

# WORLD LIT I

Summer '08

WRC1-132, Session A

MW 10a-2:40p

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## World Literature I: From *Gilgamesh* to the *Metamorphoses*

“Sing in me, Muse,  
 and through me tell  
 the story . . .”  
 —Homer

PLEASE READ SYLLABUS  
 CONTENTS CAREFULLY

### INTRODUCTION

ENGL 2111, World Literature I, explores various forms of classical, non-English literary discourse from *Gilgamesh* through Ovid.

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### REQUIREMENTS & SCHEDULE

This course is divided into eight class periods; therefore, we have much to cover in a short time. Each four-and-a-half-hour class will be divided into several activities that will revolve around the assigned reading for the day.

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### POLICIES

I have certain expectations about our relationship as professor and student. As a Macon State College student and as a student in my class, it is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by these policies and the MSC Student Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.

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*Penelope & the Suitors*



*Achilles Slays Hector*



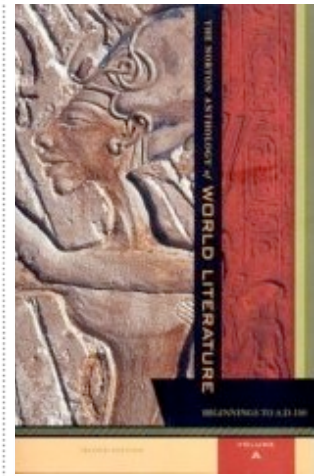
*Homer & His Guide*

“What good were  
 eyes to me? Nothing  
 I could see could  
 bring me joy.”  
 —Oedipus





*Odysseus & the Sirens*



*The Norton Anthology of World Lit.*

## INTRODUCTION

We will focus on textual studies of the major genres of this period, epic and tragedy, how those genres influenced later literary works, and how they portray “humanist” issues throughout the Greek and Roman national literary traditions. World Literature I will show the continued relevance of just why ancient works are still paramount to knowing ourselves as “humans.” Major works covered will include *Gilgamesh*, the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, and works by Sophocles, Euripides, and Ovid. Since any survey course has much more literature than one semester-long class can cover, we will attempt to cover only a couple works in detail, rather than many works only cursorily.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Our study of World Literature this semester will use the *Norton Anthology of World Literature*, Volume A (pictured above), edited by Sarah Lawall. This book should always accompany you to class, as we will make heavy use of it in our daily discussions. Please do not come to class without it: we

need the book for class activities, in-class writing, and all aspects of our study.

You should also bring an ink interface of some sort, as well as dead trees on which to take notes. Notes should not only reflect good listening skills, but individual interest in every topic discussed in class. You should not sit in class like you’re watching TV: learning requires active participation, especially in a short summer course.

All other materials, like cell phones, food, magazines, iPods, etc., should be left in your car. They are not needed for our class and should, therefore, not accompany you. I understand our contemporary need to be in contact with everyone all the time, but do not let this personal need distract the rest of the class. If you answer a cell phone in my class, I will expect you to leave. In addition, I do not allow class discussions to be taped, so do not bring any voice recording devices to class.

Finally, since class lecture and discussion will often touch on the controversial, this college classroom is not an appropriate place for children. Please leave them at home.

We will focus on textual studies of the major genres of this period, epic and tragedy, how those genres influenced later literary works, and how they portray “humanist” issues.

# Course Requirements & Process

## REQUIREMENTS

There are three major requirements for World Literature I, each of which must be successfully completed to pass the course. Assignments are weighted on a point system, depending on their importance. For example, a reading quiz might have 10 points while the final exam might have 200.

### FINAL EXAM

A final cumulative exam will be given that will test your knowledge of the subject matter (texts, lecture material, and vocabulary), your ability to synthesize this material, and your creativity in going beyond the discussion and lecture materials. The final exam will include vocabulary, identification, and interpretation. All exam grades will be based upon objective knowledge of the material, thoroughness, depth of insight, precision, and originality.

### FORUM

For all of the major works we study in this class, you are required to respond in writing. In most cases, these responses will be written in an online forum during the class period, so the entire class can benefit from reading your thoughts. The forum will also give you a chance to respond to others' ideas. Your writing in the forum should total at least 350 words.

The purpose of these responses is to get you thinking about issues covered in the works that are important to you. You should reflect on how these works relate to other works we discuss in class, literature you have read previously, and/or your own daily life. All entries should be thoughtful, refer to

specific portions of the text on which you're writing, and use the critical vocabulary that we have introduced in class.

### DAILY WORK

Regular class attendance, question posing, and active participation in classroom discussions are required. Participation, effort, and attitude will count significantly in this course. Quizzes, other class activities, and homework assignments not explicitly outlined above will be considered daily work.

