

World Literature I (Eng. 2305)-- Life Journeys
Section 2019 (MWF 11:00); Irby 313
Melchior: Spring, 2007
Office: Irby 317C; Phone: 450-5127

Website: <http://faculty.uca.edu/~bonniem>
Email: bonniem@uca.edu
Office Hours: MWF 1-3
TTh 1:30-3:30 (if no meetings)

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers during this class.

Email: Please include the course name in the header of all emails to me.

All assignments should be typed (double-spaced) or written in blue or black ink on standard-size paper (not on the back). Assignments written in pencil will not be graded and might receive an "F."

Please do not be late to class, as you may miss directions for future assignments and you will have less time to complete a quiz (quizzes are given during the first 10 minutes of the period and cannot be made up). If you do come in after role has been taken, let me know at the end of the period that you are here (otherwise, you will be counted absent).

Required Texts and Materials:

The Odyssey, by Homer (translated by Fitzgerald), Farrer/Straus/Giroux, 1998

The Three Theban Plays, by Sophocles (translated by Fagles), Penguin, 1984

The Ramayana, R. K. Narayan's version (based on Kamban), Penguin, 1972

Monkey, by Wu Ch'eng-en (translated by Waley), Grove, 1970

A good college dictionary (a hardback, like Merriam Webster or the Random House College Dictionary)

3x5 cards, pens (blue or black), standard-size paper (without spiral edges)

Download *Odyssey* study questions, and other course materials from my web page:

<http://faculty.uca.edu/~bonniem> The web page may also be accessed by going to the university home page, then "Current Students," then "Faculty Homepages," then "M," then "Melchior, Bonnie."

Course Objectives:

1. To become better acquainted with how Western and Non-Western literary traditions reflect our values and ideals, our sense of identity, our approach to problem-solving, and our stereotypes.
2. To better understand how works of literature are idea-structures that influence our thinking—and therefore to improve ability to evaluate TV programming, propaganda and advertising.
3. To further communication skills by viewing evidence from perspectives other than our own and those that are familiar.
4. To improve ability to construct a logical argument supported effectively by evidence.

Absence Policy:

This class will be at least 50% discussion. Therefore, you are expected to be here and to have done the assigned reading. A discussion where only 3 people have read the story is an exercise in futility and boredom. Anyone with more than **6 absences (for any reason)** will be dropped with an F. (6 absences are almost 15% of the semester.) Please do not call me to tell me you will be absent (unless we are having a major test); I trust that, as responsible adults, you have a good reason. Consult the syllabus for assignments due when you return from an absence. (Feel free to email me or call if you want to find out if there are any changes.) Since having people trickle in late is highly disruptive and rude to those already there, 3 tardies will count as 1 absence.

Quizzes and a Reading Journal :

There will be frequent 10-point quizzes. No make-ups will be allowed, but one grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Quizzes will usually concern study questions.

There may be a reading journal after we finish *The Odyssey*.

Grading:

- Quizzes and (perhaps) a Reading Journal later in the semester (weighing around 100 pts.)
- Possible group reports and/or projects (part of quiz/journal grade)
- 2 exams (100 pts. each) and 2 short papers (1-2 pages @ 50 pts., 3-4 pages @ 100 pts.= 150 pts.)
- A comprehensive final exam (weighing 100 pts.)

Plagiarizing: Plagiarizing and any other forms of cheating will be cause for failing the course.

University Policies: The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 450-3135. See the Student Handbook for general academic policies (p. 32+) and the policy concerning sexual harassment (p. 102).

List of Works for “Life Journeys”

- Epic Greece: *The Odyssey*, by Homer (8th c. BCE)
- Classical Greece: *Oedipus the King*, by Sophocles (5th c. BCE)
- Epic India: excerpts from Narayan’s *The Ramayana*, based on the Tamil version by Kamban (11th c. CE)
- Post-Classical China: excerpts from *Monkey*, by Wu Ch’eng-en, 16th c. CE)

Below is the first page of the syllabus. The rest should be downloaded from my web page:

<http://faculty.uca.edu/~bonniem> along with study questions and other course materials. Click on the course name when you get to the web page.

