ENGLISH 2850: GREAT WORKS OF LITERATURE II
Baruch College, Fall 2014
Tu/Th 10:20-12
Professor Cheryl C. Smith
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:15-3:15 and Thursday 12-2

Required Texts: GET THESE EDITIONS
Pablo Neruda, Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair, bilingual edition, Penguin Classics
ISBN 978-0143039969
Additional readings in a course pack available for purchase soon—stay tuned!

Course Objectives
English 2850 will introduce you to a selection of literature from 1650 to the present, covering a number of major literary genres and examining works from around the world. You will study the historical and cultural contexts of the pieces we read and learn about literary themes, techniques, and terminology. In the process, English 2850 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, group work, and peer review. 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

- Reading Responses/Quizzes: We will have eight informal reading quizzes (short answers to questions about the day’s reading). These quizzes will be unannounced and can occur on any class day and will always at the beginning of class. For some of these quizzes, you will be allowed to reference your text. Remember to have your reading with you so you’re prepared not only to participate in class discussions but also to write. If you’re absent or late on the day of a quiz, you will receive a grade of 0. There are no make-ups for quizzes but I will drop your lowest quiz grade.
- Blog Posts: You will sign up to compose a blog post in response to one day’s reading and launch the day’s discussion with a 3-minute presentation. You will also have to respond to four of your classmates’ posts over the course of the semester. A more detailed description of the assignment will be provided.
- Annotation Essay: A detailed description of the assignment will be provided.
- Translation/Essay: A detailed description of the assignment will be provided.
- Optional Essay: A detailed description will be provided.
- Late work is not accepted. You are responsible for handing in, on time, any work assigned or due during any absence.
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 four 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. To do well in class, complete reading assignments before class so that you are always prepared to participate in discussions, in-class writing, and group work.

Grading: Your course grade will be based on a 1005-point scale. Points correlate to letter grades thusly:

- 930-1005 points = A
- 900-929 = A-
- 871-899 = B+
- 830-870 = B
- 800-829 = B-
- 771-799 = C+
- 730-770 = C
- 700-729 = C-
- 671-699 = D+
- 600-670 = D
- Below 600 = F

You can earn up to 1005 points, according to the following breakdown:
- Reading Responses/Quizzes = 105 points (8 quizzes, 15 points each, lowest grade dropped)
- Blog Posts (due dates vary) = 100 points (60 points for your blog post; 10 points for each response to a classmate’s post)
- Annotation/Essay (due dates vary) = 150 points
- Translation/Essay: The Shaping of Culture, Language, and Identity (due in stages) = 500 points
- Optional Short Essay (your choice of two different assignments, one due Sep 30 and the other on Oct 16) = 150 points

Please note: if you choose not to do the optional assignments, the max number of points you can earn is 855 for a max possible course grade of B. If you choose to do the optional assignment, the max number of points you can earn is 1005.

Academic Honesty: Anyone caught cheating on a quiz, test, or any assignment or plagiarizing will fail the assignment 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 elsewhere. All the work you submit for this class

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must be original work you produced explicitly for this class, unless otherwise agreed upon between professor and student. For more information on Baruch’s 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.

FANTASY AND REALITY: DREAMS, MONSTERS, TRICKERY, AND LOVE  
Read selections for the day they appear on the schedule; always bring that day’s reading to class.

