

LITERATURE 203
Masterpieces of World Literature III
FALL, 2013; M & W 2:45 – 4:00
Professor David Michael McKinney, Ph.D., J.D.
Office: BAC 111 Office Hours: To Be Announced
Phone: 849-2294
Email: mmckinne@pointloma.edu

SYLLABUS

LJML DEPARTMENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

You, as a Student coming through the Department of Literature, Journalism and Modern Languages (LJML) will:

1. Demonstrate the skills necessary for effective research, writing, and oral communication in various genres and media.
2. Display interpretive, analytical, and critical skills developed through the close study and analysis of texts.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and literary texts.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, structure, and history of language.
5. Develop redemptive social and spiritual engagement through studies of language, text, cultures, and media.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE COURSE "MASTERPIECES OF
WORLD LITERATURE," LITERATURE 203**

You, a Student of World Masterpieces Literature 203 will:

1. Practice critical thinking about and close reading of literary texts.
2. Recall, identify and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read the literature: i.e.,
 - a. standard literary terminology
 - b. modes/genres of literature
 - c. elements of literary genres

- d. literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
3. Examine extra-literary research to evaluate meanings of literary texts and to formulate their own readings of the literary texts.
4. Connect the literary works with their own personal lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors.

A PERSONAL WORD TO YOU, A STUDENT OF MINE, (PROFESSOR MCKINNEY) IN LITERATURE 203

Literature 203, Masterpieces of World Literature, is a general education course designed to acquaint you, the student of higher education, with selective works universally acknowledged as "classics," i.e., "Great Works." This course is the last of a three-course sequence and features works from the period of Realism/Naturalism up through the modern era and is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category Developing Cognitive Abilities, namely "Seeking Cultural Perspectives." By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty of P.L.N.U. support the pursuit of personal awareness and skill development, focusing on the analytical, communicative, and quantitative skills necessary for successful living in society.

TEXTS

The basic text used in this course is the Norton's Anthology, *Western Literature* (Volume 2), 8th ed. In addition, two paperbacks are required: Pirandello's drama *Henry IV* and Dostoevsky's novel *Crime and Punishment*, both available in our book store. You need not, of course, purchase these books from our bookstore, but it is essential that you purchase the edition of *Crime and Punishment* designated - please ask. Dostoevsky's "The Grand Inquisitor" and Andre Gide's "The Prodigal Son" will be passed out in class as separate hand-outs; i.e., they need not be purchased.

READINGS

WORK	AUTHOR	PAGE in TEXT
1. <i>Madame Bovary</i>	Gustav Flaubert	1033
2. <i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Fyodor Dostoevsky	Paperback
3. <i>Notes from Underground</i>	Fyodor Dostoevsky	1250
4. "The Grand Inquisitor"	Fyodor Dostoevsky	Hand-out
5. <i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i>	Leo Tolstoy	1327
6. <i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	Anton Chekhov	1503
7. <i>Hedda Gabler</i>	Henrik Ibsen	1407
8. <i>Henry IV</i>	Luigi Pirandello	Paperback
9. <i>Six Characters Search for an</i>	Luigi Pirandello	Paperback
10. <i>The Return of the Prodigal Son</i>	Andre Gide	Hand-out
10. <i>The Metamorphosis</i>	Franz Kafka	1964
11. <i>The Barking</i>	Ingeborg Bachman	2333
12. <i>Requiem</i>	Anna Akhmatova	2028
13. <i>The Good Woman of Setzuan</i>	Bertolt Brecht	2112
14. <i>Matryona's House</i>	A. Solzhenitsyn	2262

AND SO WHO CARES ANYWAY --AND WHY?

The above-mentioned works are all considered "classics," because they were created by artistic writers of singular genius. They have not, however, found universal acclaim merely because of creative form, but also because of profound combination of form and content. Importantly, each work has something significant to contribute to our understanding about the essence of life, society, God, the world, man and woman, and the interwoven relationships each has with the other. In other words, these works are "stories" about you and

me and the complex, problematic, oftentimes painful, yet beautiful and exciting world in which we live. As you would expect, many of these works (stories) will not be "easy" reading; i.e., they are not "soap-opera" level entertainment. Indeed, a cursory reading will rarely suffice for a thorough understanding of these works. Rather, in order to properly gain insight and appreciation into these works, you may well find it necessary to read each work thoughtfully and then to review what you have read. By engaging in this practice, you will be training yourself to read with an ever increasing level of comprehension, a skill that you will take with you throughout your future life both as a reader (of any type of literature including the Bible) and as a viewer of other media forms, such as the film medium. Indeed, developing the ability to think critically, as we will be doing together, will be an important contribution to your life in whatever field you may find yourself.

