



## ENGL 2730

**Division:** Humanities

**Department:** English

**Course:** ENGL 2730

**Title:** World Literature I

**Catalog Description:**

This course is an introduction to early literatures of the world in English translation. Selected readings will be taken from a variety of cultures and will represent the geographic areas of the world's continents.

**General Education Requirements:** Humanities

**Semesters Offered:** Fall

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** none

**Corequisites:** none

**Justification:**

Peoples throughout the world express their cultural values through literature, and students are curious about languages and literatures throughout the world. This class will give the students the opportunity to study early literatures from various continents. The class will examine the evolution of legends and myths into early histories and literatures.

The World Literature class will fulfill a General Education requirement in the Humanities. Although all the texts will be in translation, the class will introduce students to the variety of languages and literatures in the world.

World literature classes are offered throughout the nation and are especially suited to community colleges with their diverse student bodies.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will know the broad characteristics of early literatures of the world.

Students will be able to discuss the characteristics of early literatures in a historical, geographical and linguistic context.

Students will see that early literatures continue to play an important role in contemporary culture.

## **Content:**

English 2730 covers a geographically representative selection of early world literatures. A sample of likely works that the students will read is as follows:

A selection of ancient Egyptian poetry such as Akhenaten's "Hymn to the Sun"

Selected chapters from Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

Confucius, "Analects"

Selections from *The Mahabharata*

Selections from *Tamil Anthologies*

Selections from "Genesis"

Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

*Sakuntala* and *the Ring*

Selected poems from Chinese poets of the Middle period, including Wan Wei, Li Po, and Li Shang-Yin

Selections from *The Koran*

Selections from Middle Eastern writers such as Ibn Ishaq, Paridoddin Attar, and Sa'di

Selections from *The Thousand and One Nights*

Selections from Boccaccio's *The Decameron*

Selections from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*

Students will focus on such themes as the role of myths and legends to a nation or race, the evolution of myths and legends into literature, and the formation of language groups.

Students will attend and keep journal responses to a variety of cultural experiences as they are available during the semester.

## **General Education Outcomes:**

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read a variety of texts in translation and are quizzed on their content and place of geographic origin. Discussion questions are designed to elicit critical responses to the reading.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Each student will write one or more essays that demonstrate the validity of a thesis. Each essay will be returned with suggestions for improving the student's writing skills. Students will also keep a journal with their responses to selected cultural events.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Quizzes, essays, examinations, and class discussions will all ask students to consider the readings in a variety of geographical and cultural contexts. For example, *Agamemnon* and *Sakuntala* can be used to examine the origins of drama in two different cultures to meet the differing needs of two communities.

An important goal of the course is to foster an appreciation of different languages, literatures, and cultures.

Such an appreciation will help students recognize characteristics of their own language, literature, and culture.

**Key Performance Indicators:**

8-10 quizzes (approximately 20%)

2-3 examinations (approximately 30%)

2 essays (approximately 30%)

journal (approximately 20%)

**Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

Mack, Maynard, ed. *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*. Current edition. New York: WW Norton.

**Optimum Class Size:** 20

**Maximum Class Size:** 30

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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Ron Lamb, MS, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the English Department:

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Melanie Jenkins, MA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

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Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

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Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

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Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)