



Call Your Spirit Back

World Lit as a Pilgrimage into Our Humanity

World Literature (ENGL 2110)

CRN 83531 | Section 24 | Online

English Department | College of Humanities & Social Sciences | KSU

Fall 2020 Course [Scyllabus](#)

INSTRUCTOR: [Christopher Martin](#), MAPW | Lecturer of English

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OFFICE: English Building 139 (But don't stop by this semester because I won't be there ☺ All office hours are virtual.)

COURSE GUIDE WORDS: **Sincerity, curiosity, creativity, complexity, and empathy** are our guiding principles. If you consider them and apply them to everything you do in our time together, you will, as [Thoreau said](#), “meet with a success unexpected in common hours.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OUTCOMES: This course is a survey exploring human experience and diverse aesthetic/cultural perspectives from ancient to modern times. Upon completion, you'll be able to: appraise literary works through critical lenses; examine the historical, social, and cultural contexts of literary works; identify the periods in world literature and name associated authors/works; formulate conclusions about texts through literary terminology; analyze literary themes within historical, social, and cultural contexts; evaluate the importance of events within authors' lives/texts; evaluate and analyze texts; collaborate with peers by formulating questions, scenarios, and analyses in order to promote classroom community and a multi-dimensional approach to learning; and apply citation conventions. (Prerequisite: ENGL 1102 with at least a C.)

REMOTE LEARNING: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this course will be “delivered remotely.” Does that mean this course is now pizza? Unfortunately, no. It just means what was intended to be an in-person class has been shifted online for everyone's safety. This shift won't be perfect. The original plan was for us to meet in class twice a week, which is now out the window. My classes are deeply conversational. We talk with one another. We listen to one another. We grapple with tough questions that don't have immediate answers. We embrace silence and reflection. I occasionally bring cookies. All this, too, is now out the window. Maybe not entirely, as we can still strive for these things (well, minus me bringing junk food). We can still value a sense of community and have regard for one another even from a social distance—which is why we're practicing social distancing in the first place, right? But we can't replicate everything, nor will we necessarily try. Great as tools like Zoom and online discussion boards are, they just can't replace presence. The good news for us is *presence* implies something more than just showing up. We can still strive to be present in this moment and cultivate a sense of interiority and contemplation, knowing 90 other souls (the 89 other students in this class plus your teacher) are simultaneously striving for the same thing. That's the basis of our community this semester—that and empathy. As Dr. Anthony Fauci recently said in a virtual [commencement address](#) to students at College of the Holy Cross, “Now is the time, if there ever was one, for us to care selflessly about one another.” Care always forms the basis of my teaching. That's especially true now. I hope this semester we can practice that kind of care for one another and ourselves as we make it the best we can under the circumstances.

“When everyone in the classroom, teacher and students, recognizes that they are responsible for creating a learning community together, learning is at its most meaningful and useful. In such a community of learning there is no failure.” —[bell hooks](#)

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION & OFFICE HOURS

- **Email & GroupMe:** Please don't hesitate to reach out through email or GroupMe. If emailing, in the subject line, please include your name, World Lit, plus anything else that's applicable. I'm responsive to messages and emails and do my best to be accessible, but please be as specific as possible when writing with a question.
- **No D2L messages, please:** We will be using D2L this semester, but please try not to use it for messaging. I'm much more efficient replying to email and GroupMe. If you forget, that's okay, but I'll probably reply to you at your KSU email.
- **Office hours:** In-person office hours are nonexistent this semester due to the coronavirus pandemic. I'm happy to schedule meetings through Zoom or to conference over email, messaging, or phone. To schedule an individual or small group Zoom meeting or phone call, simply email with your availability, or sign up when the conference sheet is provided.

ONLINE & TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION

- **Online component:** All course communication and coursework will take place over D2L and KSU email.
- **GroupMe:** I use GroupMe to facilitate communication, share updates/reminders, and to give you an easy way to reach out to me through text. Joining our class GroupMe is optional. I can't discuss grades via GroupMe. Please check your KSU email for GroupMe access.
- **KSU student email:** You should check your KSU student email daily to stay updated on this class and all KSU matters. I will typically send weekly class recaps and individual correspondence to your KSU email.
- **PDF and Microsoft Word:** In some cases, you'll be submitting work for this course as either PDF or .doc/.docx files. If you'll be sending work in other formats, please confirm that I'll be able to open what you send well before the due date.

TEXTS & MATERIALS

- A composition notebook or journal and other standard materials/organizational system for a composition class
- A device to access course materials and complete coursework
- Reliable, regular internet access, as all of our texts this semester will be online (and free)

COURSEWORK & GRADING: The grades that may be assigned in this course are A, B, C, D and F. Final course grades will be based on the completion of items from five categories to achieve the desired letter grade.

