

RETELLING THE ODYSSEY

ENG223 Spring 2012



ENG 223: Themes in Literature Courtney Danforth

Course Description: Themes and ideas significant in literature. May be repeated for a maximum six credits. Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of ENG 101 or permission of Department Chair or Instructor.

Course objectives/learning outcomes:

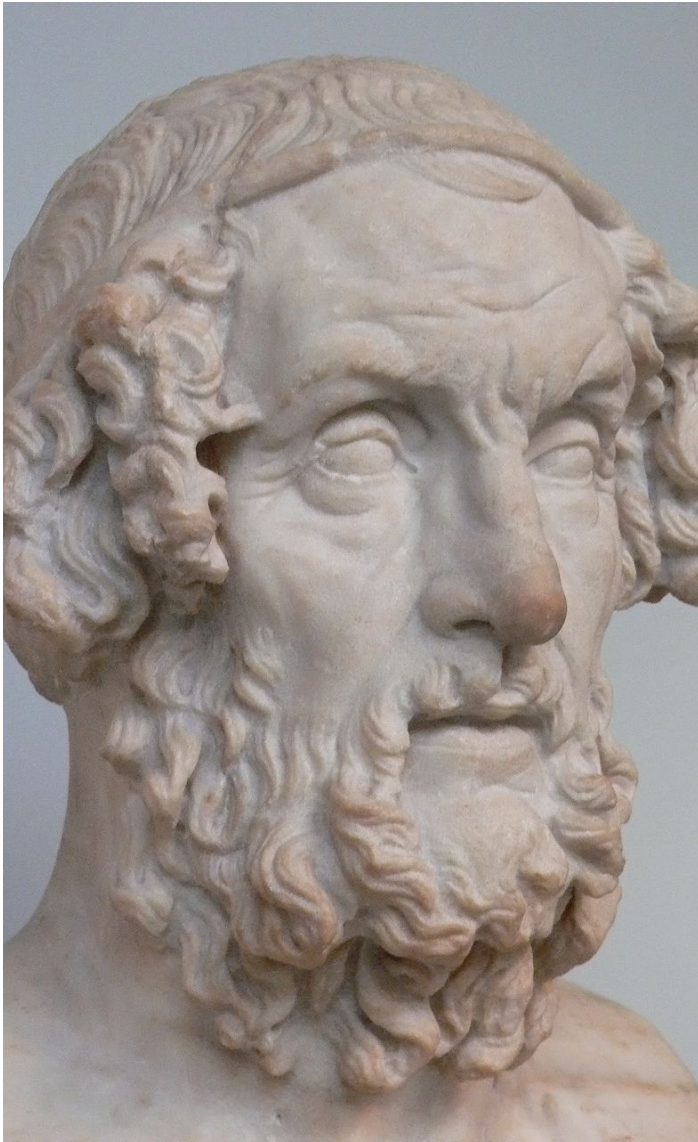
- Use critical reading and writing skills to engage and analyze literary texts.
- Demonstrate the ability to connect and contextualize literary works.
- Demonstrate an awareness that literature reflects the diversity of human experience through universal themes.

Disabilities: Please read the CSN Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) statement and consult the CSN Disability Resource Center at <http://www.csn.edu/pages/2566.asp>. Your instructor is committed to providing the accommodations to which you are entitled.

Meeting times: This is a 3 credit course meeting from 23 January 2012 to 15 May 2012. As a 3 credit course, students are expected to allocate an average of 9 hours each week. Three of those hours will be in the classroom and the rest will be spent reading, preparing assignments, and studying. It is up to each student to plan a suitable weekly schedule that meets the demands of the course. Students are able to work ahead of the planned schedule insofar as they are able and our learning community will allow.

Instructor information: Courtney Danforth, best reached during this course via the email function inside of ANGEL and after the course at courtney.danforth@csn.edu. Please call me "Courtney."

Students' rights and responsibilities for CSN: <http://www.csn.edu/pages/660.asp>



Grades: There are 1450 points available in the course. The grading scale is as follows:

1365-1450 points: A	975-1039 points: C
1300-1364 points: A-	910-974 points: C-
1235-1299 points: B+	845-909 points: D+
1170-1234 points: B	780-844 points: D
1105-1169 points: B-	715-779 points: D-
1040-1104 points: C+	0-714 points: F

Policies on late assignments and/or makeup work: Late assignments are not accepted and makeup work is not offered except for extraordinary circumstances.



