

English 2110-25H: Survey of World Literature

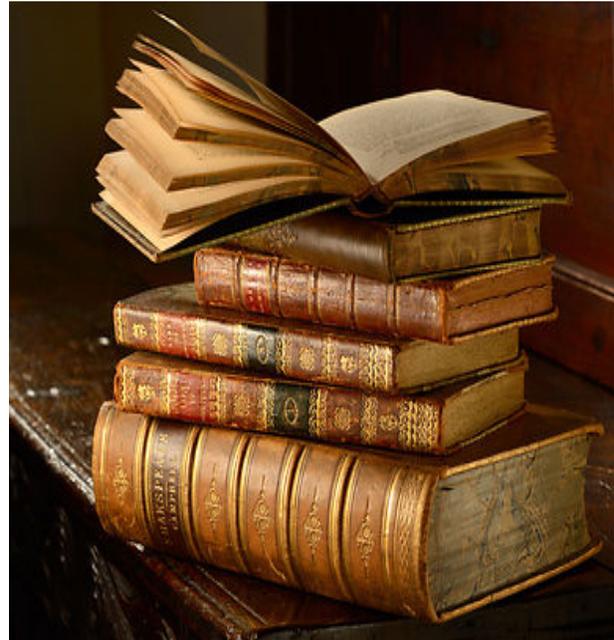
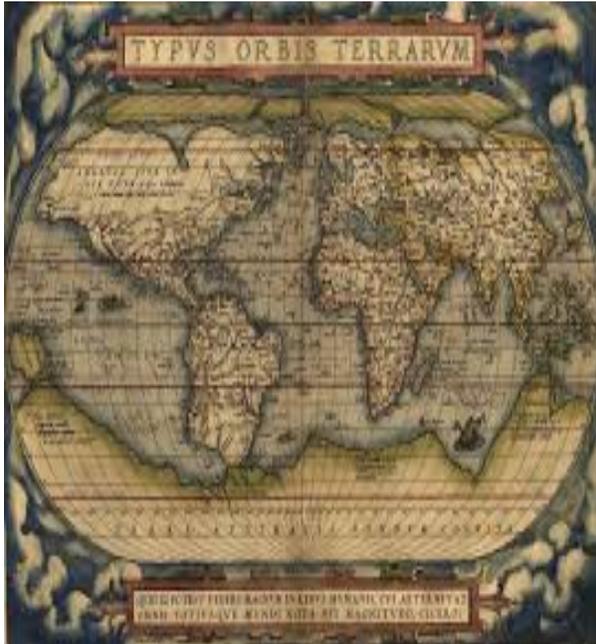
Spring 2016 * T/R 11:00-12:20 * TLC 1204

Dr. Leah Haught

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TLC 2226; 678-839-2242

Office Hours: M 12-3; Th 3:30-5; alternate/virtual meetings available by appointment



Course Description

What is the relationship between creation and deception? Between magic and mischief? Literature and lies? In this world literature course, we'll explore these (and other) timeless questions by examining the role of the trickster, broadly defined, as a figure capable of creating and transgressing boundaries between good and bad, male and female, human and non-human, lust and love, life and death, and this world and other worlds. Paying attention to similarities and differences in the styles of the texts with which we are engaged, we will consider what works created by different cultures and time periods tell us about human aspiration and failure alike.

Course Objectives

- Students will develop the ability to recognize and identify significant achievements in world literature.
- Students will understand the relevant social, historical, and aesthetic contexts of these literary works.
- Students will appreciate the implications of theoretical and critical approaches to such literature.
- Students will develop enhanced cultural awareness and analytical skills.
- Students will demonstrate their command of academic English and of the tenets of sound composition by means of thesis-driven analytical prose.

- A full description of the programmatic goals and outcomes for this course as well as the core/major requirements it fulfills can be found at the following site:
http://www.westga.edu/english/1138_2996.php

Required Texts

- Aeschylus. *Prometheus Bound*. Dover: 1996. (978-0486287)
- The Arabian Nights*. Trans. Hussain Haddaway. Norton: 2009. (978-0-393-92808-2)
- Homer. *Odyssey*. Ed. Albert Cook. 2nd edition. Norton: 1993. (978-0-393-96405-9)
- Shakespeare, William. *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ed. Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. Folger: 2003. (978-07434-7754-3)
- Wu-Cheng. *Monkey: A Folk Novel of China*. Trans. Arthur Waley. Grove Press/Perseus Academic, 1958. (978-0-8021-3086-0)
- ***Supplementary readings due will be available via CourseDen or online***

You will also need to view the following movie, which is on reserve in the library:
Labyrinth. Dir. Jim Henson. Perf. David Bowie and Jennifer Connelly. 1986.
[Streaming at Amazon and Vudu too]

Required Work

Fuller descriptions of your written assignments and study guides for your exams will be posted to CourseDen.

