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Spring 2010
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LLST 2001

Class Meeting time T-Th 8-9:40 AM, Room 615, 66 W. 12th, St.

**LLST 2001 (C) LITERARY FOUNDATIONS I: “What’s been written”
(A TWO-SEMESTER INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF
LITERATURE)**

This course is part one of the two-semester sequence for Writing and Literature majors that familiarizes students with key texts of world literary culture – in the West and beyond. Each course focuses on several broad themes that take in readings from the Bible to postmodern and postcolonial texts. In addition to preparing students for more advanced offerings in Literary Studies, these courses provide a basis to consider how we became the writers and readers that we are today and the tools we need to become the readers and writers of tomorrow. The topics under consideration in this 1st sequence of the Foundations curriculum are “Creation,” “Travels,” “War,” and “Redemptive Sacrifice.” The 2nd sequence of the Foundations will concentrate on the themes of “Transformation,” “Suffering,” “Voice and Form in the Novel,” and “Self.” Within each sequence different texts are brought into dialogue with their resonant “kin.” These two required introductory courses will provide students with a basis on which to participate in debates over the formation of the literary canon and its deconstruction – debates that figure prominently in the rest of the Writing and Literature curriculum. Literary Foundations I is required as a prerequisite for all Intermediate Writing courses and all 3000-level Literature courses in Literary Studies. Literary Foundations II is a prerequisite for all Advanced Writing courses and all 3000-level Literature courses in Literary Studies. Students are encouraged to take Foundations I and II in sequence.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GENERAL EXPECTATIONS, AND GRADING

Short weekly response on the text for the upcoming discussion each Tuesday (one paragraph, emailed to the whole class by 11 pm Sunday). 15% of grade First observation due 11 PM 2/8.

One presentation by each class participant based on an in-depth close

reading of several passages (no longer than 3 pages in length) from the text slated for general discussion on the day of your presentation (10% of the grade). Please distribute a 1-page handout for all discussion participants (a resume of your presentation bullet-style). Text assignments and handout techniques will be discussed in the first 2 weeks of class. Presentations begin on 2/11

Active participation in discussion and other contributions to class success (25% of grade).

Four 3.5-5 page papera. Please write your response to any text or compare two texts from the “Creation,” “Travels,” “War,” and “Redemptive Sarcifice” categories respectively. (20% of grade).

DUE DATES for submission in class: 2/23, 3/11, 4.23, 5/13.

POLICIES

Absences and Lateness

Absences may justify some grade reduction and a total of four absences mandate a reduction of one letter grade for the course. Three cases of tardiness in excess of 7 minutes counts as one unexcused absence.

More than four absences mandate a failing grade for the course, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as the following:

- an extended illness requiring hospitalization or visit to a physician (with documentation)
- a family emergency, e.g. serious illness (with written explanation)
- observance of a religious holiday

The attendance and lateness policies are enforced as of the first day of classes for all registered students. If registered during the first week of the add/drop period, the student is responsible for any missed assignments and coursework. Students failing a course due to attendance should consult with an academic advisor to discuss options.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's work (EITHER PUBLISHED OR UNPUBLISHED) as one's own in all forms of academic endeavor

(such as essays, theses, examinations, research data, creative projects, etc), intentional or unintentional. Plagiarized material may be derived from a variety of sources, such as books, journals, internet postings, student or faculty papers, etc. This includes the purchase or “outsourcing” of written assignments for a course. A detailed definition of plagiarism in research and writing can be found in the fourth edition of *the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, pages 26-29. Procedures concerning allegations of plagiarism and penalties are set forth in the Lang catalog. **Disabilities**

In keeping with the University's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student requesting accommodations must first meet with Student Disability Services. Jason Luchs or a designee from that office will meet with students requesting accommodations and related services, and if appropriate, provide an Academic Adjustment Notice for the student to provide to his or her instructors. The instructor is required to review the letter with the student and discuss the accommodations, provided the student brings the letter to the attention of the instructor. This letter is necessary in order for classroom accommodations to be provided. Student Disability Services is located at 79 Fifth Avenue - 5th Floor. The phone number is (212) 229-5626. Students and faculty are expected to review the Student Disability Services webpage. The webpage can be found at <http://www.newschool.edu/studentaffairs/disability/> and the office is available to answer any questions or concerns.

