

World Literature 201: *An Epic Battle*

English 201: World Literature

3 CREDIT HOURS

Instructor's Information:

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Course Description: World Literature is the examination of the masterpieces of literature from around the world. **Prerequisites:** English Composition or other English courses as required by the university. This course will examine one of the most famous epic poems, *The Odyssey*, and juxtapose it with modern rap lyrics framed as epic narratives.

Required Texts:

The Odyssey. Homer. (text provided as PDF in Course Information)

Course Description

This course is a survey of world literary masterpieces to examine how gender, race, class, and historical influences impact literary works in various time periods. This semester, we will specifically focus on *The Odyssey* by Homer.

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Read texts closely and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature and rhetoric.
- Explicate texts written in a wide variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes.
- Recognize and appreciate the importance of major literary genres, subgenres, and periods.
- Respond imaginatively to the content and style of texts.
- Write clearly, effectively, and imaginatively, and to adjust writing style appropriately to audience, content and subject.
- Examine the contributions of authors from around in the world and the context from which culture contributes to their writing.

The Syllabus: The syllabus should be used as an outline for the class. The instructor reserves the right to make changes at any time and without notice to course structure, dates, content, etc.

Class Attendance Policy/Participation: This is an online course, and all students must regularly log in and complete all assignments, quizzes, and essays by the due DATE and TIME listed on the syllabus/course schedule and on the assignment. For purposes of financial aid and

enrollment, a student will be considered to be in attendance in an online class when the individual 1) participates in online discussions about academic matters; or 2) initiates contact with faculty to ask questions about subject studies; or 3) completes assignments; or 4) takes tests. Logging into an online course without active participation does **NOT** constitute attendance. The last date of attendance will be the date the student logged into the course and met one of the four criteria above. A student in an online course must follow the standard procedure for dropping the class. NO-SHOW status: Students who have logged into an online course but have not actively participated will be reported as 'No Shows' according to the university's No-Show procedure.

Classroom Demeanor: You must show respect to the professor and students in this class always. You may not shout out during the class period by speaking without being addressed by the professor. Some days the class will divide into small groups, and you must be willing to participate in groups. Infringements on these rules may result in a zero for class participation. You may not engage in any private conversations during the class. You must be prepared to work for the entire class period. Remember that the professor is always in charge of the class even on days when class participation is active. By remaining enrolled in this course, you are agreeing to complete all assignments and participate in discussions, regardless of objections you might have on these grounds. All ethical perspectives and opinions will be respected by the instructor and by all class members always. Religious perspectives can be shared in class, but religious beliefs are not a replacement for intellectual exchange and scholarly research.

Classroom Decorum Statement: Students should behave in a manner that is conducive to a teaching/learning environment. Students who engage in behavior that is disruptive or obstructive to the teaching/learning environment will be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined by the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive/obstructive behavior is not limited to but may include the following: physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, hazing, possession of controlled substances, possession of alcoholic beverages, sleeping, etc. For online courses, this policy applies to all assignments, discussion board posts, messaging, or any other communication between and among students and with the professor.

Cheating and Plagiarism Policy:

A student who engages in intentional plagiarism (copying someone's paper or summaries from e-notes, cliffnotes, Wikipedia and the like) will receive an F for that assignment; no student will be accused of plagiarism without clear evidence. If the student engages in intentional plagiarism a second time, the student may fail the course. **Students plagiarize when they submit someone else's work as their own. This includes recycled essays. A recycled essay is one that you have submitted for any class other than this one. This is very serious.**

Make-up Policy: Assignments are due at the start of class on the due date marked on the syllabus, unless otherwise noted. Late papers are accepted **ONLY** in the case of a documented medical or family emergency. The instructor will determine what constitutes an emergency. ALL other late submissions will not be accepted, and a grade of zero will be assigned. NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE without an ACCEPTED excuse from the University, AND the Instructor reserves the right to refuse. NO PAPERS SLID UNDER MY OFFICE DOOR WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH

TURNITIN.COM. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS! Computers crashing, lost flash drives, travel, undocumented illnesses without University excuses will NOT be accepted. An online course allows flexibility in how students submit work. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you complete all assignments by the due date. If you have an emergency arise that warrants the submission of a late paper, AFTER submitting an official excuse, the student will have a specific time frame to complete assignments for credit, as determined by professor. Failure to submit make up assignment by the specified time will result in a zero for the assignment. ONLY official university excuses will be accepted.

