

# ***Perspectives on the Western Experience I***

## ***Cultures and Conflict Summer Term***

Instructor: Heather Lusty  
Office: CDC #3 room 324  
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:45-11:30 and by appt.  
Phone: 895-1492 (office) or 234-6146  
E-mail: Heather.Lusty@unlv.edu

### **Required Texts:**

*The Norton Anthology of Western Literature* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) V 1. Sarah N. Lawall, Editor.

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to a number of important works of literature from the ancients through Shakespeare. We will address a select number of literary and historical texts from these time periods and focus on how these texts may be read in relation to their literary, historical, cultural, and political contexts. Please note that the readings are spread out as evenly as possible over the term; nonetheless, students may read ahead whenever possible.

You are expected to come to class prepared, having read the day's assignments closely, and ready to discuss your discoveries with your peers. We will spend our time in class, as a group, correlating and exchanging ideas about the assigned texts. Everyone will be expected to participate. There are no right or wrong ideas when it comes to discussing literature, just well supported arguments. You will learn to establish your arguments and the methods used in order to articulate them into a paper.

### **Assignments:**

#### Response Papers

Response papers will be a minimum of 5 FULL pages in length. Their purpose is to help facilitate your close readings and class discussions. Feel free to react honestly in your papers, but please remember to support what you write with passages from the text. There are several sample response papers on WebCampus for you to look over, as well as samples of Works Cited pages, handouts on quote integration, etc.

You will use academic, formal English, avoiding first and second person, and use follow MLA format for citing passages from the novel on which your essay is written, as well as any outside sources. These papers must be typed, and no late papers are accepted. Short papers will not be graded.

#### Discussion Leaders

Each student will be scheduled as one of 2-3 discussion leaders per class. While you are not required to submit anything to me, you must come prepared with some sort of notes, questions, and/or discussion plan to help propel and guide the discussions. This is graded under a portion of the participation section.

### **Course Grading:**

Response paper	25%
Class participation	25%
Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	25%

## **Attendance, Preparation & Participation:**

To fulfill one of the basic requirements of the class, one must arrive on time and be prepared to participate in discussions relating to the assigned readings or previous class sessions. Please be prepared with informative and insightful questions about the texts and assignments.

There is a strict absence policy because it is important that all students are present during the different stages of the class. After 3 absences your final grade will be lowered one half letter (i.e., a B will become a B- on the 4th absence) and so on. Six (6) absences will result in an F for the course. There are no exceptions to this policy, and no such thing as “excused absences.” Please do not bring “reasons” to class. Please also note that failure to participate in daily discussions may lower your final grade by as much as one full letter. If you do not participate on a regular basis, the highest grade you will be able to earn is a B.

## **Ethics & Plagiarism:**

You are expected to do your own original work in Honors 110. Whenever you borrow graphics, quote passages, or use ideas from others, you are legally and ethically obliged to acknowledge that use, following appropriate conventions for (MLA) documenting sources. To borrow someone else’s writing without acknowledging that use is an act of academic dishonesty, whether you borrow an entire report or a single sentence. An act of plagiarism will result in an F for the course, as well as being reported to the University committee of Student Ethics and the Dean of the Honors College. If you are ever unsure about how to properly cite a source, you need only ask, or visit the UNLV Writing Center’s web page for instructions.

In addition to following the basic principles of fair use of others’ work and honesty and forthrightness in crediting the contribution of others to your work, you are expected to adhere to this basic professional and academic principle: treat others with the respect that you would wish them to grant you. Turn your cell phones off before you enter the classroom, eat your breakfast or lunch before you enter the classroom, etc.

## **The Writing Center**

The UNLV Writing Center and Computer Lab in CDC #3 offers specialized tutoring for students who want or need extra help. They are open every day, all summer. Call ahead for an appointment (895-3908).

## **Disability Resource Center**

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (895-0866) for coordination in your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, room 137.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time during the semester, please feel free to contact me or find me in my office!!!! Don’t wait until the semester is winding to a close.

## **Class Schedule: (subject to change as issues arise)**

### **Week 1**

Mon	Introduction and syllabus review/ introductions
Tues	Egyptian Myth (E-Reserve)
Wed	The Hebrew Bible, pp. 34-65 (to Exodus)
Thurs	Gilgamesh, pp. 15-33
Fri	<i>The Illiad</i> , pp. 100-147 Book I [The Rage of Achilles] to Book IX [The Embassy to Achilles]

## Week 2

- Mon *The Illiad*, pp. 148-206 Book XVI [Patroclus Fights and Dies] to Book XXIV [Achilles and Priam]  
Tues *The Odyssey*, pp. 227-239 Book III [King Nestor Remembers] & Episode 2 from *Ulysses* by James Joyce \* E-Reserve & <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jod/ulysses/uly3.txt>  
Wed *Agamemnon*, pp. 502, 506-550  
Thurs *Oedipus Rex*, pp.607-652  
Fri *Medea*, pp. 688-720 ; *The Apology of Socrates* pp., 756-778

## Week 3

- Mon *The Aeneid*, pp. 926-1022  
Tues *The Histories*, pp. 792-804; *The Peloponnesian War*, pp. 805-815  
Wed *The Story of the Grail*, pp. 1325-1373  
Thurs \*\**Lanval, Laustic*; pp. 1316-1324  
Fri **Midterm Exam Due**

## Week 4

- Mon *Inferno*, pp. 1456-1500  
Tues *Inferno*, pp. 1500-1575  
Wed *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, pp. 1642-1695  
Thurs *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*, pp. 1696-1701, 1732-1755  
Fri *Thousand and One Nights*, pp. 1769-1820 :  
**Due: Response Paper 1**

## Week 5

- Mon Erasmus, pp. 1919-1944; Machiavelli, pp. 1645-1961  
Tues *The Heptameron*, pp. 2101-2137  
Wed **No Class Fourth of July Holiday**  
Thurs *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, pp. 2406-2499  
Fri **Final Exam Due**