Required texts:

1. Armitage, Simon. *The Odyssey*. NY: Norton, 2006. (9780393330816)
2. Atwood, Margaret. *The Penelopiad*. Edinburgh: Canongate, 2005. (9781841957982)
3. Borg, Rene and Shigetugu Yoshida, dirs. *Ulysses 31*. 1981. (provided)
4. Burton, Tim, dir. *Big Fish*. 2003 (provided)
5. Cavafy, Constantine. "Ithaka" (provided)
6. Coen, Joel, dir. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*. 2000. (provided)
7. Dickey, William. "Telemachus" (provided)
8. Fagles, Robert, Trans.. *The Odyssey*. NY: Penguin, 1996. (9780140268867)
9. Gluck, Louise. "Telemachus' Fantasy" (provided)
10. Hinds, Gareth. *The Odyssey*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2010. (9780763642686)
11. Konchalovskiy, Andrey, dir. *The Odyssey*. 1997. (provided)
12. Mason, Zachary. *The Lost Books of The Odyssey*. NY: Picador, 2007. (9780312680466)
13. Minghella, Anthony, dir. *Cold Mountain*. 2003 (provided)
14. Parker, Dorothy. "Penelope" (provided)

15. Pastan, Linda. "The Sirens" (provided)
16. Tennyson, Alfred Lord. "Ulysses" (provided)
17. Vega, Suzanne. "Calypso." *Solitude Standing*. 1987. (provided)

Withdrawal Policy: You must withdraw yourself to get a W on your transcript. If you do not, I will record the grade you earn.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to check in to the course at least once each day, Monday-Thursday.

CSN Academic Integrity Policy: <http://www.csn.edu/pages/904.asp>

Instructor Academic Integrity Policy: All violations will be reported to the campus administration. In-course consequences range from failure of the assignment to failure of the course. As long as you are disciplined in your research, reading, and record-keeping, and clearly indicate all responsibilities and sources, you should be fine. However, it can be confusing to know what qualifies as plagiarism and how to avoid it. Make sure you know what you're doing. For help, see: http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_plagiarism_faq.html.

Course Schedule

This syllabus is subject to change as deemed appropriate by the instructor with advance notification.

23-27 January: Getting Started

- Read Syllabus and contents of "Orientation" folder (under "Course Content"); look at the textbooks and poke around in ANGEL to make sure you know how everything works.
- 26 Jan: Orientation Quiz due
- 26 Jan: Cavafy, "Ithaka" Reading Report due
- Begin to read Armitage

30 Jan - 3 Feb: Television

- 31 Jan: Study Guide due
- 31 Jan & 2 Feb: Watch Konchalovskiy
- 2 Feb: Discussion due
- Read Armitage

6-10 February: Drama

- 7 Feb: Armitage Reading Report due
- 9 Feb: Armitage Discussion due
- 10 Feb: Armitage test due
- Read Hinds

13-17 February: Comics

- 14 Feb: Hinds Reading Report due
- 16 Feb: Hinds Discussion due
- 17 Feb: Hinds test due

20-24 February: Verse

- 23 Feb: Tennyson, "Ulysses" and "Lotos-Eaters" Reading Report due
- 23 Feb: Tennyson Discussion due
- Read Fagles

27 Feb - 2 Mar: Translation

- 1 Mar: Athena Discussion
- Read Fagles

5-9 March: Translation

- 6 Mar: Fagles Reading Report due
- 8 Mar: Epithets Discussion due
- 9 Mar: Fagles test due

12-16 March: Civil War/Film

- 13 & 15 Mar: Watch Minghella, *Cold Mountain*
- 15 Mar: Pastan Reading Report due
- 16 Mar: Cold Mountain Discussion due
- Read Atwood

19-23 March: Spring Break

26-30 March: Women

- 27 Mar: Atwood Reading Report due
- 29 Mar: Parker Reading Report due
- 29 Mar: Penelope Discussion due
- 30 Mar: Atwood test due

2-6 April: Depression/Film

- 3 & 5 Apr: Watch Coen, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
- 5 Apr: Gluck Reading Report due
- 6 Apr: O Brother Discussion due
- Read Mason

9-13 April: Alternative Explanations

- 10 Apr: Mason Reading Report due
- 12 Apr: Retelling assignment given
- 12 Apr: Mason Discussion due
- 13 Apr: Mason test due

16-20 April: The South/Film

- 17 & 19 Apr: Watch Burton, *Big Fish*
- 17 Apr: Retelling proposal due
- 19 Apr: Dickey Reading Report due
- 19 Apr: gear distributed
- 20 Apr: Big Fish Discussion due

23-27 April: Production

- 24 Apr: Retelling text due
- Create film
- 27 Apr: Production Discussion due

30 Apr - 4 May: Anime

- Watch *Ulysses 31*
- Revise film

7-11 May: Presentations

- 7 May: Films due
- 8 & 10 May: Introductions due at beginning of screenings
- 11 May: Screening responses due

15 May: Final Exam

- Exam due by 4pm

NOTE: All assignments are due by 4pm (pacific time) on their indicated due dates. At deadline, their links in ANGEL will disappear and you will no longer be able to access the dropboxes or submit your work. Please plan ahead.

Assignments

Orientation Quiz: After reading the syllabus thoroughly, investigating your textbooks, and getting to know the course site in ANGEL, this quiz will help to make sure you understand how the course will progress. You will have two hours to complete the 20 question quiz and are free to use any resources you have available (“open book”). You may take this quiz at any time during the first week of the course. The purpose of this assignment is for you to get familiar with resources, tools, protocols, and expectations for the course.

