

FW 2022-23

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| AP/EN 2261 3.0M (W) | Introduction to World Literature |
| Course Director: | Deanne Williams Office Atkinson 708 Ext. 44752 e-mail: dmw@yorku.ca |
| Time: | Thursday 2:30 – 5:30 |
| Delivery Format: | SEMINAR |
| Description: | In the early nineteenth century, the German author Goethe coined the term <i>Weltliteratur</i> , or World Literature, to describe the capacity of literature to transcend national and linguistic boundaries. He was then engaged with readings from Greek and Latin classics, Persian and Serbian poetry, and Chinese novels. This course surveys a wide range of influential literary texts that have circulated and resonated far beyond the time and place where they were written. It looks at literature as a single, interconnected whole, extending beyond temporal as well as geographic boundaries. We will explore some of the earliest surviving literary texts, as well as texts from the classical period, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance, and we will include books from all areas of the globe. We will also engage with some of the key critical interrogations of World Literature, most notably the challenges raised by translation. Students will learn about literary language (poetic metre and form, imagery, and rhetorical devices), literary and generic conventions, as well as the wide range of historical and topical issues raised by the texts themselves, including religious identity, social class, racial, ethnic and national designations, love, gender and sexuality, political struggle, the natural world and the environment, and warfare. |
| Category: | C |
| Historical Requirement: | N/A |
| Requirements: | Midterm Test (10%) Class Presentation (10%) Final Essay or Independent Project (30%) Final Exam (30%) Attendance and Participation (20%) |
| Reading List: | <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> (trans. Mitchell); <i>The Ramayana</i> (trans. Narayan); Euripides, <i>The Bacchae</i> (trans. Carson); Wu Ch'êng-ên, <i>Monkey</i> (trans. Waley); <i>Beowulf</i> (trans. Heaney); Nezami Ganjavi, <i>Layli and Majnun</i> (trans. Davis); <i>The Lais of Marie de France</i> (trans. Burgess); Sunjata, <i>Bamba Suso and Banna Kanute</i> (trans. Innes); Murasaki Shikibu, <i>The Tale of Genji</i> (trans. Tyler); Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i> (trans. Grossman) |
| Open To: | Year 2,3 |