

Academic year 2022-23 (תשפ"ג)

Course title (English): Roots of the Western Literary Tradition

Course title (Hebrew): שורשי המסורת הספרותית המערבית

Course number: 132.1.1011

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): 10-12, יום א', יום ב'

Lecturer: Dr. Olga Kuminova

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details:

Monday 14:00 – 16:00, Room 501 or online

Email: olga.kuminova@gmail.com

Phone: +972-52-443-98-77

Course description & objectives:

This course familiarizes the students with some of the major canonical texts of the Western literary and cultural tradition, which comprise an indispensable background for studying English and American, as well as other Western literatures (including Hebrew literature). We will identify enduring “common places” in this tradition, whether they take the form of images, motifs, plots, themes or characters, and trace some of them from their first known appearance through modern poetry, prose and scholarship. These threads include the Trojan War, the stories of Odysseus and Aeneas, creation myths, and the basic generic structure of epic vs. lyrical vs. dramatic poetry.

The purpose of the course is to train the students to analyze literature in the context of its tradition and to recognize influences and transformations of the shared early canon.

Course requirements:

Attending at least 80% of the classes is required

Short multiple-choice quizzes (3x10%)	30%
Perusal reading participation	5%
Short mythology essay	25%
Final comparative essay	40%

Topics & bibliography

Greek mythology, *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, *The Bacchae*, Plato, Aristotle, *Aeneid*, New Testament