

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| Title of Course: | Course Number: | ENG 391 |
| ENGLISH 391: WORLD LITERATURE I: FROM HOMER TO DANTE | Class Hours per Week: | 3 |
| | Lab Hours: | 0 |
| | Credits: | 3 |

A. Description

This course presents a global approach to literature by introducing prose, poetry and drama representative of different world cultures and historical periods, from antiquity to the early modern era. Students engage in close readings of individual texts and contextual/comparative analyses. Written and spoken activities are designed to enhance students' appreciation of literature and their awareness of the ways it arises from, shapes and reflects the world's cultures.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Recommended texts for the course include the following:

The HarperCollins World Reader, Vol. 1, ed. Caws et al.

The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, Vol. 1, ed. Mack et al.

Contexts and Comparisons: A Student Guide to the Great Works Courses, ed. Bergren et al.
(Kendall/Hunt)

The Epic of Gilgamesh, ed. N.K. Sandars (Penguin)

The Bhagavad Gita, B. Miller (Bantam)

The Ramayana, trans. W. Buck (U. of California)

The Koran, trans. N.J. Dawood (Penguin)

Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali, trans. G.D. Pickett (Longman)

Popul Vuh, trans. D. Tedlock (Simon & Schuster)
Mimesis, E. Auerbach (Princeton)
Myths of the Greeks and Romans, M. Grant (Mentor)

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will be required to read selections from these world classics and pass quizzes on them or keep a journal recording their responses to important passages. A midterm examination and a final will be given, and students will write either a long term paper or a series of short essays that have been revised and edited. Final grades will be based primarily on writing assignments and examination results, but class participation counts. Small group work and oral reports may be included.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

F. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Introduction: Course Procedures and Overview

Weeks 2-4: Historical Backgrounds

- A. Egypt and the Ancient Near East
- B. The Epic in Oral Tradition; Gilgamesh; Homer
- C. The Hebrew Bible: Creation Myths from Other Cultures

Weeks 5-7: Classical Greece

- A. Philosophy: Plato
- B. Greek Tragedies: Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides
- C. Histories: Herodotus; Thucydides

Weeks 8-10: Rome and the New Testament

- A. Virgil and Aristotle
- B. Readings from the New Testament
- C. Comparative Readings: Confucius; Sanskrit Epics

Weeks 11-14: The Spread of Christianity and Islam

- A. St. Augustine; the Early Church
- B. The Koran; the Rise of Islam
- C. Dante: The Medieval World View