

Classics: Homer to Dante

DAVID SCOTT WILSON-OKAMURA · ENGLISH 3600 · AUTUMN 2009 · EAST CAROLINA UNIV.

- Aug. 26 W What is a classic?
28 F HOMER, *Odyssey*, books 1–3. Use glossary for names.
31 M *Od.* 4–6
- Sept. 2 W *Od.* 7–9
4 F *Od.* 10–12
7 M **Labor Day**
8 T *Od.* 13–15
9 W *Od.* 16–18
11 F *Od.* 19–21
14 M *Od.* 22–24
16 W VIRGIL, *Aeneid*, book 1 (tr. Mandelbaum, pp. 1–27). Use glossary for names.
18 F *Aen.* 2
21 M *Aen.* 3
23 W *Aen.* 4
25 F *Aen.* 5
28 M Reread *Od.* 11 ; *Aen.* 6
30 W *Aen.* 6 (continued)
- Oct. 2 F *Aen.* 7
5 M *Aen.* 8
7 W *Aen.* 9, 10
9 F *Aen.* 11
12 M **Fall Break**
14 W *Aen.* 12
16 F *Aen.* 12 (continued)
19 M DANTE, *Inferno*, cantos 1–4 (prologue and pre-hell). Read the notes for each canto as well.
21 W *Inf.* 5–9 (lust, gluttony, greed, wrath, the gate of Dis)
23 F *Inf.* 10–13 (heresy, violence against people and property, suicide)
26 M *Inf.* 14–17 (violence against God)
28 W *Inf.* 18–22 (seduction, flattery, simony, sorcery, barratry)
30 F *Inf.* 23–27 (hypocrisy, thieves, fraudulent counselors)
- Nov. 2 M *Inf.* 28–31 (sowers of discord, alchemists, forgers, liars)
4 W *Inf.* 32–34 (traitors)
6 F *Purgatorio* 1–3 (shores of Mt. Purgatory)
9 M *Purg.* 9–13 (terrace of pride)
11 W *Purg.* 17–21 (organization of purgatory; Virgil and Statius)
13 F *Purg.* 22, 25–27 (gluttony; terrace of the lustful; Virgil's leave-taking).
16 M *Purg.* 28–31 (arrival of Beatrice)
18 W *Purg.* 32–33 (prophecy)
20 F *Paradiso* 1
23 M *Par.* 2–5 (moon)
25 W **Thanksgiving Holidays**
27 F **Thanksgiving Holidays**
30 M *Par.* 18–20 (Jupiter)
- Dec. 2 W *Par.* 21–22 (Saturn)
4 F *Par.* 28–33 (beatific vision)
7 M What is a classic?

REQUIREMENTS

Written assignments must be typed and are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments delivered after that will receive a lower grade. (For instance, an A- essay that is delivered up to 24 hours late will receive a B+, an A- essay that is delivered between 24 and 48 hours late will receive a B, and so on.)

Reading Quizzes (25%). 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 itself, 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 to save it for when you're sick or need to attend a wedding.

Biweekly Analysis (75%). Every other Monday, you will submit a written analysis of the previous two weeks' discussion. Because of Labor day, the first analysis will be due Tue., Sept. 8; thereafter, analyses will be due on alternate Mondays, beginning Sept. 21.

What does a good analysis look like? First, it is not the same thing as a response paper. Nor is it a transcript of your class notes turned back into prose. Above all it is not a plot summary. It is a synthesis, rather, of ideas discussed in class. This is a short assignment, so you will not be able to cover everything that we talked about in the previous two weeks. Instead, you will need to decide which were the principal ideas. Organize your writing around those ideas and choose examples to illustrate them.

The use of phrases such as *I think*, *I believe*, and *I feel* is strongly discouraged. You don't need to report who said what, either.

A good analysis will summarize the content of discussion, but it will also evaluate that discussion: for instance, what got left out of our conversation and why does it matter? Don't just say, "We didn't talk about *x*." Say something about *x* and push the conversation forward. As a general rule, one part evaluation to two parts analytical summary is a good balance.

- Length: 900–1,200 words, not including long quotations. When you're done, do a word count (your word processor can do this for you) and write the result on the first page of your paper.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer. Ask someone at the computer lab if you don't know how to do this already.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you have trouble with these, I recommend *Grammar in Plain English* by Harriet Diamond and Phyllis Dutwin.
- Double-space. Use 12 point Times Roman.

Cell phones should be turned off before class starts.

EXTENSIONS

Everyone gets a two-day extension on two analyses over the course of the semester. You choose which ones. You don't need to ask me ahead of time: just hand in a sheet of paper with the date and your name on it that says, "I'm taking my first (or second) extension on this paper." In the interest of fairness, no one will be granted a third extension.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using someone else's words—or ideas—in such a way that a reader cannot readily distinguish them from your own work. That's cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask me about it before your paper is due; after a paper is handed in it's too late to claim ignorance. The penalty for plagiarism is an automatic F for the course, in addition to whatever penalty the University sees fit to impose.

OFFICE HOURS

Office: Bate 2137

Office hours: MWF 1:00–2:40. This overlaps two class periods; if you have class during both 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: Instead of emailing me and exchanging messages, come to office hours and we'll have a conversation.

DO YOU NEED A MINOR?

This course is taught in the English department and counts toward the English major. It also counts toward the Classics major and minor; for more information, see www.ecu.edu/classics; subscribe to our blog, Athena's Owl (<http://blogs.aos.ecu.edu/athenasowl>); or follow us on Twitter (search for "ECUClassicsProf").