- *Daily Participation* (15%): You are expected to not only do the assigned readings, but also to come to class prepared to discuss said readings. This does not mean that you have to have everything “figured out” ahead of time; questions and clarifications are perfectly reasonable ways to contribute to class discussions, though you need to make an effort to share your opinions and insights too if you want higher than a “C” in this component of your grade. If I get the sense that you are not reading, I will incorporate reading quizzes into this component of your grade. Otherwise, you can expect in-class activities ranging from discussions to brief writing exercises or group work to be the bulk of this component of your grade. To that end, you should take notes while reading, bring those notes to class, and come prepared to take notes during class.
- *Problem Papers* (20%): twice during the semester you'll be asked to compose two to three page “problem” papers that model different ways of engaging with close reading of texts.
- *Footnoting History Presentation* (10%): Working in pairs, you will design and give an oral presentation that explicates the pertinent historical, cultural, political, and religious contexts for a specific text and/or author. These presentations should be between fifteen and twenty minutes long, help jumpstart class discussion for the day, and include a well-designed visual aid.
- *Midterm* (15%): a writing intensive exam covering the texts and concepts from the first half of the semester, including materials covered in the Footnoting History Presentations.
- *Final Paper* (20%): a 5 to 6 page thesis-driven essay on a topic related to the texts and themes of the class and developed in consultation with me as well as your work on your problem papers. You'll need to incorporate at least two secondary sources into your argument.

- *Final Exam (20%)*: a writing intensive exam covering class readings, discussions, and lectures, including materials covered in the Footnoting History Presentations. While the exam will be cumulative, it will focus more on the materials covered post-midterm than it will the materials covered through the midterm.

Attendance

You are expected to attend class daily and be on time. I take roll by asking the class a specific “attendance question”; if you show up after I am done with roll you will be considered late. You may miss three classes with no questions asked. Absences four and five will result in your final grade dropping by two percentage points. Six or more absences will result in you not passing this class. Three late arrivals count as one absence. Leaving class early without permission also counts as an absence, as does showing up more than twenty-five minutes late. If you are asked to leave class for any reason, that too will count as an absence. Should you miss a class at any point in the semester, it is your responsibility to talk to your peers to figure out what you missed. In-class work cannot be made up except for cases of documented emergency and missing multiple in-class discussions will negatively impact your participation grade.

Deadlines and Submitting Assignments

All of your work is due on the days and times indicated by the schedule below. You will submit your work electronically via CourseDen (or email if there happens to be server trouble). Your grade will drop by one grade scale (two points) for every day that it is late, including weekends, and I will not accept work that is over a week late. If you are going to be absent the day that something is due, it remains your responsibility to make sure that your work is turned in on time. Failure to do so will result in your grade dropping. If you are having trouble with an assignment, come and talk to me **well ahead** of that assignment’s due date; I do not grant last minute extensions for assignments. It is your responsibility to regularly back up your work and to ensure that the submitted product is formatted correctly. “My computer ate my file” and “I thought I submitted that file” are not accepted excuses for late work, so I strongly suggest you save your work to a USB drive regularly (backing your work up on Google Drive or another cloud service might also be advisable) and double check that ALL of your submissions to CourseDen go through as planned. If you have questions or concerns about CourseDen, you should contact the Distance Learning office (<http://uwgonline.westga.edu/>).

Grading and Revision Policies

Grades are based on student performance on each assignment. Simply turning in every assignment does not guarantee that you will receive the grade you want on those assignments, nor does earning a “good” grade on one assignment guarantee that you will earn a similar grade on the next assignment. The grading scale—A+, A+/A, A, etc.—and standards I use are detailed in the “Grading Scale and Guidelines for Formal Assignments” document on CourseDen. I do not offer extra credit for this class. I do accept revisions of problem papers **if you meet with me** to discuss your plans for revision **within a week** of me handing the graded paper back to you. Revised papers do not necessarily earn higher grades, but I do guarantee that your grade will not drop in any way should you decide to attempt a revision. Revisions do not negate any late penalties associated with the original assignment.

University Policies and Student Rights/Responsibilities

Please carefully review the following Common Language for all university course syllabi: http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf. It contains important material pertaining to university policies and responsibilities. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Academic Honesty

The act of plagiarism—claiming someone else’s ideas, language, images, or other original materials as your own without giving full credit to your source—is a serious offense. As members of an academic community, it is important that we engage in responsible and honest communication with one another. Plagiarism, whether accidental or intentional, will result in a failing grade for assignment and will, as a result, negatively impact your overall grade. Repeat offenders will fail the course and might be subjected to additional action by the University.

If you are unclear about how to cite a source, ask me **before** you turn your work in. Sources you should consult before talking to me include:

- The department's website: <http://www.westga.edu/%7Eengdept/Plagiarism/index.html>
- The Bedford/St. Martin student site: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rewriting2e/#t_526483
- The research and citation section of Purdue’s online writing lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>

Submitting someone else's work as your own, resubmitting your own work done for another class, or collaborating with peers on individual assignments are also forms of academic dishonesty that will result in failing grades for the assignment in question.

Accessibility Services

UWG adheres to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires that accommodations be made to make programs accessible for people with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability, please make sure to register at the Accessibility Services Office and provide me with a copy of your Accommodation Request as soon as possible. The Accessibility Services Office is located at 123 Row Hall. You may call them at 678-839-6428 or visit their website at <http://www.westga.edu/counseling/4486.php>.

