

## *Course Syllabus: Masterpieces of World Literature*

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### **Course Information**

#### **LIT 2331-001: Masterpieces of World Literature**

Term: Fall 2006

Time: Saturdays 9:30am-12:15pm

Location: JO 4.102

Website for announcements: [www.utdallas.edu/~terje](http://www.utdallas.edu/~terje)

Course handouts, additional essays on WebCT: <http://webct.utdallas.edu>

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### **Professor Contact Information**

Terje Saar-Hambazaza

Email: [txs018600@utdallas.edu](mailto:txs018600@utdallas.edu)

Phone: 972-883-2713

Office: JO 4.134

Office hours: Saturdays 8:30am-9:30am and by appointment

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

No pre-requisites

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### **Course Description**

This course focuses on a number of world masterpieces of literature that deal with different aspects of human identity throughout history. We will examine major texts from different periods between the seventeenth and the twentieth century and discuss works from different genres including fiction, poetry, and drama. We will also consider the meaning and definition of a “masterpiece.” What is a masterpiece? What makes a masterpiece? Who determines what is called a masterpiece? How has the “reading” of various masterpieces changed over times? What is the role of a reader or a critic? What can we learn about the history of mankind and the transformation of human identity from these selected texts? How do these texts answer questions such as Who are we? What is a human being? How do we relate to society? These are only a few questions that we will encounter during the semester. In addition to primary works of literature, we will also read several contemporary and modern critical essays written on each text and view a film version of a literary masterpiece.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Upon completing this class, students will:

- Be able to identify the major writers of world literature and define the importance of their works from the 17th century to the present.
- Be able to analyze, interpret, and demonstrate a critical understanding of the major themes in world literature since the 1600s.

- Be able to form and express critical opinions of the assigned readings and develop critical reading, writing, and thinking skills through the analysis of various literary texts.
- Be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of the development of various literary genres from the 17th century to the present.
- Be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of the various techniques and styles of fiction, poetry and drama, including Gothic, realism, modernism, and postmodernism.

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### Required Textbooks and Materials

- William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Norton Critical Edition) – ISBN: 0393956636
- Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, transl. E. Grossman (Harper Perennial) – ISBN: 0060934344
- Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (Norton Critical Edition) – ISBN: 0393975428
- Henrik Ibsen, *Four Major Plays*, Volume I (Signet Classic) – ISBN 9780451530226
- Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (Harvest Books) – ISBN: 0156628708
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (Norton Critical Edition) – ISBN: 0393960129
- *Continental Short Stories: The Modern Tradition*, eds. Edward B. Mitchell & Rainer Schulte (Norton) – ISBN: 0393097978
- Additional required primary and secondary texts – available on WebCT

### Suggested Course Materials

- Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. Modern Language Association, 2003. ISBN: 0873529863

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### Assignments & Academic Calendar

8/19: Introduction

8/26: The Renaissance Ideals in Crisis

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*; Critical essays by Ernest Jones, T. S. Eliot, and G. Wilson Knight

9/2: Labyrinths of Identity

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, pp. 19-141

9/9: Comic satire

*Don Quixote*, pp. 141-305

9/16: *Don Quixote*—the first novel?

*Don Quixote*, pp. 305-450; Critical essay by Harold Bloom

9/23: Victorian anxieties

Brontë, *Jane Eyre*, pp. 5-219

9/30: Text and its identity

*Jane Eyre*, 219-385; Critical essays in Norton, pp. 439-457, 469-491;

10/7: Midterm exam;  
Literary text on the big screen: Film – TBA

10/14: Identity and gender  
Ibsen, *A Doll House*; Critical essays by Bernard Shaw and Sandra Saari  
Paper proposals due

10/21: Identity-problem in the poetic world  
Poetry of Neruda, Borges, Paz, Pacheco, Darío, Whitman, Dickinson, Pound, Vallejo, Rilke,  
Baudelaire, Lu Yu, Tu Fu, W. G. Sebald, Dunya Mikhail, Ojaide, Kinsella

10/28: Identity and the narrative  
Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*, Book I; Critical essays by Ian Watt and David Lodge;  
Short stories in *Continental Short Stories*: Sartre, Kafka, Aichinger, Böll, Borges + Borges,  
Chekhov, and Hemingway on WebCT

11/4: Identity and modernism  
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*; Critical essay by David Lodge  
Presentations

11/11: Re-writing a masterpiece: identity and the postcolonial theory  
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*; Critical essays by Michael Thorpe and Gayatri Spivak  
Presentations  
Summing up

11/18: Final exam

11/29: Final papers due by 12pm in my office

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### Grading Policy

- Weekly reading responses (~1 page) – 10%
- Presentation – 10%
- Quizzes, attendance, participation – 20%
- Final research paper (10-12 pages) – 20%
- Midterm exam – 20%
- Final exam – 20%

### Grading Scale (%)

A+	100	C+	70-74
A	95-99	C	65-69
A-	90-94	C-	60-64
B+	85-89	D+	55-59
B	80-84	D	50-54
B-	75-79	D-	45-49
		F	44 or less

## Course & Instructor Policies

- \* Since this is a discussion-oriented course, participation and attendance are crucial to successful completion of the class.
  - \* If you miss more than two classes during the semester, your grade will be negatively affected and you may be encouraged to drop the class.
  - \* Absences can be excused for medical reasons and/or family emergencies only and require sufficient documentation (note from a doctor, receipt with the date and time, etc.).
  - \* Alternative assignments are not given; missed papers and presentations are considered against the final grade.
  - \* Alternative exams are not given.
  - \* Tardiness is unacceptable, as are coming to class unprepared, not paying attention during class, or sleeping in class.
  - \* Electronic devices for personal messaging, or entertainment cannot be used during class. Please turn off cellular/mobile phones, pagers, and other personal electronic devices before the class.
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## Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the

required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

## **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

## **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***