- To achieve an A in the class, you'll complete all five categories: Sibyl, Cerberus, Fairy, Unicorn, and Behemoth.
- To achieve a B, you'll complete four categories: Sibyl, Cerberus, Fairy, and your choice of Unicorn or Behemoth.
- To achieve a C, you'll complete three categories: Sibyl, Cerberus, and your choice of Fairy, Unicorn, or Behemoth.
- To earn a D, though I sincerely hope that's not your goal, you'll complete two categories: Sibyl and Cerberus. To earn an F, you can complete Sibyl if you wish, but really you don't need to do anything.

Refer to [Ariadne's Thread: Your Guide to World Lit](#) for more coursework and grading info, as well as info on course structure and philosophy. This guide is part of the syllabus and is critical to understanding the course.

GRADING PHILOSOPHY: While I acknowledge grades are important inasmuch as they can impact your academic and career pursuits for better or worse, they alone are not the point of a true education. I'm not a teacher because I love grading; I'm a teacher because I love learning and the potential for a creative, introspective, empathetic life that learning cultivates. As a result, I approach grading holistically. If you complete your work in this course with sincerity and thoughtfulness, you can expect to earn the grade you want. I believe taking the focus off of grades—that is, acknowledging them but not allowing them to be our primary motivation and certainly not fixating on them—opens the door to genuine learning.

ATTENDANCE: In our "remote learning" situation, attendance doesn't really apply. There is, however, a difference between attendance and presence. I encourage you to use this time, as growing scholars, to learn the difference. You matter, I value your presence, and we all have something to contribute to the class's intellectual energy. Even though we won't meet in person, you're more than a name on a roster or a student ID number. I'm more than a "remote instruction deliverer." I hope to get a sense of who you are as a student this semester, just as I hope you'll get a sense of who I am as a teacher.

WITHDRAWING: The last day to withdraw from this course without academic penalty is Wednesday, October 7.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Some things you share, discuss, and complete will or could be read and responded to by other students. As such, please do not disclose more about your personal life than you feel comfortable, though personal writing is welcome for certain rhetorical situations. It's my goal to foster a safe classroom environment. To protect the confidentiality of students, audio/video recording of the class is prohibited, as is publicizing or sharing discussion threads, GroupMe posts, and other materials or coursework. If you have concerns about a classmate's online actions or comments, please let me know.

FEEDBACK & CONFLICT RESOLUTION: If you have concerns with any aspect of the class, including my approach to teaching, I'm open to your constructive feedback and will strive to listen empathetically. Provided you contact me in a timely, professional manner, I'm willing to collaborate with you on finding resolutions. I welcome you to reach out.

MANDATED REPORTING: I am a mandated reporter, meaning I'm legally obligated to disclose through appropriate KSU channels should a given student share that they are in danger or have been a victim of assault or other forms of violence. Whether you do or do not disclose anything to me, if you are experiencing crisis, danger, or difficulty, I am here for you and I will gladly connect you with resources available here at KSU, such as [counseling services](#), that can help you.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE & STUDENT SUPPORT AT KSU

Click links for full statements and more info

[Writing Center](#) | [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) | [Academic Support and Advising](#) | [Student Success](#) | [Student Disability Services](#): Any student with a documented disability needing accommodation is requested to notify the instructor. | [Cultural and Community Centers](#) (Cultural Awareness Resource Center, Global Village, LGBTQ Resource Center, and Women's Resource Center) | [ESL Center and International Student Support](#) | [Military and Veteran Services and Support](#) | [Career Services](#) | [Division of Student Affairs](#)

VARIOUS KSU STATEMENTS, POLICIES, & RESOURCES

Click links for full statements and more info

General Education: ENGL 2110 satisfies one of KSU's general education program requirements. For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please see the [catalog](#). | [Federal, BOR, and KSU Policy Statements](#) (including statements on Academic Integrity, Student Conduct, Confidentiality, Sexual Harassment/Misconduct, Course Accessibility, etc.) | **New Enrollment Status Statement:** Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. | [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) | [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#) | [Environmental Health and Safety](#) | [Coronavirus](#)

See **COURSE SCHEDULE** and [ARIADNE'S THREAD](#) documents for other course information. These documents are extensions of the syllabus. Each assignment description will include its own late work policy as needed.

By remaining enrolled in this class past the drop/add period, you acknowledge receipt of this syllabus, provided to you on or before August 17, 2020. This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be communicated online.

The image on page 1 is a detail of the "panel of horses" from [Chauvet Cave](#), accessed through [Wikimedia Commons](#).