## PROCEDURE

Every class will follow a similar procedure, beginning promptly at the start of class:

1. Attendance — If you come in late, it is your responsibility to ask me to mark you present. Remember, two tardies count as an absence.
2. Reading Quiz — Since reading is such an important component of this course, you should expect a quiz for every assigned reading. These quizzes are designed to test factual aspects of the text, not interpretation or evaluation. Read every text carefully and take reading notes — character names, general plot, important items, etc. — and the quizzes will be no problem.
3. Posing Questions — As you read each assigned text, consider aspects of the text that are confusing or unclear. When you finish reading, write down at



*Oedipus Rex*

A final cumulative exam will be given that will test your knowledge of the subject matter, your ability to synthesize this material, and your creativity in going beyond the discussion and lecture materials.

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# Course Policies

## YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR EACH OF THESE POLICIES

### ASSIGNMENTS

Your work represents you. Therefore, I expect everything you turn into me to exemplify the very best of your professional self. Please proofread all writing before submission.

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. If you come in late, it is your responsibility to inform me of your presence that day. If you fail to do so, you are absent. Two tardies count as one absence. There are no “excused absences” in my class, but you are allowed to miss one class before your grade suffers. Each additional class missed beyond the allotted one will result in your final semester’s grade being dropped one letter.

### DEADLINES

Late work is not acceptable and will receive a zero. Technical, computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for late work. Quizzes and in-class activities cannot be made up for any reason.

### EMAIL

The best and quickest way of contacting me is via email. Only use the email address that I provided on this document for class business: <[worldlit@grlucas.net](mailto:worldlit@grlucas.net)>.

### GRADES

Letter grades are based upon a traditional ten-point scale. If you

would like to know your official grade, you should see me during my office hours or make an appointment.

### MATERIALS

Course readings are an integral part of the class and should be brought daily. When readings are assigned to be discussed in class, please bring a copy of the reading with your reading notes ready to participate in the discussion. Do not come to class without your books and something to write with and on. Everyday. Seriously.

### PLAGIARISM

Any time you use ideas that are not your own — be they paraphrased or copied verbatim — in anything that you write, you must supply a citation in an identifiable citation method, e.g., MLA, Chicago, etc. Willful plagiarism will result in automatic failure of this class and will be submitted to the Dean for further potential consequences. Remember two things:

1. If you use the language of your source, you must quote it exactly, enclose it in quotation marks, and cite the source using MLA citation style in all my courses. A paraphrase employs source material by restating an idea in an entirely new form that is original in both sentence structure and word choice. Quotations and paraphrases must be cited to avoid plagiarism.

2. If you use ideas or information that are not common knowledge, you must cite a source.

Unsure as to what to cite, when to cite, and how to cite? Check your handbook for the best information.

The professor reserves the right to use Turn It In, a plagiarism prevention service, to evaluate any written work submitted for this course. As directed by the professor, students are expected to submit or have their assignments submitted through the service in order to meet requirements for this course. The papers may be retained by the service for the sole purpose of checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

Any student who has special needs should contact Ann E. Loyd at the Counseling and Career Center (478-471-2714) and fill out the appropriate paperwork. The student should then see me with the documentation so that the necessary accommodations can be made.

### TECHNOLOGY COMPETENCY

Computer competency is an integral skill in any discipline. Students should be familiar with the general uses of a computer, particularly using a web browser. Students should be willing to put forth the effort to learn what they need to in order to succeed in the course. Please see me for additional assistance when necessary.

# Reading Schedule



*Procedure (from page 3)*

least five questions that you have about the text. These questions should be in an effort to gain further insight to the text for yourself and your classmates. After the quiz, you will have the opportunity to pose these questions for discussion.

4. Discussion — Most of the class period will be our attempt to answer the questions posed at the beginning of the class.
5. Forum — If all goes well, we should close the class each day in a computer-assisted classroom, so that we may end each day with the forum, in which you will respond to an initial prompt, then comment on others' posts.

## READING SCHEDULE

This schedule represents the ideal outline for our study this semester. Yet, like all best-laid plans, we may not be able to keep up with our agenda. Please be flexible and try to look and read ahead whenever possible. We will do our best to stick by this schedule, but I will inform you verbally whenever there is a change in or an addition to an assignment. Getting these updates is solely your responsibility. Therefore, this syllabus is tentative and subject to change contingent upon the needs of the students and the professor, and dictated by time and other constraints which may affect the course. This syllabus reflects only an overview of the

assigned reading and other major course assignments. It does not always indicate other specific class session assignments or activities.

**W 5/28:** Course Introduction

**M 6/2:** *Gilgamesh*

**W 6/4:** The *Iliad* Books 1, 6, & 22

**M 6/9:** The *Odyssey* Books 1-4, 9, & 10

**W 6/11:** The *Odyssey* Books 11, 12, & 21-23 (24 optional)

**M 6/16:** Sophocles *Oedipus the King*

**W 6/18:** Euripides *Medea*

**M 6/23:** Ovid *Metamorphoses*: Prologue; Apollo and Daphne; Io and Jove; Europa and Jove; Iphis and Ianthe; Pygmalion

**M 6/23, 12:30a-2:40p** — Final Exam



Circe



Apollo & Daphne