Disabilities Statement:

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the EMAP Computer Lab in the Technical Education (IT) Building to register for the program at the beginning of each semester.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mr. Billy Benson, Jr. via phone or email at 662-254-3005 or billy.benson@mvsu.edu.

The Writing Center and Lab:

Students should use the writing center to receive individual attention to improve essays in progress and the writing lab to develop grammar skills for correcting surface errors in their essays. While attending the Writing Center and Lab is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged.

Teaching/Learning Strategies:

Students are required to engage in a variety of activities designed to engage them with texts. Students are required to actively participate in all discussion questions and journal entries. Students' major culminating assignment is a 32 page creative document that will allow them to synthesize the texts that they have read over the course of the semester.

Grading Criteria

Only grades of "A," "B," "C," "D," and "F" may be earned.

"I" grades will only be given under extreme circumstances and in accordance with university policy.

Scale: 90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 0-59 = F

Assignments and Estimated Time per Assignment

Discussion Questions	2 @ 60 minutes each x 12 assignments = 1,089 minutes
Journals	1 @ 120 minutes each x 6 assignments = 720 minutes
Final Exam	@ 3 hours per week x 6 weeks to complete = 360 minutes
	Total Course Estimated Time = 2,169 minutes

Methods of Evaluation

The following criteria will be used to measure the student's mastery of the course objectives.

1. The student will write two responses to literature per text. Grades from these assignments will make up **50%** of the grade in the course. Students will complete a culminating writing assignment at the end of the course that will make up **20%** of the grade in the course.
2. The student will be evaluated through various means such as class participation, journals, blogs, tests or quizzes, and/or collaborative assignments. These assignments will make up **20%** of the grade in the course.
3. Students will participate in a weekly assignment that will be used to determine class attendance.
4. The student's culminating writing assignment will count as his or her final exam grade.

Course Schedule

*This course schedule is tentative and scheduled to change. Please check the messages and announcements FREQUENTLY.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING OUTLINE:

Units & Dates	READINGS AND ASSIGMENTS
Unit 1 August 20- September 9	Read “Greek Thought-Historical Context” and “What Is an Epic Poem in Course Information”. (60 minutes) Respond to DQ 1 by September 9, 2018 at 11:30 p.m.
Unit 2 September 4- September 9	Listen to the Adam Bradley NPR Interview and read Adam Bradley’s “The Poetics of Hip Hop”. Respond to DQ 2 and Journal 1 by September 9, 2018. (180 minutes)
Unit 3 September 10- November 4	Read <i>The Odyssey</i> and watch sections of the movie; respond to the weekly DQs and Journals based on selected readings of the text. Complete the Weekly Discussion Question Check-Ins on Culminating Reading/Writing Task (1440 minutes)

<p>Final Exam Due via Journal attachment Submission by 11:30 p.m. on 12/6/18</p>	<p>You have now read <i>The Odyssey</i>, an epic poem by Homer and texts that discuss the features of epic poetry and narrative rap lyrics.</p> <p>Write a 5-6 page essay in which you analyze the plight of Odysseus in <i>The Odyssey</i> and the characters in the narrative raps “Stan” by Eminem and “Children’s Story” by Slick Rick. Compare and contrast the following in the three texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative structure • Characteristics of the hero/anti-hero • Symbolism • Literary elements (metaphors, similes, personification, alliteration, etc.) <p>Your essay must be double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New-Roman, and use MLA format. You must have a Works Cited page. Plagiarized assignments will receive a 0.</p> <p>(489 minutes)</p> <hr/> <p>Total Course Estimated Time = 2,169 minutes</p>
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Final Exam is DUE: 12/6/18