



**University of New York
Tirana**

Instructor: Dr. Artur Jaupaj

Great Books

Fall 2007

Office Hours: Mo-Tu-Wed.10:00-12:00/WRITING CNETRE: Fri: 10:00-12:00

Feel free to drop by during office hours, or make an appointment for some other time. I am also available via e-mail or phone.

Great Books is a grand tour of the major works of literature produced in the world and especially in the West from the earliest times to the present. Furthermore, the readings for this course constitute part of the necessary cultural background for students of literature and other majors alike. Thus, being a survey course with a very large scope, *Great Books* will not involve for the most part reading texts in full. It is hoped that students will be encouraged by experiencing a sampling of the characteristic passages and sections to read the full works on their own (perhaps during holidays and in years to come).

As a matter of fact, this course involves reading and discussion of literary works of all genres. As such, we will examine the historical and cultural context of their production, the literary movements and theories of which they are exemplary, the interconnections between their singularity and specificity as masterpieces of literary production. Even though the scope of the course is large, the reading amount will be no more than 100 pages per class time. It is imperative that students do the reading every time and come prepared to discuss. In addition, students are expected to explore the literary and cultural context through research of their own (on the internet and in the library)—research that will come in handy while preparing their presentations.

Class-work will consist of introductory lectures and discussions as well as textual analysis in the light of the era's main characteristics. Students will also have an opportunity to try lecturing and leading the discussion on one occasion each.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ To appreciate the wealth of the cultural production of Western Literature.
- ❖ To develop a better understanding of literature and literary movements in general.
- ❖ To read all genres with an enhanced critical awareness and deepened enjoyment.
- ❖ To recognize the interconnection and mutual influence in the development of cultural movements across national borders and time periods.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces Vol. 2 (7th edition), available at our library and hand outs on weekly basis. Nevertheless, I would like to start with Homer's *The Iliad*, Greek Mythology, and then move on with an exemplary text from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Romantic and Realistic period of the nineteenth century, the rise of Modernism in the first half of the twentieth century, before concluding with a postmodern work. However, before deciding on particular texts, I would like to familiarize with your literary preferences first.

Some tentative works could be:

1. *The Iliad* (epic poem): Greek Mythology/Homer
2. *Macbeth* (tragedy/drama): Renaissance/William Shakespeare
3. *Billy Budd*: Romanticism/Herman Melville + Selected Poems by Emily Dickenson
4. *Madame Bovary*: Gustave Flaubert/Realism
5. *The Dead*: Modernism/James Joyce
6. One of I. Kadare's novels + Selected Poems by Luljeta Lleshanaku
Contemporary Explorations

GRADING:

2 Exams (Mid-term, final)	40%
1 Presentation	15%
Reports for each work	35%
Participation/Attendance	10%

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS:

Reports: at least, 1- 2 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12-font, in accordance with MLA or APA style. All sources should be properly quoted, paraphrased, cited, and included in a "Works Cited" page. Arguments should be complex and fully developed, involving addressing an issue, examining a problem or a theme, and **presenting a coherent argument**. Apart from all the above-mentioned requirements, the quality of grammar, vocabulary sophistication, as well as the level of proofing will be taken into account. Reports should involve independent and personal arguments. A report **that is handed in late** will automatically receive one letter grade lower. Reports **submitted later than one week won't be accepted at all**. If there is some reason that you will not be able to make a specific deadline, this must be discussed with me prior to the due date of the paper. **Plagiarism**, or using someone else's writing—verbatim or in paraphrase—and presenting it as yours, will result in automatic failure and your name and paper will be passed on to the dean of faculty for further considerations.

Presentation: The students will be required to address the reading for the day by drawing attention to significant points in the text, providing discussion topics from theoretical and critical texts, distributing relevant hand-outs prepared before class, leading class discussion, and generally undertaking to lead the class for part of the

session. The student should have at least a couple of pages of coherent notes prepared before class in order to do an effective presentation. In addition, the student will hand in any material used for the presentation to the instructor to be considered for evaluation. Finally, your presentation will cover the following areas:

- a- the author and his/her times
- b- the works analyzed in the light of the era or any contemporary implications, precisely: the plot, the main themes and characters and some stylistic devices.
- c- Textual analysis

Participation/Attendance: **Attendance** in class is mandatory. Be here and be prepared to speak. More than **three absences will result in failure of the course.** Promptness to each class is also required. Students who are **late for more than 10 minutes** will be admitted but will have been marked absent.

Rules:

1. You are expected to follow appropriate business etiquette regarding cell phones. Think of the class as a business meeting, and make sure your cell phones are turned off when you come to class.
2. Arrive on time. When you arrive late, you are sending out a message that you are unreliable and can't be trusted with even so simple a task as arriving on time. Employers, clients, and colleagues will take a dim view of tardiness, so get into the habit of arriving on time.
3. All assignments must be typed.
4. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% for each 24 hours of lateness (or portion thereof).
5. If you must miss the midterm exam, the final exam, or an assignment deadline due to a serious medical problem, then you **MUST** telephone the professor prior to the exam or due date to re-schedule. A doctor's certificate will be required.
6. Students are responsible for reading and remaining informed about the UNYT Calendar, Plagiarism Guide, and Student Honor Code for information on appeals, withdrawal dates, plagiarism, cheating, and academic misconduct. Students are expected to abide by these regulations of UNYT.
7. If you feel that you have special learning difficulties, please, make an appointment with Ms. Angela Gramo. Ms. Anxhela Gramo is trained to help students with learning difficulties. She shall provide this service to UNYT students, just as it is offered in all American universities.