To test your understanding of any respective work, you should discipline yourself to retell [verbally and pictorially] work in your own mind. If you can do that [i.e., if you can see (visualize) it], you will not only know the story, you will also be able to the work when we subject it to our class discussion. Such an approach is especially recommended for those students who desire a grade which would indicate superior achievement and mastery of the material handled in this course.

More specifically, this course is intended to introduce you to samples of some of the greatest works of literature ever produced by thinking and creating artists, throughout various parts of our world, a world which, as you are well aware, is becoming increasingly smaller and complex. Because these works are masterpieces, (the list of classics is not codified and is continually expanding as we are introduced to writers heretofore ignored or silenced), it is hoped that your learning will not be an esoteric learning experience in an "ivory tower." On the contrary, these works should stimulate your mind and your independent thinking. My personal goal is to *engage* you in a close examination of some of the tough, but essential (universal), questions and issues that impact all our lives, i.e., aspects of life which all humans commonly share. At the same time, you will become well versed, it is hoped, in some of the most noted masterpieces of all world literature. And all this we do together as a community of learners, meaning we will be experiencing these new worlds of thought together in a shared community experience.

Finally, this course is designed to help you grow both intellectually and spiritually, and also to assist you in coming to a deeper understanding -- albeit at times, perhaps, a confused, painful and frustrating understanding -- and love of God, of yourself and of others, as well as of the world we live in, thereby enriching your life while also preparing you for a life of continued learning and thought.

GRADING

The grade you receive in this course is based on three criteria: 1) the periodic and unannounced (but virtually daily) quiz; 2) the mid-term; and 3) the final examination. The mid-term will cover the first seven-plus weeks of the term; the final examination will cover the last eight. The final examination will not be comprehensive but rather will cover only the material handled in the last seven-plus weeks (post-mid-term material). Quizzes cover the assigned reading for any given day and are objective in nature, geared to reward you for having read the material when assigned. You will have approximately 14 –16 quizzes, which will result in an average quiz grade. This, in turn, will constitute a third of your grade along with the two examinations.

NOTE

"QUIZZES CANNOT BE MADE UP SO PLEASE DON'T ASK"

If you must miss a class (or choose to miss) a quiz, you will receive a grade of "0" for that quiz, which computes to a "-5" in the grading computation. (For a detailed description of how this grade is computed, please see the explanation at the end of this syllabus.**) Consideration for exigent circumstances is made in that I will drop your TWO lowest quiz grades when computing the quiz grade average.

And so I repeat:

"QUIZZES CANNOT BE MADE UP SO PLEASE DON'T ASK"

CHEATING

And one more thing you are not to do is cheat. So, please don't. If you must sell your soul, do it for something of greater significance. In any event, the result of cheating on a quiz will be a grade of "0" for that quiz. In addition, you will be required to submit an essay over a theme to be assigned. Cheating on either the mid-term or the final exam will result in an "F" for the class.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, these students are requested to file documentation during the first two weeks of the semester with the Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Bond Academic Center. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. Once the student files documentation, the ASC will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

EXAM DATES

Mid-Term

Sometime in Mid-October; Date to be determined.

Final Examination

Wednesday, December 18, 2013: 1:30 - 4:00

OFFICIAL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Friday, October 25 (Fall Break)

November 27 - 29 (Thanksgiving)

Last Day of Class: December 13, 2013

EXPLANATION OF THE GRADING SYSTEM

As noted above, your final grade comprises three components: a quiz average, a mid-term and a final. To come to a final grade I translate, first of all, your quiz grades into numerical equivalents and then arrive at an average. In this system, an "A" equates to 11 points; an "A-" to 10; a "B+" to 9; a "B" to 8; a "B-" to 7; a "C+" to 6; a "C" to 5; a "C-" to 4; a "D+" to 3; a "D" to 2; a "D-" to 1; and an "F" to 0. Importantly, a quiz grade of "0" equates to -5 points, but again, I drop the two lowest quizzes, so this should not be a problem to the conscientious student.

A sample of how the quiz grade would be arrived at is as follows. Assume you had five quizzes with the following grades:

A (11) B- (7) C+ (6) A- (10) B (8)

First: $11 + 7 + 6 + 10 + 8 = 42$

Second: 42 divided by 5 quizzes = 8.4

Third: Assume then a MidTerm grade of
 "C" and a Final Exam grade of "B":

Fourth: a) Quizzes (8.4) plus

 b) Midterm (5)

 c) Final (8)

$8.4 + 5 + 8 = 21.5$

21.5 Divided by three (Quizzes,

MidTerm & Final) = 7

Final Grade = B-