LITERATURE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION: THE CLASSICAL WORLD
English 207
4 credits
No prerequisites

Rationale for conversion: the conversion will give students greater opportunity to practice critical thinking and writing and to develop research skills by increasing the length and complexity of analytical writing assignments. A 5-7 page critical essay will be added requiring students to consult at least one outside source as research for the essay. Instruction includes introduction to print and non-print resources, such as digital collections, MLA (Modern Language Association) online data bases, web resources, and citations appropriate to topic.
This course continues to meet bacc core requirements for Literature and Arts and Western Culture.

The 4-credit version will:
- add instruction in research skills (digital and print sources) appropriate to introductory study;
- add 5-7 page critical essay.

The core syllabus is the three credit generic version, with outcomes and assignments updated.

Course Description:
The great plays, poems and fiction of Western civilization. Covers the Classical World: Greek, Hebrew, Roman, and Christian to St. Augustine. H) (Bacc Core Course).

Student Learning Outcomes:
- Identify key authors and texts of the Classical World
- Analyze and identify central literary genres, conventions during the Classical period
- Account for and explain historical trends and issues that affected the development of literature and culture during this era
- Demonstrate general skills in reading comprehension, critical thinking, literary analysis, research (digital and print sources) and academic writing in the humanities

This course meets the requirements for bacc core courses in Literature and the Arts.

Learning Outcomes for Literature and the Arts:
1. Define, quote, or label significant works of classic literature.
2. Summarize, interpret or describe, from an historical perspective, the role of literature in society.
3. Demonstrate interrelationships or connections with other subject areas.
4. Recognize methods by which pattern and meaning are found.
5. Integrate and engage, through literature and the arts, one’s own and other cultures.
6. Develop expertise and sophistication in the conventions and techniques of literature, and also in critiquing those methods.
7. Demonstrate critical thinking about classical literary tradition.
Learning Outcomes for Western Culture:
1. Describe the origins and evolution of important features of Western culture.
2. Differentiate and describe events, movements, ideas or artistic achievements of Western Culture.
3. Demonstrate interrelationships or connections with other subject areas.
4. Analyze events, movements, ideas or artistic achievements of Western culture in a broad context.
5. Compare past and present cultures and institutions and make future predictions.
6. Formulate a viewpoint on Classical society in all its institutional, social, and cultural complexity.
7. Demonstrate critical thinking about literature in classical Western Culture.

Evaluation of student performance:
Two hour-long exams during the term (25% each), daily in-class informal writing and participation (10%), one 5-7 page critical essay incorporating research from at least one secondary source (20%), and a final examination (20%). Each of the exams will include an out-of-class, 500 word essay assignment. Topics will develop from the daily in-class informal writing.

Text: The Norton Anthology of Western Literature, volume I

Statement Regarding Disability Access Services:
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:
http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm

Syllabus:

Week 1
Excerpts from Homer’s Iliad

Week 2
Iliad continued, begin the Odyssey

Week 3
Odyssey continued

Week 4
Finish the Odyssey, excerpts from Virgil’s Aeneid

Week 5
Sophocles, Oedipus
First Exam
Week 6
Excerpts from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Jacob stories

Week 7
Excerpts from the Hebrew Scriptures, Psalms and Job
Second Exam

Week 8
Excerpts from the New Testament, Parables, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Passion
Narrative

Week 9
Excerpts from Augustine’s Confessions

Week 10
Augustine continued, final thoughts

Final Exam
Critical Essays Due—[This writing assignment is an addition to the current syllabus to justify the 4th credit hour]

Assignment: write a 5-7 page critical essay on one more of the readings we’ve covered this term. The essay should incorporate outside research (digital and print sources): please incorporate at least one secondary source relating to your topic. This may be another work contemporary with your text or a current critical appraisal of your chosen text. Please consult the general guide for evaluating essays as given below:

General criteria for evaluating essays: 1) Ideas: the strength and thoughtfulness of the essay’s concerns. 2) Focus: the care and reasonableness with which the essay selects, adheres to, and supports its thesis. 3) Organization: the coherence and logic with which the essay presents it ideas. 4) Style: the essay’s readability. 5) Mechanics: adherence to conventions of standard written English. 6) Appropriate use of research.