- The Orientation Quiz is worth 10 points towards your course grade.
- Due: 4pm, 26 January 2012

Reading Reports: We will be reading five books and seven poems in this course (plus watching four films!). For each of the readings, you’ll prepare a Reading Report addressing: plot, characters, timeline, author, vocabulary, themes, and parallels. These reports will help you to study for the tests, prepare you to understand the readings, and get you started on comparing our many retellings. As you read, you should pay special attention to the similarities and differences among the various texts. It is this analysis that is the core focus of our course and you will need this information in particular when it comes time to create your own retelling project. I will provide a template for you to use.

- Each of eleven Reading Reports is worth 50 points each towards your course grade.
- Due dates are indicated in the course schedule, on the course calendar, and on assignment dropboxes.

Study Guide: Ancient texts are challenging to readers. They come to us in fragments, partially reconstructed, often mixed up, filtered through multiple translations and multiple contexts and biases. They describe times and places far from our ordinary lives. They are revered and strongly influential in our cultural heritage. The Odyssey is all these things. Each of these challenges is fascinating and keeps many scholars busy but such challenges should not also prevent readers from enjoying an otherwise pretty ripping good story.

Make yourself a study guide to get started on the coursework. You can use this study guide as a reference throughout the semester to keep yourself straight on who’s who, where’s where, and what’s what. Read Wikipedia, read SparkNotes, read GradeSaver, read CliffNotes, and write up your findings in your own study guide. I will provide a template for you to use. Your study guide will address: history, characters, timeline, setting, author, genre, theme, format, and symbol.

- The Study Guide is worth 50 points towards your course grade.
- Due: 4pm, 31 January 2012





10	Orientation Quiz
50	Study Guide
550	Reading Reports (11)
240	Discussions (12)
200	Tests (5)
300	Retelling Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal • Text • Film • Introduction • Screening Responses
100	Final Exam



Assignments, con't

Discussions: There are twelve discussion prompts posted to the course site. For each, join the conversation by posting a response to the prompt or to a classmate's response. Each discussion response should total at least 250 words, should include a clear statement of opinion and provide evidence to support your point of view. Please include necessary citations (any information that is not your original idea requires citation) in MLA format.

- Each of twelve Discussions is worth 20 points each towards your course grade.
- Due dates are indicated in the course schedule, on the course calendar, and on assignment dropboxes.

Tests: There are five tests--one on each book. Each contains forty questions (multiple choice, multiple answer, true/false). You will have 75 minutes for each test. All tests are conducted in ANGEL; students are NOT required to travel to campus or to use the testing centre. You will not be allowed to backtrack to questions left unanswered. You may review this test for three days after you submit your answers.

- Each of five Tests is worth 40 points each towards your course grade.
- Due dates are indicated in the course schedule, on the course calendar, and on assignment dropboxes.

Assignments, con't

Retelling Project: This course examines a constellation of tellings of a core story, The Odyssey. By the end of the course, you will have seen the story on film, on television, as a comic, as anime, set in Greece, set in the American South, in verse, in prose, in drama, in pre-history, in the recent past, from the perspective of Odysseus, Penelope, and Telemachus. For your final project, you will retell a portion of the story in a variation of your own choosing. Perhaps you'll choose to set the tale in Vegas or tell the backstory of Calypso or write Nausicaa's secret diary. Maybe you see it all as a series of job interviews or a cooking show or jury trial. Is it like Jersey Shore? Is it like South Park? Should it be a ballet? A rock opera? You decide. Your assignment is to reimagine and retell The Odyssey. Your project will include a proposal outlining your plans, approximately 1000 words of text, a 5-10 minute film, an introduction to your film during the screening, and written responses to your classmates' films.

In thinking about your project, you should consider which part/s of the story most interest or appeal to you, what questions you have while reading, and what you wish was different about the story. For the film, you might choose to do live-action, or animation, or a slideshow, or a newscast, or visual poetry, or documentary, or just about anything you like. Find an example of a style you like and make your film like your example. It is possible to complete this project without leaving your desktop computer. It is also possible to shoot a three camera sitcom. I have some equipment to loan, and you likely already have some of your own. We will show your film to an audience during a screening festival in the last week of class and release your film as a video podcast to share with the world.

- The proposal is worth 50 points towards your final grade (due 17 April 2012).
- The written text is worth 100 points towards your final grade (due 24 April 2012).
- The film is worth 100 points towards your final grade (due 7 May 2012).
- The introduction is worth 25 points towards your final grade (due 8 May 2012).
- The screening responses are worth 25 points towards your final grade (due 11 May 2012).

Final Exam: In the last week of the course, you will take the final exam. There are 100 questions. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam. You will not be allowed to backtrack to questions left unanswered. The exam includes multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions covering the readings, films, class discussions, and other course material.

- The final exam is worth 100 points towards your course grade (due 15 May 2012 by 4pm).

