

ENGL 370

Christian Writers

Dr. Robert C. Hanna

HH 223

344-7363

Fall 2017

Note: This syllabus may be modified by the professor, as circumstances warrant. Students will be advised should any such modifications be made.

Course Description

A survey of Christian writers from the 2nd through the 20th centuries. Authors include Augustine of Hippo, Bede, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Bunyan, G. K. Chesterton, T. S. Eliot, and C. S. Lewis. Genres include nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama.

This course is required for English majors in the Literary Studies track, the Multimedia-Writing track, the Minnesota Teaching Licensure track, and the English minor. It may also be included among the upper division courses required for graduation.

Course Objectives

1. Students demonstrate basic cultural literacy of the era, genres, and historical events pertinent to particular course content, and can identify correctly allusions, excerpts from particular works, and works written by key authors, as well as exhibit a foundational knowledge of literary terminology. [from English Department Objectives]
2. Students can respond to and ask insightful questions about texts and answer those questions analytically. [from English Department Objectives]
3. Students exhibit familiarity with the databases, archives, and scholarly sources common to the discipline, and regularly gather and apply the data contained therein. [from English Department Objectives]
4. Students experience . . . literature as an educated individual. [from Objectives of the College]
5. Students demonstrate proficiency in written . . . English. [from Objectives of the College]

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify correctly allusions of the times taken directly from literature selected for this course. [see Course Objective 1]

2. Identify correctly excerpts from literature selected for this course. [see Course Objective 1]
3. Demonstrate basic cultural literacy. [see Course Objectives 1 and 3]
4. Define literary terminology and then apply it to texts for evaluating its usage by authors read in this course. [see Course Objective 1]
5. Locate and analyze archival data. [see Course Objectives 2, 3, 4, and 5]
6. Write persuasively and respond convincingly to writing prompts. [see Course Objectives 2, 4, and 5]

Required Literature (Titles *must* be edition and ISBN indicated.)

The Ballad of the White Horse
G. K. Chesterton
Mineola, NY: Dover Publications
ISBN 978-0-486-47563-9

Murder in the Cathedral
T. S. Eliot
Orlando, FL: Harcourt
ISBN 978-0-15-663277-5

Perelandra
C. S. Lewis
New York: Scribner
ISBN 978-0-7432-3491-7

Course Requirements

I. Reading Assignments

This literature course necessarily has a major emphasis on reading. The student is expected to complete each reading assignment in advance of its discussion in class.

II. Tests

In order to encourage the completion of each reading assignment in advance of its discussion in class, a test is given on each reading assignment.

III. Analysis Paper

Each student is to analyze a psalm not assigned to anyone else in class, using a designated electronic database. Specifics of this assignment are distributed and explained in class.

IV. Attendance and Participation

Attendance in this course is required, as is participation. Students should not that even excused absences prevent participation. Students who do not satisfactorily participate in class on a voluntary basis as a result of not being in class should expect to receive a lowered final course grade. **Students who cannot attend class as scheduled are advised to enroll in this course in a semester when full participation is achievable.**

Students who miss class **for any reason** are **required** to contact the professor by e-mail **on the same day as the missed class meeting**. The nature of the absence must be provided. The professor will reply to all such messages, as proof of receipt.

Evaluation of Students

- 25% Tests on Reading Assignments [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, & 3]
- 25% Analysis Paper [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 3, 4, 5, & 6]
- 25% Midterm Examination [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, & 3]
- 25% Final Examination, Attendance, and Participation [a measurement of Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]

Grading Scale: A = 94 to 100; A minus = 90 to 93; B plus = 87 to 89; B = 83 to 86;
B minus = 80 to 82; C plus = 77 to 79; C = 73 to 76; C minus = 70 to 72;
D plus = 67 to 69; D = 63 to 66; D minus = 60 to 62; F = below 60.

Topics Schedule (assignments are in **bold type**)

- 01 Introduction to Course
- 02 St. Augustine
- 03 The Venerable Bede
- 04 Thomas Aquinas
- 05 Continuation of previous class meeting
- 06 Disputations

07	Continuation of previous class meeting
08	Martin Luther
09	The Original Liberal Arts
10	<i>Everyman</i>
11	John Bunyan
12	King Alfred the Great
13	Test of <i>The Ballad of the White Horse</i> <i>The Ballad of the White Horse</i> [textbook]
14	Review for Midterm Exam
15	Midterm Exam
16	G. K. Chesterton
17	Test on “The Purple Jewel” by G. K. Chesterton
18	T. S. Eliot
19	Poetry Analysis Practice I
20	<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> [textbook]
21	<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> [textbook]
22	Continuation of previous class meeting
23	Research Skills
24	Poetic Analysis Practice II
25	List of 5 Requested Psalms Due Poetic Analysis Practice III
26	Test on <i>Perelandra</i> <i>Perelandra</i> [textbook] Assignment of Individual Psalms and Analysis Paper

- 27 J. R. R. Tolkien
- 28 Continuation of previous class meeting
- 29 Mortimer Adler
- 30 **Analysis Paper Due**
Review for Final Exam