

# A P P R E C I A T I N G L I T E R A T U R E

dr. david wilson-okamura    english 1000    spring 2008    east carolina univ.

There are no papers in this course, but the reading load is heavy: between 150 and 180 pages per week.

Jan. 11	F	What is literature?
14	M	HOMER, <i>Odyssey</i> , bks. 1–3 (tr. Mandelbaum, pp. 3–59). Use glossary for names, pp. 499ff.
16	W	<i>Od.</i> 4–6 (pp. 61–127); Rossetti, “Silent Noon” (p. 170; this sonnet and those that follow are in Hollander)
18	F	<i>Od.</i> 7–9 (pp. 129–87); Hardy, “Hap” (p. 179)
<b>21</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Martin Luther King’s Birthday</b>
23	W	<i>Od.</i> 10–12 (pp. 189–252); Hopkins, “No Worst” (p. 183)
25	F	<i>Od.</i> 13–15 (pp. 253–312); Hopkins, “The Windhover” (p. 182)
28	M	<i>Od.</i> 16–18 (pp. 315–76); Shelley, “Ozymandias” (p. 137)
30	W	<i>Od.</i> 19–21 (pp. 377–434); Lazarus, “The New Colossus” (p. 188)
Feb. 1	F	<i>Od.</i> 22–24 (pp. 435–91); Santayana, “On a Piece of Tapestry” (p. 194)
4	M	VIRGIL, <i>Aeneid</i> , bk. 1 (tr. Mandelbaum, pp. 1–27). Use glossary for names, pp. 337ff.
6	W	<i>Aen.</i> 2 (pp. 29–55); Frost, “Never Again Would Birds’ Song Be the Same” (p. 207)
8	F	<i>Aen.</i> 4 (pp. 81–104)
11	M	<i>Aen.</i> 5 (pp. 105–32); Frost, “The Oven Bird” (p. 208)
13	W	<i>Aen.</i> 6 (pp. 133–62)
15	F	<i>Aen.</i> 6 (continued); Frost, “The Silken Tent” (p. 209)
18	M	<i>Aen.</i> 7 (pp. 163–89); Frost, “Design” (p. 211)
20	W	<i>Aen.</i> 8 (pp. 191–214)
22	F	<i>Aen.</i> 9 and 10 (pp. 215–73)
25	M	<i>Aen.</i> 11 (pp. 275–304); Robinson, “How Annandale Went Out” (p. 204)
27	W	<i>Aen.</i> 12 (pp. 305–36)
<b>29</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Midterm exam</b>
Mar. 3	M	Robinson, “Pity of the Leaves” (p. 201), “Reuben Bright” (202), “The Sheaves” (205)
5	W	Discuss midterm
7	F	Introduction to Tolkien
<b>10–14</b>		<b>Spring break</b>
17	M	TOLKIEN, <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i> (=FR), bk. 2, chs. 1–2 (Rivendell; pp. 213–64)
19	W	FR 2.6–8 (Lothlórien; pp. 324–70)
<b>21</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
24	M	FR 2.9–10 (To the Ancient Border of Gondor; pp. 371–98)
26	W	<i>The Two Towers</i> (=TT), bk. 3, chs. 1–3 (pp. 403–49)
28	F	TT 3.4–5 (pp. 450–94); Brooke, “The Soldier” (p. 218)
31	M	TT 3.6–7 (pp. 495–529)
Apr. 2	W	TT 3.8–11 (pp. 530–86);
4	F	TT 4.1–3 (pp. 589–633); Shakespeare, sonnet #73 (p. 81)
7	M	TT 4.4–5 (pp. 634–67); Shakespeare, sonnet #116 (p. 85)
9	W	TT 4.6–8 (pp. 668–700)
11	F	TT 4.9–10 (pp. 701–25); Longfellow, “The Cross of Snow” (p. 158)
14	M	<i>The Return of the King</i> (=RK), bk. 5, chs. 1–2 (pp. 731–773)
16	W	RK 5.3–5 (pp. 774–820); Shakespeare, sonnet #129 (p. 87)
18	F	RK 5.6–8 (pp. 821–53); Rossetti, “Body’s Beauty” (p. 171)
21	M	RK 5.9–6.1 (pp. 854–94); Bishop, “Sonnet” (p. 230)
23	W	RK 6.2–4 (pp. 895–936); Brooke, “Sonnet Reversed” (p. 217)
25	F	RK 6.5–7 (pp. 937–74); Very, “The Latter Rain” (p. 154)
28	M	RK 6.8–9 (pp. 975–1008)

