

ENGLISH 2800: GREAT WORKS OF LITERATURE I

Baruch College, Spring 2016

Section HMWA

Monday & Wednesday, 9:55am-11:35am, Newman 108

Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Paige Ambroziak

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Office: VC 7-290 C (English Department)

Office hours by appointment

Class Blog: <http://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/forgingfate/>

Required Texts*

*These are all of the texts you **need** for this class. Whether you purchase or borrow them, you **must** have your text in class with you. You may **not** use electronic devices in this class.

ISBN: 9781416500339 *Oedipus the King*. Sophocles.

ISBN: 978-0743477109 *Macbeth*. William Shakespeare.

ISBN: 978-0486442877 *Paradise Lost*. John Milton.

ISBN: 978-0142437223 *The Divine Comedy, Vol. I: The Inferno*. Dante Alighieri. Trans. Mark Musa.

ISBN: 978-0393320978 *Beowulf*. Trans. Seamus Heaney.

ISBN: 978-0872203525 *Iliad*. Homer. Trans. Stanley Lombardo.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Come to class having read the selection for that day as it appears on the syllabus.

Week 1

Mon Feb 1

- Introductions, expectations and course plan.

Wed Feb 3

- **Reading:** *The Masque of the Red Death*. Edgar Allan Poe. (PDF available on our blog for printing)

Week 2

Mon Feb 8

- **Reading:** *Oedipus the King*. Sophocles.

Wed Feb 10

- **Reading:** *Oedipus the King*. Sophocles.

Week 3

Mon Feb 15

- **NO CLASS – President's Day**

Wed Feb 17

- **Reading:** *Macbeth*. William Shakespeare.

Week 4

Mon Feb 22

- **Reading:** *Macbeth*. William Shakespeare.

Wed Feb 24

- **Reading:** *Macbeth*. William Shakespeare.

Week 5

Mon Feb 29

- **Reading:** Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book 1

Wed Mar 2

- **Reading:** Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book 2

Week 6

Mon Mar 7

- **Reading:** Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book 4

Wed Mar 9

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 1-4) ***Don't panic. This is only about 40 pages of poetry—great poetry!**

Week 7

Mon Mar 14

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 5-8)

Wed Mar 16

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 9-12)

Week 8

Mon Mar 21

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 13-16)

Wed Mar 23

- **NO CLASS – CUNY Friday schedule**

Week 9

Mon Mar 28

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 17-20)

Wed Mar 30

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 21-24)

Week 10

Mon Apr 4

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 25-28)

Mon Apr 6

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 29-34)

Week 11

Mon Apr 11 (Last day to drop class for W grade)

- **Reading:** *Beowulf* (pp. 1-101) ***Don't panic. This is only about 50 pages of poetry.**

Wed Apr 13

- **Reading:** *Beowulf* (pp. 101-213) ***See above!**
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Week 12

Mon Apr 18

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 1-3

Wed Apr 20

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 4-6

Week 13

Mon Apr 25

- **NO CLASS – Spring Break**

Wed Apr 27

- **NO CLASS – Spring Break**

Week 14

Mon May 2

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 7-9

Wed May 4

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 10-12

Week 15

Mon May 9

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 13-15

Wed May 11

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 16-18

Week 16

Mon May 16

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 19-21

Wed May 18

- **Reading:** *Iliad* Books 22-24

Course Outcomes

English 2800 will introduce you to a selection of literature from the Homeric period up through the beginning of the seventeenth century, covering a number of major literary genres and examining works from different parts of the world. You will study the historical and cultural contexts of the pieces we read and learn about literary themes, techniques, and terminology, as well as the formal features of each of the texts. In the process, English 2800 will help you develop advanced reading and analytical capabilities. You will also hone your creative thinking and writing skills. This is a communication-intensive course that requires active class participation, oral presentations, frequent writing, and group work. Through these activities you will develop:

- The ability to interpret meaning in literary texts by paying close attention to an author's choice of detail, vocabulary, and style;
- The ability to discuss the relationship between different genres of literary texts and the multicultural environments from which they spring;
- Increased confidence in offering a critical evaluation and appreciation of a literary work's strengths and limitations;
- Increased confidence in the oral presentation of ideas; and
- Increased ability to write critical essays employing a strong thesis statement, appropriate textual citations, and contextual and inter-textual evidence for your ideas.

Course Requirements

- **Participation and Group work (40%):** Since this is a seminar, attendance, preparedness, and group contribution will count for a large portion of your grade. You are expected to attend every class, and arrive on time with cell phones turned off.
- **Response Papers (20%):** When asked, you will freewrite on a topic. This is an informal writing exercise that will usually be given at the beginning of class.
- **Short Paper (15%):** More information to follow.
- **Long Paper (25%):** More information to follow.
- **I don't accept late work.**

Attendance: Every absence beyond three will lower your course grade by one half step (an A- becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). I do not give excused absences since you have up to three absences to use at your discretion. Still, if you know you will miss a class (e.g. for a religious observance or event of personal importance), let me know as much in advance as possible. Class will begin and end at the scheduled time and late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive. Therefore, every two late arrivals or early departures will count as one absence. If you arrive late to class, it is your responsibility to speak with me at the end of the session to make sure you are recorded present and to find out any information you may have missed. Any time you are late or depart early by more than fifteen minutes, you will be counted absent. Students with more than 4 absences will be required to speak with me privately and will be subject to a WU grade. From the official Baruch College attendance policy: "If a freshman or sophomore is absent in excess of twice the number of class sessions per week, the instructor must give the student a WU grade, which counts as an F. The instructor may give a junior or senior a WU grade if he/she has excessive absences. Attendance and lateness clearly play a role in class participation. Instructors have the right to weigh attendance, lateness, and class participation in determining grades."

Participation and Reading: Regular attendance and active participation are required for success in this class. You have to complete reading assignments before class so that you can contribute to discussions and participate in group work.

Academic Honesty: Anyone caught cheating on a quiz, test, or any assignment or plagiarizing will fail the course immediately and be referred to the college for further disciplinary action. Plagiarism occurs when you claim to be the originator or producer of words, opinions, facts or numbers that belong to an author whose work you found online or in a book, magazine or newspaper. All the work you submit for this class must be original work you produced explicitly for this class, unless otherwise agreed upon between professor and student. For

more information on Baruch College's honesty policy:
http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.htm

Accommodations Policy: Baruch College is committed to making individuals with disabilities full participants in its programs, services, and activities through compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It is the policy of Baruch College that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in any program, service, or activity offered by the university. Individuals with disabilities have a right to request accommodations. If you require any special assistance or accommodation, please let me know as soon as you can, ideally during the first three weeks of the semester.