

Course Syllabus
HUMA 1301.010: Exploration of the Humanities
Fall 2013
ATC 2.101, TR 2:30-3:45
Professor Jessica C. Murphy

Professor Contact Information

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Course Description

Humans are storytellers, and many of the stories we tell follow similar patterns. In this class intended to demonstrate the relations among various forms of cultural expression, we will study four of these persistent narratives: "star-crossed lovers," "rags-to-riches," "the quest," and "dreamer hero." One classic text will serve as the core of each of these units, and we will examine a number of adaptations of the story in a variety of artistic media.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- examine and analyze a variety of works from the humanities, and
- apply considered analysis and respond to works in the humanities as examples of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles.

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- an ability to analyze and critically evaluate a variety of works from the humanities works in the context of culture, society, and values;
 - an ability to compare and contrast the works with each other; and
 - an understanding of the relationship between the structure of the works under analysis and their meaning.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

- *Romeo and Juliet*, The Pelican Shakespeare (cheapest edition with good notes), ISBN 978-0-14-071484-5
- Course pack available through University Readers (see eLearning for information on ordering). Marked "R" in schedule.
- UTD email account that you check frequently (see full syllabus for information on email).
- eLearning: We will be using the online learning system in this class for the submission of assignments, exams, and delivery of course information. Please visit <https://elearning.utdallas.edu/> and sign in. You should see this course listed there, and clicking on it will bring you to our course's homepage. Please visit as soon as possible so that you are familiar with the interface.

Academic Calendar¹

Date	Thematic Unit	Assignment to be completed by class meeting	Activity in Class
9/3			Introduction to Course
9/5	Star-cross'd Lovers	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Act 1	
9/10		<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Acts 2 & 3	
9/12		<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Acts 4 & 5	
9/17		<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> review (Walker) R	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> film adaptations
9/19		<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> reviews (Walsh and Kappel) R	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> dance adaptations
9/24		<i>Pyramus and Thisbe</i> excerpts R, "Recording Early Broadside Ballads" http://ebba.english.ucsb.edu/page/recording-the-ballads <i>Hero and Leander</i> ballad http://ebba.english.ucsb.edu/ballad/30455/transcription	Some other Star-cross'd narratives
9/26			Star-cross'd Library Day All others: discussion board day
10/1		List 5 elements of the star-cross'd lovers story (submit via eLearning by 4 PM on 9/29)	Review
10/3		Complete exam on eLearning by the end of class time. Do not come to class this day.	Exam 1
10/8	The Quest		Star-cross'd Unit Papers Due Introduction to Arthurian Legends
10/10		Wife of Bath's Tale R	
10/15		Brennan "Star Wars Origins" R	Viewing <i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope</i>
10/17			Viewing <i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope</i>
10/22		Discussion of <i>Star Wars</i> continued	
10/24			Quest Library

¹ The schedule is subject to change; instructor will announce changes in class and/or on eLearning.

Date	Thematic Unit	Assignment to be completed by class meeting	Activity in Class
			Day All others: discussion board day
10/29		List 5 elements of the quest narrative (submit via eLearning by 4 pm on 10/27) Suggest other quest narratives	Review
10/31		Complete exam on eLearning by the end of class time. Do not come to class this day.	Exam 2
11/5	Rags to Riches	"Cinderella" (Perrault) "The Princess paradox" (Poniewozik) "Ashputtle" (Grimm) & "Yeh-Shen" (Chinese Cinderella) R	The Quest Unit papers due
11/7		Disney's Cinderella (AFI plot summary) "I am Cinderella's Stepmother" (Rossner) Bettelheim "Cinderella" R	
11/12		"The Maiden, the Frog, and the Chief's Son" (African Cinderella) & "The Invisible One" (Native American Cinderella) Burns review of Orlando Ballet's Cinderella R	
11/14			Rags to Riches Library Day All others: discussion board day
11/19		List 5 elements of the Rags-to-Riches narrative (submit via eLearning by 4pm on 11/17)	Review
11/21		Complete exam on eLearning by the end of class time. Do not come to class this day.	Exam 3
11/26		Fall Break—No class	
11/28		Fall Break—No class	
12/3	Dreamer (Quixotic) Hero	<i>Don Quixote</i> excerpt R	Rags-to-Riches Unit papers due Watching "Heroes" episode in class
12/5		Write 1 page describing the nature of the heroes in "Heroes." (bring to class with you)	Review
12/6-12/10		Exam 4 will be open from 9am on 12/6 until 9pm on 12/10	
12/10		Course wrap-up	