Week 1
Thu Aug 28
• Introduction

Week 2
Tue Sep 2
• Come prepared to discuss what you found to be the most useful annotation

Thu Sep 4
• Reading: Ihara Saikaku, “The Barrelmaker Brimful of Love” (1685)

Week 3
Tue Sep 9
• Reading: John Donne, “The Flea,” “The Relique,” and “To His Mistress Going to Bed” (1633); Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, “Philosophical Satire” and “Love Opened a Mortal Wound” (17th century); Aphra Behn, “The Disappointment” (1680)

Thu Sep 11
• Reading: Ueda Akinari, “Bewitched” (1776) and clips from Kenjo Mizoguchi, Ugestsu Monogatari (1953)

Week 4
Tue Sep 16
• Reading: “Bewitched,” continued
• Annotation/Essay due for students in the “Bewitched” Group

Thu Sep 18
• Reading: Anne Carson, “Variations on the Right to Remain Silent” and translations of ancient Greek poem fragment (2009)
• Discuss Translation/Essay Assignment

Week 5
Tue Sep 23  Baruch Friday, no class
Thu Sep 25  Holiday, no class
**Week 6**

**Tue Sep 30**
- **Reading:** John Keats, “Bright Star” (1819) and “La Belle Dame Sans Merci” (1820)
- **Optional Essay Choice #1 due**

**Thu Oct 2**
- **Reading:** John Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale” (1817) and “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (1819)

**Week 7**

**Tue Oct 7**
- **Reading:** Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1819). Read the 1831 Author’s Introduction (192-97), Note on the text (li-liii), Chronology of Mary Shelley (lvivx-lxii) and pages 1-68 (the Preface and Volume I)
- **Annotation/Essay due for students in the “Frankenstein 1831 Intro” Group**

**Thu Oct 9**
- **Reading:** *Frankenstein* (continued). Read pages 69-123 (Volume II).

**Week 8**

**Tue Oct 14**
- **Reading:** *Frankenstein* (continued). Read pages 124-191 (Volume III) plus Appendix B, pages 198-200.

**Thu Oct 16**
- **Reading:** *Frankenstein* (continued)
- **Optional Essay Choice #2 due**

**Week 9**

**Tue Oct 21**
- **Reading:** Alexander Pushkin, “The Tale of the Preacher and his Man Bumpkin” (1830) and Richard Pevear, “The Translator’s Inner Voice: A Talk” (2007)

**Thu Oct 23**
- **Reading:** Rabindranath Tagore, “Punishment” (1893) and “I Won’t Let you Go” (1894)

**Week 10**

**Tue Oct 28**
- **Reading:** Lu Xun, *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China* (1910s and 20s): read the “Introduction,” “A Note on Translation,” plus the following stories from *Outcry*: Preface through “My Old Home”
- **Annotation/Essay due for students in the “Diary of a Madman” Group**

**Thu Oct 30**
- **Reading:** *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China*: finish the rest of the stories in *Outcry*

**Week 11**

**Tue Nov 4**
- **Reading:** *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China*: read all of the stories in *Hesitation* and Michael Cunningham, “Found in Translation” (2010)

**Thu Nov 6**
- **Reading:** James Baldwin, “Notes of a Native Son” (1955) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, “The Coming Race War Won’t Be About Race” (2014)
- **Annotation/Essay due for students in the “Notes of a Native Son” Group**
Week 12

Tue Nov 11

• Reading: Pablo Neruda, *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (1924), read the entire text plus “Towards the Splendid City,” Nobel Prize speech 1971

Thu Nov 13

• Reading: *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair*, continued and “I’m Explaining a Few Things” (from *Residence on Earth, Third Residence* 1937), “A Dog has Died” (from *Winter Garden* 1973) and “Finale” (from *The Sea and the Bells* 1973)

Week 13

Tue Nov 18

• Reading: Naguib Mahfouz, “Zaabalawi” (1963)
• Translation/Essay proposal due

Thu Nov 20

• Reading: Nawal El Saadawi, “In Camera” (1980)
• Annotation/Essay due for students in the “In Camera” Group

Week 14

Tue Nov 25

• Reading: Toni Morrison, “Recitatif” (1983)

Thu Nov 27  Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15

Tue Dec 2

• Translation/Essay Development

Thu Dec 4

• Translation/Essay Development

Week 16

Tue Dec 9

• Translation/Essay due
• Final Presentations

Thu Dec 11

• Final Presentations