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Hollander, John, ed. *Sonnets: From Dante to the Present*. New York: Knopf, 2001.

Mandelbaum, Allen, tr. *The Aeneid of Virgil*. New York: Bantam, 1981.

Mandelbaum, Allen, tr. *The Odyssey of Homer*. New York: Bantam, 1991.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Lord of the Rings*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

## REQUIREMENTS

There are 100 points in this course. Course grades will be assigned on the following basis: A = 90–100 points, B = 80–89 points, C = 70–79 points, D = 60–69 points, F = fewer than 60 points. Except for the final exam, no work will be accepted after the last day of class; this includes poem recitations.

**Exams** (65 points). There will be two exams in this course, a midterm (24 points) and a final (41 points). Please note that exam dates are fixed; if you can't attend, drop the class. This is important if you are planning to go on fall break early, because the midterm exam is scheduled for Fri., Feb. 29. So, if you are having a family trip that involves being gone on Fri., Feb. 29, this class is not for you. The final exam will be held Fri., May 2 from 11:00–1:30 in this room. There will no make-ups for either exam.

**Reading Quizzes** (25 points). Reading quizzes are scheduled randomly. If you read for comprehension, you will find them laughably easy. Each quiz is worth 1 point and there will be 26 quizzes. **There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.** However, because there is an extra (26th) quiz, you can miss one quiz without harming your grade. Think of it as a free pass: you can use it to go to the beach, or you can use it when you're sick. Because this system is based on numbers, you don't need to explain why you missed class. Just do it: the math will take care of it, automatically. Of course, you'll still be responsible for the material discussed in class. But once you've used that free pass, it's gone! Forever! My advice is, save it for when you're sick or need to attend court. But I leave that to you.

**Recitations** (10 points). Part of becoming intimate with a poem is learning it by heart. For this course, you will need to memorize and recite two poems. Both poems must rhyme. Minimum length: fourteen lines each. No song lyrics, please. These rules are simple but absolute. Recitations will be given during office hours; a schedule will be posted online at the beginning of the semester. Grades will be assigned on the following basis: you know the poem, but stumble your way through it = C range; you know the poem letter-perfect, but haven't done much with pauses, emphasis, tone = B range; you know the poem letter-perfect and interpret it with your voice = A range. Don't memorize a poem you don't understand; we'll probably have a chat afterwards about what it means, so be prepared.

**Cell phones** are here to stay, but they don't belong in the classroom. If you have one, turn off the ringer before class starts. **Laptops**, too, are a wonderful tool and in some classes they will be an advantage. This is not one of those classes. In a lecture setting, the glorious, wireless, always-available internet is a distraction to you and the people who sit behind you. Also distracting is the sound of keys tapping while you take notes. Ergo, if you have a laptop, leave it in your bag.

## IMPORTANT TIMES, PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES

Office: Bate 2137

Office hours: MWF 10:00–11:00 and 11:50–12:30. If you have class during both of those times, grab me after class or call me on the telephone and we'll set up an appointment. My home number is in the book but, please, no phone calls after 9:00 pm.

Email: I've been using email since 1993, but what was cool once seems cold and distant now. Instead of exchanging electrons, come to my office hours and let's have a conversation.