Assignments & Grading Policy

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about assignments.

Completion of all of the assignments in this course is a condition for earning a passing grade. The instructor reserves the right to amend any policies or assignments at her discretion.

Participation 20%

Participation includes attending class, participating in online and in-class discussions and activities, completing assignments (on time—no late work will be accepted), and performing well on reading quizzes and in-class writing assignments.

Short Writing Assignments 20%

Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete short writing assignments and submit them via eLearning. Please complete them on time so that the instructor can incorporate your ideas into the class.

Exams 40%

At the conclusion of each unit, there will be an exam via eLearning. The exams will be timed and will have a firm due date and time. Technical difficulty will not be accepted as an excuse for missing an exam. Please take the "sample exam" as soon as possible to make sure you understand the system.

Narrative Analysis Paper 20%

As soon as you can, go to eLearning to sign up to write about one of the three possible units. The link to the sign-up page is on the home page of our eLearning site. For this assignment, you will write one 1,000-1,500-word essay analyzing a version of your chosen narrative that we have not studied in class. Your analysis paper must follow the assignment guidelines very carefully. Please consult eLearning for the assignment guidelines (including an explanation of the library and discussion board days).

Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course.

Course & Instructor Policies

In this class, students will examine four persistent narratives through reading assignments, writing assignments, and class discussion. To that end, the policies below are meant to create the best possible learning environment for the students. Please contact the instructor if you have any questions about these policies. I will consider your continued enrollment in this class as evidence that you accept these policies.

Attendance

Participation in class activities is necessary to pass this class. Promptness and regular attendance are essential and will affect your grade. You must arrive, prepared, to class on time and stay for the class period. If attendance is taken on a given day with a sign-in sheet, it is your responsibility to be sure you have signed the sheet before the instructor leaves. If you have not signed by the end of class time, then you will be considered absent--NO EXCEPTIONS. Attendance is included in your participation grade for the course. However, if you miss more than 2 classes, you will lose points from your final grade for each additional missed class. In cases of proven emergencies, the instructor may reconsider this policy at her discretion. However, participation points cannot be made up.

Community

It is expected that we will respect one another and one another's ideas. When we are in class, we are present: **no laptops, no cell phones, or other forms of electronic communication**. Please keep your laptop closed and your cell phone on vibrate. If your phone rings, a classmate or I will answer it (if my phone rings, you may answer it). If you need special accommodation and can provide documentation from the Office of AccessAbility, the instructor will work with you.

Student AccessAbility Services

If you are a student with a disability and would like to see me to discuss special academic accommodations, please contact me after class or during my office hours. For more information about AccessAbility Services, visit the website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/> or call 972-883-2098. (see full syllabus for more detailed information)

Office Hours

The instructor's office hours are by appointment only, but please do not let that deter you from visiting. You are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor to arrange a meeting to talk about class materials, your papers, and anything else that might help you.

Avoid Plagiarizing by Accident!

Using another's ideas or language without acknowledging the source or passing off another's ideas or language as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students often plagiarize without intending to because they are unsure about how to cite sources. Plagiarism by accident is still plagiarism (and will be punished as such), so please feel free to come see me if you are unsure about how to cite sources. (see full syllabus for policy on Academic Integrity)

The policies that comprise the rest of the syllabus may be accessed online:
<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>