



0502E113

Introduction to Modern Western Literature

Instructor: Dana (Dean) Simpson

Time: May 10, 2021-June 11, 2021

Office Hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Course Description

This survey course will involve reading selected samples of literature of the Western World (not just from the United States and England) and discuss their historical and literary contexts. Readings from the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, Modernism and Symbolism will be considered. The characteristics of different genres will be explored through lectures, class discussions, and oral and written assignments. Short papers, presentations and exams will be required.

Course Goals

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Explain the active and reactive processes of Western literary developments

- Differentiate fundamental characteristics of different literary genres.
- Identify and describe a number of different writers and styles from each period.
- Give a general overview of the historical context of certain literary movements
- Explain the subjective/objective characteristics of different literary periods.

Required Text

The Norton Anthology of Western Literature, Vol. 2 (2005).

Assignments

Reflections (short papers): There are five of these Only use examples from the videos that you have seen for class. You should write at least 500 words. Please organize what you say.

Oral presentation: Make a video and send it to me. You should use examples from the texts to support your points. Remember to also appropriately organize your ideas (this is very important in an oral presentation). The video should be about five minutes long. Answer one of the following questions in your presentation – (1) Explain ideas of the absolute (superlatives) that are used in the Romantic era and after; (2) Explain the awareness/ obsession of time in four writers we have read from at least two different units.

Final Exam: Given at the end of the course. Answer seven questions in complete sentences. You should use examples from the VIDEOS to support your points. Remember to also appropriately organize your ideas. You should write at least 150 words for each question.

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE

Unit 1: The Enlightenment

Orientation 1-7

Jean de la Fontaine: 201-207

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: 208-209 & <https://allpoetry.com/You-Men>

“Sophia”: 243-247

Jean-Jacques Rousseau: 255-263

Mary Robinson: 284-289

Jonathan Swift: 289-291, 341-347

Voltaire: 375-384

Alexander Pope: 347-367

Summary and wrap up

Reflection 1 due

Unit 2: Romanticism I

Orientation: 483-495

John Adams and Abigail Adams: 645-657

WEEK TWO

Unit 2: Romanticism I (continue)

William Wordsworth: 693-704

Lord Byron: 743-748

Percy Shelly: 748-754

John Keats: 755-764

Anna Petrovna Bunina: 770-772

Alphonse de Lamartine: 772-774

Giacomo Leopardi: 776-780

Summary and comparisons

Reflection 2 due

Unit 3: Romanticism II

Victor Hugo: 780-786

Alexander Pushkin: 800-820

Alfred, Lord Tennyson: 820-843

WEEK THREE

Unit 3: Romanticism II (continue)

Robert Browning: 843-856

Frederick Douglass: 856-916

Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer: 793-795

Rosalía de Castro: 796-799

Emily Dickinson: 986-995

Walt Whitman: 916-923

Summary and wrap up

Reflection 3 due

Unit 4: Realism and Symbolism:

Orientation: 997-1006

Nikolai Gogol: 1008-1033

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: 1381-1390

Friedrich Nietzsche: 1396-1403

Guy de Maupassant: 1474-1486

WEEK FOUR

Unit 4: Realism and Symbolism (continue)

Charles Baudelaire: 1538-1559

Anton Chekhov: 1486; 1503-1548

Paul Verlaine: 1567-1572

Arthur Rimbaud: 1572-1582

Summary and wrap up

Reflection 4 due

Unit 5: Modernism and Modernity I

Orientation: 1621-1626

William Butler Yeats: 1723-1736

Marcel Proust: 1781-1816

Rainer Maria Rilke: 1870-1876

Wallace Stevens: 1877-1887

TS Eliot: 1999-2027

Alfonsina Storni: 2049-2055

WEEK FIVE

Unit 5: Modernism and Modernity I (continue)

André Breton: 2062-2065

Jean Paul Sartre: 2102-2107

Summary and comparisons

Reflection 5 due

Unit 6: Modernism and Modernity II

William Faulkner: 2067-2096

Federico Garc ía Lorca: 2169-2178

Jorge Luis Borges: 2179-2189

Pablo Neruda I: 2189- 2205

Pablo Neruda II: 2189- 2205

Simone de Beauvoir: 2382-2387

Chinua Achebe: 2391-2394

Gabriel Garc ía Márquez: 2348-2357

Summary and wrap up

Course summary and wrap up

Final Exam

Western Literature dates to watch

May 10-12: watch all videos for Unit 1

May 13: hand in Reflection 1

May 14-18: watch all videos for Unit 2

May 19: hand in Reflection 2

May 20-24: watch all videos for Unit 3

May 25: hand in Reflection 3

May 26-May 30: watch all videos for Unit 4

May 31: hand in Reflection 4

June 1-3: watch all videos for Unit 5

June 4: hand in Reflection 5 and oral presentation

June 5-10: watch all videos for Unit 6

June 11: hand in Final Exam

Grading Policy

Details	Percentage
One oral presentation	20%
Five short papers (Reflections)	50%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.