

ENGLISH 2800: GREAT WORKS OF LITERATURE I

Baruch College, Fall 2015

Professor K. Paige Ambroziak

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Office Hours: By appointment

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

Required Texts*

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

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

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

ISBN: 978-0393926644 *King Lear*. William Shakespeare.

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

ISBN: 978-0199537150 *Frankenstein*. Mary Shelley.

*All of your readings this semester are in these books, as well as the handouts I provide. **Please bring the appropriate text to each class.**

Required Viewing

Ex Machina (2015). Dir. Alex Garland.

You can stream this movie anytime this semester at the following URL:

<http://remote.baruch.cuny.edu:2048/login?url=http://ereserve.baruch.cuny.edu/eres/coursepage.aspx?page=docs&return=courses.aspx&cid=3810>

Password to view: **ambroziak2800**

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Week 1

Thurs Aug 27

- Introduction to the course content, overall expectations, and syllabus.

Week 2

Tues Sep 1

- **Reading:** Hesiod, from *Works and Days* and *Theogony* (handout)

Thurs Sep 3

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

Week 3

Tues Sep 8

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

Thurs Sep 10

- **Classes follow a Monday Schedule**

Week 4

Tues Sep 15

- **No classes scheduled**

Thurs Sep 17

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

Week 5

Tues Sep 22

- **No classes scheduled**

Thu Sep 24

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

Fri Sep 25 (Classes follow a Tuesday schedule)

- Group work TBD

Week 6

Tues Sep 29

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

Thurs Oct 1

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

Week 7

Tues Oct 6

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

Thurs Oct 8

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

Week 8

Tues Oct 13

- **TEST #1 *Iliad* and epic poetry**

Thurs Oct 15

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

Week 9

Tues Oct 20

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

Thurs Oct 22

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 1-8) ***Don't panic. This is only about 40 pages of poetry—great poetry!**

Week 10

Tues Oct 27

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 9-18)

Thurs Oct 29

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 19-26)

Week 11

Tues Nov 3

- **Reading:** Dante's *Inferno* (Cantos 27-34)

Thurs Nov 5

- **TEST #2 *Beowulf* and *Inferno***

Week 12

Tues Nov 10

- **Reading:** Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Acts 1-2

Thurs Nov 12

- **Reading:** Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Acts 3-5

Week 13

Tues Nov 17

- **Reading:** Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Books 1 and 2

Thurs Nov 19

- **Reading:** Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Books 3 and 4

Week 14

Tues Nov 24

- **TEST #3 *King Lear* and *Paradise Lost***

Thurs Nov 26

- **No classes scheduled – Happy Thanksgiving!**

Week 15

Tues Dec 1

- **Reading:** Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Read the Preface up to, and including, Volume I, Chapter V

Thurs Dec 3

- **Reading:** Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Read from Volume I, Chapter VI to Volume II, Chapter IV

Week 17

Tues Dec 8

- **Reading:** Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Read from Volume II, Chapter IV to Volume III, Chapter III

Thurs Dec 10

- **Reading:** Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Read from Volume III, Chapter V to the end

Week 18

Tues Dec 15

- **Final Exam TBA**

Course Outcomes

English 2800 will introduce you to a selection of literature from the classical period up through the sixteenth century, 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, 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 (25%):** Attendance, preparedness, and group contribution will count for a quarter of your grade. You will be evaluating your group members, which I will take into consideration when calculating your grade. You are expected to be in every class, on time, and ready to go. Electronics should be left at home if you can't turn them off since keeping them on will earn the entire class an extra assignment. I'm serious—texting is not only forbidden on the road, but in the classroom too!
- **Tests (15%):** We will have a test after each section. ***No make-up tests.**
- **Response Papers (10%):** When asked, you will freewrite on a suggested topic. This is an informal writing exercise that will usually be given at the beginning of class.
- **Oral Presentation (10%):** You will sign up to give a short presentation about a work of art of your choosing. More information to follow.
- **Research Paper (20%):** You will submit an essay by the end of the semester. The work will consist of my assigning you steps as you go, giving you deadlines for certain parts throughout the semester. The topic will be related to several works of literature on our syllabus and will combine critical and creative thinking. More information to follow.
- **Final Exam (20%):** We will have one final cumulative exam during exam week.
- **Late work is never accepted. No exceptions!**

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 are always prepared to participate in discussions and do well on any in-class work.

Grading: Your course grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

- Class Participation (including group work) = 25%
- Tests = 15%
- Response Papers = 10%
- Oral Presentation = 10%
- Research Paper = 20%
- Final Exam = 20%

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.