



HUM 201 MAJOR WORKS OF LITERATURE

This course explores major works of literature in a thematic and chronological framework, and introduces various traditions, movements, and innovations. Each lecture focuses on one or two works that are considered to be paradigmatic of an epoch and also includes comparisons with related works and discussions on the historical, intellectual, and aesthetic background in which they originated. Readings from a variety of cultures and authors from the Ancient World through Modernism will be the focus of this class. It will also focus on the aesthetic and intellectual experience of reading these works as a distinct form of artistic expression.

The course aims to provide the necessary knowledge of the literature of different cultures and time periods, to introduce different types of literature such as poetry, prose fiction, and drama, to encourage students to analyze literary works for meaning beyond what is immediately visible, to develop critical thinking skills through reading, discussing and writing, to extend students' intercultural reading experience and awareness on the universal human condition, and to figure out how major works come to express human values within historical and social context.

Time-Conflict Policy

Time Conflict requests will **not** be accepted for 200-coded HUM courses.

Acknowledgement

This syllabus is a contract between the course team and the student. By taking this course, the student accepts the rules and requirements of the course. (Even though it goes without saying, we expect the students to pay attention to the class. Please refrain from entertaining yourselves with your mobile devices during the class.)

This syllabus may be subject to change as circumstances require. It is the student's responsibility to follow announcements and e-mails regarding all issues related to this course.



Instructors

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Lecture

Tuesday, 12:40-14:30, FASS G062

Discussion Sections

Thursday

10:40-11:30 (A)

13:40-14:30 (B)

14:40-15:30 (C)

15:40-16:30 (D)

Office Hours

Wednesday, 15:00-16:00

or by appointment



Reading Materials

All assigned texts are available on SuCourse either in digital format or as links to e-books available in IC. There is a [HUM 201 Course Reserve](#) at IC as well. As some of the assigned readings are full-text novels, we strongly recommend students to start reading these works as soon as possible.

Course requirements

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|------------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance and Participation | 20 pts |
| Reflection Slide | 10 pts |
| In-class Assignment | 10 pts |
| Midterm Exam | 20 pts |
| Final Exam | 40 pts |
| Bonus Assignment | 5 pts |

For more information, please see Course Information on SuCourse.

Grading

Your letter grade as well as exam grades are based on your individual performance. **Requests for extra work or other compensation will not be accepted. E-mails concerning such requests will not be replied.** Letter grades are calculated according to the following letter grade scale and are not open to negotiation.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| min. 53 | min. 64 | min. 68 | min. 72 | min. 76 | min. 80 | min. 84 | min. 88 | min. 92 | min. 96 |
| D | D+ | C- | C | C+ | B- | B | B+ | A- | A |



Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory in all lectures and discussion sections. Lectures will not be repeated and/or summarized during discussion sections.

Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period. Attendance is taken **on an hourly basis** during the lectures and the discussion sessions. Students who miss **more than twelve hours** in total will **automatically receive a N/A standing for HUM 201 course**. (Therefore, missing an entire lecture counts as missing 2 hours, whereas missing one discussion counts as missing 1 hour.) Acceptance of medical reports are subject to instructors' approval.

Based on:

- attendance in lectures **and** discussion sessions
- contribution in class (lecture **and** discussion sessions)
- pop up polls, activities and/or quizzes during lectures and/or discussion sections, etc.
- general involvement in the course
- regular reading activity
- observable progress throughout the term

Exams

Information regarding midterm and final exams will be announced in due time.

Students may be invited to an oral assessment of their exam and asked to provide oral answers to the exam questions in the following cases:

- If any part of an exam does not appear to be 100% student's original work
- If suspicious activity is evident during the exam
- If there is a need for random authentication checks

Such papers will not be graded until after the oral assessment.

For more information on exams, please see Course Information on SuCourse.



Make-up Exams

A make-up exam, written or oral, is given to students who cannot take an exam for reasons acceptable to the instructors.