Textbooks, Course Packet, and Reserve Information

BOOKS in these editions only:

available from *Barnes and Noble Collegiate Bookstore* 5th Av. & 18th St. textbook annex. 10% *discount applies with school ID*. It is recommended that you purchase all required book in the first weeks to avoid the situation when the unsold books are returned to the publisher or sold out to the general public. Note that books are listed in the order they will be used rather than chronologically in the order they were composed or “transmitted.” If ordering books online make sure it is these editions:

Genesis, trans. Robert Alter, W.W. Norton, New York, 1997, ISBN: 978-0393316704

Karel Čapek. *R.U.R.* Dover. ISBN: 04841926

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Robert Fagles, Penguin, New York, 1990, ISBN 0140275363

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald, Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1998. ISBN: 978-0374525743

Leo Tolstoy, *Great Short Works*. Perennial Classics. March 2004. ISBN: 978-0060586973

Wolé Soyinka. *Aké: The Years of Childhood*. Vintage, 1981. ISBN: 978-0-679-72540-4

Herman Melville, *Billy Budd, Sailor and Selected Tales* (Oxford World classics, ed. and intro. Robert Milder, 1997. ISBN:13-978-0-19-283903-9

Other Required Primary Readings

LLST 2001 Course Packet (available for purchase from Village Copier (20 E 13th St, New York - (212) 924-3456 between 5th and University Place) or use the copy placed on reserve at Fogelman Library):

Hesiod, “Pandora” and “The Five Ages” from *The Works and Days* (*The Norton Book of Classical Literature*. Ed. Bernard Knox, New York: Norton, 1993), pp. 187-95.

Rig-Veda, “Creation” from *The Portable World Bible* (New York: Penguin Group, 1972), p. 32.

The Upanishads, “How Many Gods?” and “The Universal Self” from *The Portable World Bible* (New York: Penguin Group, 1972), pp. 39-42, 5

Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching, “The way that can be spoken of...” and “The whole world recognizes the beautiful as the beautiful...” from Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching. Trans. and intro. D.C. Lau (London: Penguin Books, 1963), pp. 5-6.

“Sura XVI-The Bee” from Al-Qur’an. Source:

<http://www.infoplease.com/t/rel/koran/sura16.html>

Zora Neale Hurston, “The Book of Harlem” (979-84 from Short Stories in Hurston, Novels and Stories. The Library of America, vol. 1, 1984). “John and the Frog,” “Witness of the Johnstown Flood in Heaven” and other selections from *Mules and Men* (from Mules and Men, The Library of America, vol. 2, 1984).

Books I and II of Virgil’s *The Aeneid*. From *The Aeneid of Virgil*. Trans. Allen Mandelbaum (New York: Bantam Classic, 1971), pp. 1-54.

Dante Alighieri, “Inferno” Cantos I, XXVI, and XXXIV from *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri. Inferno*. Trans. Allen Mandelbaum (New York: Bantam Classic, 1971), pp.3-9, 239-45, 311-17.

“The Story of Sinbad the Sailor” (Sinbad and Other Popular Stories. ed. Hussain Haddawy. New York: Norton, 1995), pp. 3-51.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1798 and 1834 versions of “The Rime of the Ancyent Marinere” from Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Complete Poems*, ed. William Keach (London: Penguin Books, 1997), 147-86.

Jorge Luis Borges, “The Immortal” from Jorge Luis Borges, *The Aleph and Other*

Stories. Trans. and intro, Andrew Hurley (London: Penguin Books, 1998), pp. 3-18.
Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, “Loa for The Divine Narcissus” from Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, *Poems, Protest, and a Dream*. Trans. with notes Margaret Sayers Peden. Intro. Ilan Stavans (New York: Penguin Classics, 1997), pp. 195-245.
Aimé Césaire, “Miraculous Weapons” from *The Collected Poetry*, trans. Clayton Eshleman and Annette J. Smith. (Los Angeles and Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984), pp. 86-159.
The Gospel of Loukas—*Luke* from *The New Covenant: Commonly Called the New Testament*. Trans. Willis Barnstone (New York: Riverhead Book, 2002), pp. 200-301.
Flannery O’Connor, “The Lame Shall Enter First” from *The Complete Stories* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1971), pp. 445-82.

Downloads:

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Charge of the Light Brigade” poem plus a scan of his hand:
<http://www.nationalcenter.org/ChargeoftheLightBrigade.html>

Elizabeth Bishop, “Roosters”
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=177905>

SEQUENCE OF THE TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

[Note: texts appear on the days when they are discussed in class.
You should have read these texts or selections by the day of their discussion.

e.g. Čapek’s *R.U.R* is discussed Tuesday February 16=Read the play over the weekend or Monday at the latest]

CREATIONS

WEEK ONE:

T/ Jan 26 Introductions

WEEK TWO

Th/Jan 28 Genesis, 1-4. Hesiod, “Pandora.”

