

MASTERPIECES OF THE WESTERN LITERATURE

Spring 2020 | Dr. Olga Kuminova

Class: Tuesday, 12:00 – 14:00 | Elective, open to first and second year | 2 points

Office hours: Room 522 | Monday 10-12 (or by appointment)

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The course exposes the students to some of the oftenest-mentioned books and authors in literature studies. We will look at the cultural resonance that followed each of the works, and trace the preceding works of literature that it responds to and transforms. We will not be able to read each work in its entirety: sessions will focus on pre-assigned selections from the texts, which should inspire the students to read at least some of these works on their own. Several sessions will be taught by other members of the department's faculty.

Date	Session Theme	Reading Assigned for the Session
16 Mar	Introduction: canon, Western, large narrative form, realism	
23 Mar	Dante, <i>The Divine Comedy</i>	Cantos 1-3, 5, 26
30 Mar	Giovanni Boccaccio, <i>The Decameron</i>	Preface; I.1, II.2, IV.10, X.10
6, 13 Apr	PASSOVER	
20 Apr	The chivalric romance: Roland and Arthur. “The matter of France” and “the matter of Britain”	Stanzas 1-46 of <i>The Song of Roland</i> ; selected tales from <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>
27 Apr	Miguel de Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i>	Prologue, Preface (first and last page), Chapters 1,3,8
4 May	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> Instructor: Dr. Aaron Landaw	
11 May	Samuel Richardson, <i>Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded</i>	See selection on Moodle
18 May	Charlotte Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i> Instructor: Prof. Eitan Bar-Yosef	Excerpts available on Moodle
25 May	Leo Tolstoy, <i>War and Peace</i>	Excerpts available on Moodle
1 Jun	Virginia Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	Excerpts available on Moodle
8 Jun	Mark Twain, <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> Instructor: Prof. Barbara Hochman	Epigraphs (front matter), Chapters 1-2, 31-32
15 Jun	Tony Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> Instructor: Dr. Yael Ben-Zvi	Vintage, 2004: First chapter: 3-23; 60-75; 187-195.
22 Jun	Review Class, Exam Preparation	

Course requirements:

Attending at least 80% of the classes (a student who misses more than 2 classes may not be allowed to take the final exam)

Midterm take-home assignment: 25%

Short writing assignment 15%

Final Exam 60%