JEFFERSON COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

ENG215
WORLD LITERATURE BEFORE 1650
3 Credit Hours

Presented by:
TRISH LOOMIS

Revised Date: November 2004
by
TRISH LOOMIS

Dean of Arts and Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: None
3 semester hours credit

World Literature Before 1650 examines historical, social and philosophical thought as reflected in the literature of Western Culture from the Hebrews and ancient Greeks through the Renaissance. World Literature Before 1650 students will study representative works of major authors including Homer and Sophocles, Virgil and Dante. World Literature Before 1650 will partially fulfill the humanities requirement of the associate degree. (D)

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Recognize literature as the concrete manifestation of a culture's beliefs, values, history and art.

B. Determine historical, philosophical and critical perspective as it applies to the assigned literary pieces.

C. Define literary genres.

D. Identify and define different critical approaches to literature.

E. Discuss major motifs in literature.

F. Define and use the vocabulary appropriate to literary study.

G. Analyze literary pieces in terms of character, conflict, plot and theme.

H. Compare literature from different cultures in terms of universal themes.

III. COURSE OUTLINE (Course content will be drawn from this.)

A. THE ANCIENT WORLD

1. The Old Testament
2. The Ancient Greeks
3. The Romans
B. THE DARK AGES
   1. The New Testament
   2. St. Augustine

C. THE MIDDLE AGES
   1. The French Epic
   2. Italian Literature
   3. Medieval Drama

D. THE RENAISSANCE
   1. Italian Literature
   2. French Satire
   3. The Spanish Novel

IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

   A. Describe the Ancient World and its literature.
      1. Define and use vocabulary appropriate to the study of literature.
      2. Recall details from Old Testament accounts of the creation, the flood, the Tower of Babel, the story of Joseph, and The Book of Job.
      3. Recall details from Homer's *Iliad*.
      4. Compare the Hebrew and Greek stories of creation, the hero, the role of women and the founding of a civilization.
      5. Define classical tragedy as put forth by Aristotle.
      6. Apply the classical definition to *Oedipus Tyrannus* and *Antigone*.
      7. Identify the characteristics of ancient comedy.
8. Apply the definition of comedy to *Lysistrata*.

9. Identify the defining characteristics of Ancient Roman culture.

10. Recall details from *The Aeneid*.

11. Compare the Roman epic tradition with that of the Hebrews and the Greeks.

B. Describe the period known as the Dark Ages.

1. Define "Dark Ages."

2. List the influences on Christianity.


4. Compare Pre-Christian teachings and stories with the accounts of the New Testament in regard to religion, the position of humans, etc.

5. State the position of St. Augustine as a founding theologian of Christianity.

6. Compare Augustine's *Confessions* to the literature which came before in terms of beliefs, style of writing, influence on later generations.

C. Describe the period known as the Middle Ages.

1. Define the French epic.

2. Define feudalism, chivalry, courtly love.

3. Recall details from *The Song of Roland*.

4. Compare the French medieval epic with the epics of the ancient world.

5. Define "comedy" and the Italian epic as epitomized by Dante.

6. Recall details from *The Inferno*.

7. Compare this Christian epic with the French medieval epic.

8. State the position of drama from the fall of Rome to Medieval times.
9. Compare Everyman to ancient tragedy.

D. Describe the period known as the Renaissance.

1. Define "Renaissance"

2. List characteristics of this period which differentiate it from previous eras.

3. Recall details from Petrarch's life and his contributions to poetry.

4. Recall details from Castiglione's Courtier and define the "ideal" Renaissance man.

5. Recall details from Machiavelli's The Prince

6. Compare the Courtier with the Prince.

7. Define satire.

8. Recall details from Gargantua and Pantagruel and describe the objects of satire in the work.


10. Recall details from Don Quixote.

11. Identify the objects of satire in Don Quixote.

12. Synthesize the study of literature over the semester by tracing a common theme from the ancient literature of the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans through the Dark Ages to the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Student Presentations

B. Instructor Lecture

C. Collaborative Projects

D. Reading Criticle Articles

E. Library Research
VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS

A. Textbook

B. Library Skills

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Library collection

IX. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Student Presentations

B. Midterm Exam

C. Student Led Discussions

D. Critical Analysis Papers

E. Final Exam

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100 = A
80-89  = B
70-79  = C
60-69  = D
Below 60  = F