T/Feb 2 Genesis, 5-11. Hesiod, “Ages of Man”

Th/ Feb 4 Genesis, 12-22

WEEK THREE:

T/ Feb 9 : Genesis, 23-38 and course packet selections from Hesiod, Rig-Veda, the Upanishads, Al Qur’an, and Lao Tzu (## 1-5 entries of Course Packet)

Th/Feb 11 : Genesis, 39-45 and Zora Neale Hurston’s “The Book of Harlem” from *Short Stories* “John and the Frog,” “Witness of the Johnstown Flood in Heaven,” Jim’s tale about how snakes got poison, and genesis 21 as spiritual from Chapters 1, 6, and 8 of *Mules and Men*, pp. 1-17, 91-107, 131-42 (# 6 entry of Course Packet).

WEEK FOUR:

T/Feb 16 Karel Čapek's *R.U.R.* *guest lecturer by Inessa medzhibovskaya)

Th/Feb 18 Kakogiannis film, *Iphigenia*

Creations paper due February 23 in class

TRAVELS

T/Feb 23: *The Iliad* (read through: these sections introduce Ulysses during the Trojan campaign) from Book 2, pp. 105-108 from "The bright-eyed golden Pallas" to "risk his skin," line 324, from Book 9 [the Embassy of Achilles], pp. 261-63 (lines 372-431), pp. 272-75 (lines 738-to end), Book 10 pp. 284-86 (lines 267-345), pp. 294-95 (lines 623-70), Book 19 pp. 495-97 (lines 237-326). Selected passages will be brought up by instructor.

For close discussion *The Odyssey*. Book I: Proem (from "Sing in me, Muse" to "who craved him to her own," from Book 2 (Telemachus Sets Sail), from Book V (Odysseus and Calypso: "that Goddess most divinely made" to "revel and rest softly, side by side"), from Book VI (Odysseus and Nausicaa: "far gone in weariness, in oblivion" to "until the kingly man came home to his own shore." Virgil, *The Aeneid* (Course packet, entry #7).

Th /Feb 25 . : Homer, *Odyssey*. Discussion of Books IX (O& the Cyclopes), Book X (O& Circe), Book XI (O. in the Land of the Dead).

T/ Mar 2: Homer, *Odyssey*. Discussion of Book XII (Sirens, Scylla and Charybdis). Dante, Canto I and Canto XXVI (Course Packet, entry #8)

Th/March 4 : Homer, *Odyssey* Book XXIII of *Odyssey* in conjunction with "Sinbad the Sailor" from *The Arabian Nights*.

t/March 9 : Dante, Cantos XXVI and XXXIV and Coleridge's *Rime* (1798).

WEEK EIGHT:

Th/March 11: Coleridge's *Rime* (1834). Borges, "The Immortal" (Course Packet entry #11).

Travels Paper due 3/11 in class

Spring Break (march 16, 18)

T/ march 23 Homer, *The Iliad* Book 1 and 2, Book 5 (lines 832-end), pp. 187-94, Books 7-8 (pay speicla attention to stars/moon simile at end of 8) . .

WEEK NINE:

TH/March 25: Homer, *The Iliad* Book 13 selections (from beginning to page 352,

line 383), Book 15, Gods' argument pp. 387-96 through line 332 (hearts collapsed at their heels). Book 16, Book 17 (pp. 452-57 from "Hector hurled at him" through "the blessed darkness sweeps across the earth"). Book 18, "The Shield of Achilles." Book 21.

T/March 30: Homer, *The Iliad* Book 19 (pp. 490-95 through 'and the choking groans of men'). Books 22-24.

WEEK TEN:

Th. April 1 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, "Loa for The Divine Narcissus" (Course packet. #12).

T/ April 5 Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Charge of the Light Brigade" poem plus a scan of his hand: <http://www.nationalcenter.org/ChargeoftheLightBrigade.html>

Elizabeth Bishop, "Roosters"

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=177905>

I am also going to bring in Yeats, "An Irish Airman Foresees His Fate," and Kavanagh, "Epic".

WEEK ELEVEN:

Th/ April 7 Aimé Césaire, selections from "Miraculous Weapons"

T/ April 12: Leo Tolstoy's *Hadji Murad* (pp. 549-668 of Great Short Works).

WEEK TWELVE:

Th/ April 14 Tolstoy's *Hadji Murad*.

T/April 19 Tolstoy's *Hadji Murad* (final discussion). Wole Soyinka, *Aké: The Years of Childhood* (through Chapter V, p. 76).

WEEK THIRTEEN:

Th/Apr 21 : Wole Soyinka, *Aké: The Years of Childhood*

War Paper Due 4/21 In Class

T/Apr 26 : Wole Soyinka final discussion. (Course Packet entry #14).

Th/April 28 : The Gospel of Luke (1-9)

T/May 3 The Gospel of Luke (10-18).

Th/ May 5 *The Gospel of Luke* (to conclusion)

T/ May 11 Melville, *Billy Budd*. Preparations for final exam.

Th. May 13 Showing of movie, "The Return". Paper 4 due.