Students who do not attend the final exam with an excuse that is accepted by the instructors are entitled to have a make-up exam. These students must submit their supporting documents for their excuse (health report, etc.) **within three weekdays** after the exam and these supporting documents must be found valid by the instructors.

Reflection Slide (10 pts)

Students will be asked to create a reflection slide where they engage with a text of their choosing. This assignment will be announced in due time and students will be asked to submit it via SuCourse by March 24, Sunday, 23:00. There will be no-makeup for the Reflection Slide.

In-class Assignment (10 pts)

On April 25 (Week 11), during the discussion sessions, students will be asked to complete an in-class assignment. This assignment will be based on the themes and concepts discussed throughout our lectures but will rely on the student's command of the texts themselves. Students will be asked to write a short essay with a proper introduction, arguments, and conclusion. There will be no-makeup for the Reflection Slide. For cases of extreme emergency, please contact your TA.

Bonus Assignment (5 pts)

Students will be asked to write a short essay with a proper introduction, arguments, and conclusion on a question that requires students to display a deeper understanding of the texts. The details about the assignment and the question will be posted on SuCourse towards the end of the term. Interested students are required to submit their assignment via SuCourse by May 26, Sunday, 23:00. There will be no-makeup for the Bonus Assignment.



Academic Honesty Policy

Major Works courses do not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense. Papers with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense. The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee.

All assignments are considered as exams and all plagiarized work is considered as cheating in an exam. Please be advised that AI generated works as well as use of paraphrasing and translation tools are regarded as plagiarism.

For information on plagiarism, please refer to Course Information.

Students with Special Needs

It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities. To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please let us know and contact the Disabled Students Support Unit of CIAD (specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu).

Anti-Discrimination Policy

HUM 201 classroom is free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. Students are expected to maintain this environment.

Classroom Etiquette

All technological devices should be turned off during the lectures. Engaging with your cell phone, laptop, tablet etc. during class (even if for taking notes) is very distracting not only for the instructors but for other students as well. If you are expecting a call or need to be texting because of an emergency during class time, please inform us beforehand. We try to be understanding of different situations when we are informed.

Avoid side (or private) conversations during class. If you have a question or comment, please address them to the instructor and the whole class rather than to your neighbor. Side conversations are also quite distracting for everyone in the classroom.



COURSE SCHEDULE

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|-----------|---------|--|---|
| Feb 15 | WEEK 1 | Introduction to Humanities and Literature Studies (Discussion Sessions only) | The Syllabus! |
| Feb 20-22 | WEEK 2 | The Earliest Literatures | <i>Gilgamesh</i> |
| Feb 27-29 | WEEK 3 | Ancient Greek Epic | Selection from Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> |
| Mar 05-07 | WEEK 4 | Humanism in Literature | Selection from Dante's <i>Divine Comedy</i> |
| Mar 12-14 | WEEK 5 | Ancient Greek Drama | Sophocles' <i>Oedipus the King</i> |
| Mar 19-21 | WEEK 6 | The Renaissance in Literature | Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> |
| Mar 24 | | DEADLINE FOR REFLECTION SLIDE SUBMISSION | |
| Mar 26-28 | WEEK 7 | The Enlightenment | Voltaire's <i>Candide</i> |
| Apr 02-04 | WEEK 8 | MIDTERM EXAM DURING CLASS HOURS | |
| Apr 09-11 | WEEK 9 | SPRING BREAK | |
| Apr 16-18 | WEEK 10 | The Romantic Era | Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i> |
| Apr 25 | WEEK 11 | IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT DURING DISCUSSION SECTIONS | |
| Apr 30 | WEEK 12 | Realism | Tolstoy's "Death of Ivan Ilyich" |
| May 07 | WEEK 13 | Variants of Realism | Marquez's "Big Mama's Funeral" |
| May 14 | WEEK 14 | Modernism | Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" |
| May 21 | WEEK 15 | Postmodernism | Bradbury's <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> |
| May 28 | WEEK 16 | Conclusion to Humanities and Literature Studies (LECTURE Only) | Calvino's "Why Read the Classics?" |
| | | FINAL EXAM (To be announced by Student Resources) | |