

MASTERPIECES OF THE WESTERN LITERATURE

Spring 2021 | Dr. Olga Kuminova

Class: Mondays 12:00 – 14:00 | Elective, open to all BA students | 2 points

Office hours: Room 515 or online | Monday 16-18 (or by appointment)

052-4439877 | olga.kuminova@gmail.com

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
Week 1	Introduction: canon, Western, large narrative form, realism	
Week 2	Dante, <i>The Divine Comedy</i>	Cantos 1-3, 5, 26
Week 3	Giovanni Boccaccio, <i>The Decameron</i>	Preface; I.1, II.2, IV.10, X.10
Week 4	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>
Week 5	Miguel de Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i>	Prologue, Preface (first and last page), Chapters 1,3,8
Week 6	William Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> Instructor: Dr. Aharon Landau	Selections on Moodle
Week 7	Samuel Richardson, <i>Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded</i>	See selection on Moodle
Week 8	Charlotte Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i> Instructor: Prof. Eitan Bar-Yosef	Excerpts available on Moodle
Week 9	Leo Tolstoy, <i>War and Peace</i>	Excerpts available on Moodle
Week 10	Hermann Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i>	See selection on Moodle
Week 11	Mark Twain, <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> Instructor: Prof. Barbara Hochman	Epigraphs (front matter), Chapters 1-2, 31-32
Week 12	Tony Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> Instructor: Dr. Yael Ben-Zvi	Vintage, 2004: First chapter: 3-23; 60-75; 187-195.
Week 13	Review Class, Exam Preparation	

The order and content of the sessions is provisional and subject to change

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:	20%
Short essay	20%
Letter to a lecturer	10%
Final exam (or take-home assignment)	50%

עדכון: במידה ונצטרך להשלים את השנה בלמידה מרחוק, הרכב הציון לא ישתנה, אך אופי המטלה הסופית יותאם למצב זה