 15%

The short essay for this course is **due October 13th 2016**. **I will only accept hardcopy submissions.** Requirements for the essay: 5 pages (not including Works Cited page), MLA citation, minimum of 1 secondary source. By the end of September, students will receive specific guidelines for the paper and a series of essay topics. The essay will be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Long Essay 25%

The final essay for this course is **due December 6th 2016**. **I will only accept hardcopy submissions.** Requirements for the essay: 8-10 pages (not including Works Cited page), MLA citation, minimum of 2 secondary sources. By mid-November, students will receive specific guidelines for the paper and a series of essay topics. The essay will be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of class and returned to you the day of your final exam.

Final Exam 25%

The final exam will take place **Thursday December 15th 2016 @ 9:00am** in class. The final exam will cover readings from November 1st to December 6th and will be formatted similar to the midterm: multiple choice questions, short answers, passage identification and analysis, and/or definition of terms.

Note: Additional information sheets will be provided in class

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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) 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 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 content author(s) 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 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 15% 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 the 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, the student will be penalized at 5% per day (including weekends), unless you requested an extension for a valid reason. Extensions will not be granted after the due date. After the period of 7 days (from the due date) no assignments will 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