暨南大學
JINAN UNIVERSITY

0502E113
Introduction to Modern Western Literature

Instructor: TBA

Time: December 14, 2026 - January 15, 2027

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Email: TBA

Course Description

This survey course will involve reading selected samples of literature of the Western World (not just from the United States and England) and discussing their historical and literary contexts. We will consider landmark works from the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, Symbolism, Naturalism, and Modernism. The characteristics of different genres will be explored through lectures, class discussions, and oral and written assignments.

Course Goals

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Explain the active and reactive processes of Western literary developments
- Differentiate fundamental characteristics of different literary genres
- Identify and describe a number of different writers and styles from each period
- Give a general overview of the historical context of certain literary movements
- Explain the subjective/objective characteristics of different literary periods

Required Text

The Norton Anthology of Western Literature, Vol. 2 (2005).

Course Outline

Please note that the outline is meant to give an overview of the major concepts in this course. Changes may occur as needed to aid in the student`s development.

Module 1: Enlightenment

1. Introduction to the Enlightenment: 1-7
2. Jean de la Fontaine: 201-207
3. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: 208-209
4. "Sophia" : 243-247
5. Jean-Jacques Rousseau: 255-263
6. Mary Robinson: 284-289
7. Jonathan Swift: 289-291, 341-347
8. Voltaire: 375-384

Quiz #1

Module 2: The Romantic Revolution

1. Alexander Pope: 347-367
2. Enlightenment conclusion
3. Introduction to Romanticism I: 483-495
4. John Adams and Abigail Adams: 645-657
5. William Wordsworth: 693-704
6. Lord Byron: 743-748
7. Percy Shelly: 748-754

Quiz #2

Reflection Essay #1

Module 3: Global Romanticism I

1. John Keats: 755-764
2. Anna Petrovna Bunina: 770-772
3. Alphonse de Lamartine: 772-774
4. Giacomo Leopardi: 776-780
5. Romanticism I conclusion
6. Victor Hugo: 780-786
7. Alexander Pushkin: 800-820
8. Alfred, Lord Tennyson: 820-843

Quiz #3

Module 4: Global Romanticism II

1. Robert Browning: 843-856
2. Frederick Douglass: 856-916
3. Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer: 793-795
4. Rosalía de Castro: 796-799
5. Emily Dickinson: 986-995
6. Walt Whitman: 916-923
7. Romanticism II conclusion

Quiz #4

Reflection Essay #2

Module 5: Realism & Symbolism

1. Introduction to Realism & Symbolism: 997-1006
2. Nikolai Gogol: 1008-1033
3. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: 1381-1390
4. Friedrich Nietzsche: 1396-1403
5. Guy de Maupassant: 1474-1486
6. Charles Baudelaire: 1538-1559
7. Anton Chekhov: 1486; 1503-1548

Quiz #5

Oral Presentation

Module 6: The Dawn of Modernism

1. Paul Verlaine: 1567-1572
2. Arthur Rimbaud: 1572-1582
3. Realism & Symbolism conclusion
4. Introduction to Modernism & Modernity I: 1621-1626
5. William Butler Yeats: 1723-1736
6. Marcel Proust: 1781-1816
7. Rainer Maria Rilke: 1870-1876
8. Wallace Stevens: 1877-1887

Quiz #6

Reflection Essay #3

Module 7: Modernism

1. T.S. Eliot: 1999-2027
2. Alfonsina Storni: 2049-2055
3. André Breton: 2062-2065
4. Jean Paul Sartre: 2102-2107
5. Modernism & Modernity I conclusion
6. William Faulkner: 2067-2096
7. Federico García Lorca: 2169-2178

Quiz #7

Module 8: Global Modernisms

1. Jorge Luis Borges: 2179-2189
2. Pablo Neruda I: 2189- 2205
3. Pablo Neruda II: 2189- 2205
4. Simone de Beauvoir: 2382-2387

5. Chinua Achebe: 2391-2394
6. Gabriel García Márquez: 2348-2357
7. Modernism & Modernity II conclusion
8. Course summary and wrap up

Quiz #8

Final Exam

Grading Policy

Details	Percentage
Quizzes	8%
One oral presentation	12%
Three reflections (short essays)	35%
Final Exam	45%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes

(but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.