Directions for printing from a web page (here are 2 methods):

Method 1: When the document is visible on your screen, click on “file” and then on “print.”

Method 2: Highlight the whole document with <cntrl> A and copy it with <cntrl> C. Then open Word Perfect or Word and paste with <cntrl> V. Print as you would any file document.

LIFE JOURNEYS SYLLABUS (homework is to be completed on the date by which it is listed)

I (Jan. 15-19)-- **Bring textbook to class whenever there is a reading assignment!**

- M Martin Luther King Day
- W Background: Read xerox on the Greek gods; bring the *Odyssey* text to class
- F Read *The Odyssey*, p. 1-4.

II (Jan. 22-26)

- M *The Odyssey*, Book I: Read pp. 4-15.
- W Book II (pp. 19-31) and part of Book IV (pp. 71-8, starting with line 668).
(We’re omitting Book III and the first part of Book IV)
- F Book V, pp. 81-95
Short paper due (about 1 page, typed double-spaced, 50 pts.) on one of Odysseus' distinctive characteristics (based on evidence from Book V only). See Study Question sheet for more precise directions.

III (Jan. 29-Feb. 2)

- M Books VI and VII (pp. 99-121)
- W Books VIII and IX, pp. 125-42 and 145-62
- F Book IX further discussion

IV (Feb. 5-9)

- M Book X, pp. 165-82 **and**
Book XI, pp. 185-92 (l.255) and 197 (l.449)-206 (parts of XI are omitted)

- W Book XII (209-25)
 F Book XIII (229-44) and part of Book XIV -- 247-9 (l. 88), 258-60 (ll. 419 to 481)
 (Much of Book XIV and all of Book XV are omitted)
- V (Feb. 12-16)
 M Books XVI and XVII, pp. 289-305 and 309-31
 W Books XVIII and XIX, pp. 335-50 and 353-72).
 F Books XX and XXI, pp. 375-87 and 391-405.
- VI (Feb. 19-23)
 M Books XXII and XXIII, pp. 409-24 and 429-41
 W Book XXIV, pp. 445-62
 F Review for test
- VII (Feb. 26-Mar. 2)
 M *Odyssey* Test
 W *Oedipus the King*, pp. 138-42 and 159-75
 (The introduction concerns Oedipus as a contemporary Athenian epitomizing “civilization”)
 F *Oedipus the King*, pp. 176-95
- VIII (Mar. 5-9)
 M *Oedipus the King*, pp. 196-224
 W *Oedipus the King*, pp. 225-251
 F *Oedipus the King* (group work)
- IX (Mar. 12-16)
 M *Ramayana*: Introduction, Prologue, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 (pp. xi-xiii and 3-34)
 W *Ramayana*: Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 35-77)
 F *Ramayana*: Chapters 5 and 6 (pp. 79-113)
- X (Mar. 19-23)
 M *Ramayana*: Chapters 7, 8, and 9 (pp. 115-40)
 W *Ramayana*: Chapters 10 through 14 and the Epilogue (pp. 141-71)
 F Oral Reports
- Spring Break
- XI (Apr. 2-6)
 M Test
 W *Monkey*: Read the introduction and the preface, pp. 1-7, as well as introductory xeroxes
 F *Monkey*, Read Chapter I, pp. 8-19, and “Filling in Some Gaps” xerox
- XII (Apr. 9-13)
 M *Monkey*, Read Chapter XIV, pp. 126-37 (on Tripitaka and Monkey)
 W *Monkey*, Read Chapters XVI-XVII, pp. 146-58 (on Pigsy)
 F *Monkey*, Read Chaps. XVIII-XIX, pp. 159-80 (Crow-cock)
- XIII (Apr. 16-20)
 M 500-word brainstorming due (see questions): 10 points
 W *Monkey*, Read Chaps. XX-XI, pp. 181-209 (Crow-cock) and xerox of “The Ending”
 F Full-length draft of paper due (5 pts; peer-editing 5 pts.)

XIV (Apr. 23-27)

M Final draft of paper due

W **Quotations for final exam due** (2 copies; 10 pts.) and preparation for essay questions

F Study Day— no class

FINAL EXAMINATION (comprehensive)