Classroom Environment

Since everyone is expected to participate in class, it is important that you all feel comfortable doing so. Some of the content we will be discussing involves topics or perspectives with which you might not agree or feel wholly comfortable, and that is okay. Differing viewpoints are welcome in class discussions; however, disrespectful comments against specific individuals or groups will not be tolerated under any circumstances. In the event that such a statement is made, the speaker will be asked to leave class immediately and will be marked absent for the day. Disagreeing with someone is one thing, disrespecting or attacking him or her is another—do not do it. On a related note, it is disrespectful to both me and your fellow classmates to let your cell phones ring during our time together, so please turn off your phones before class. Other portable electronics should, likewise, be turned off during class unless you are given permission to use

them for a specific purpose. If I see you text messaging, emailing, checking facebook, or doing work for another class, I will ask you to leave and mark you as absent.

Additional Help

I am happy to meet with you outside of class to discuss Homework due, your progress on projects, or any other questions/concerns you might have. I will be in my office during the office hours listed at the top of this syllabus. (On the occasion that I need to reschedule office hours, you will be given as much advanced notice about these changes as possible.) If you are unable to come to office hours, let me know and we'll figure out another time to meet that is convenient for us both. I am also happy to answer specific questions over email and will do so as quickly as I can. That said, please don't panic if you don't hear from me right away, especially if you send your email at, say, midnight. If, however, I haven't responded in 24 hours, feel free to send a follow up email.

The University Writing Center is another excellent resource that I encourage you to take advantage of as all writing benefits from multiple sets of eyes; indeed, professional writers workshop their pieces all of the time. You may go to the Writing Center at any stage in your writing process. For more information or to make an appointment, call 678-839-6513, visit TLC 1201, or email writing@westga.edu.

Schedule of Homework due and Assignments (due the date on which they are listed)

This syllabus is a general plan for the course and might be modified as the semester progresses to meet course objectives or address the needs of the class. Most (if not all) of the changes made will be in consultation with the class as a whole. I will announce any changes made in class before sending out a revised syllabus. It is your responsibility to check CourseDen and your email regularly to ensure you are up to date on all class announcements, etc.

Week One: Introductions

Jan. 12	Historical overview and course expectations.
Jan. 14	<i>Top three choices for presentation dates/topics due.</i> Defining tricksters. <i>Homework due:</i> Hyde, "Introduction" to <i>Trickster Makes this World</i> (e-reserve); watch <i>Labyrinth</i> . Drop period with refund ends.

Week Two: A Legacy of Lies

Jan. 19	Ancient Greece: epic. <i>Homework due:</i> <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 1-9
Jan. 21	<i>Homework due:</i> <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 10-14

Week Three: From Liars to Thieves

Jan. 26	<i>Homework due:</i> finish <i>Odyssey</i> .
Jan. 28	Ancient Greece: from myth to tragedy. <i>Footnoting History Presentation #1.</i> <i>Homework due:</i> Aeschylus, <i>Prometheus Bound</i> ; "Hope for Humankind" (e-reserve)

Week Four: Cleverness and Betrayal

Feb. 2	Ancient Rome. Footnoting History Presentation #2. <i>Homework due:</i> Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Books 1-4 (e-reserve); skim the following overview of the whole poem too: http://people.duke.edu/~wj25/UC_Web_Site/epic/aeneidsum.html
Feb. 4	Problem Paper #1 due by midnight tonight. <i>Homework due:</i> Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> excerpts (e-reserve); skim the following overview of the whole poem too: http://www.ancient-literature.com/rome_ovid_metamorphoses.html

Week Five: Transcendental Tricksters

Feb. 9	Ancient (and modern!) India. <i>Homework due:</i> Canto Ten of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa (e-reserve: "thebutterthief.pdf"); "The Adventures of Young Krishna" (e-reserve)
Feb. 11	Scandinavian mythology. Footnoting History Presentation #3. <i>Homework due:</i> Sturluson, "Glyfaginning" from the <i>Prose Edda</i> (e-reserve); skim "Lokasenna" from <i>Poetic Edda</i> (http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/poe/poe10.htm)

Week Six: Biblical Traditions

Feb. 16	Hebrew Bible (aka Old Testament). <i>Homework due:</i> Genesis, chapters 2-3, 27-33, and 41-46 (http://www.bartleby.com/108/01/); Esther, chapters 2-9 (http://www.bartleby.com/108/17/); 1 Samuel, chapters 16-21 (http://www.bartleby.com/108/09/)
Feb. 18	New Testament and the trickster-sinner tradition. <i>Homework due:</i> 2 Corinthians, chapters 2, and 11-12 (http://www.bartleby.com/108/47/); Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , cantos 1-5, 9-11, 18-20, 22, 26 and 34 (e-reserve)

Week Seven: Flirting with Death

Feb. 23	Midterm Exam
Feb. 25	Medieval Middle East. Footnoting History Presentation #4. <i>Homework due:</i> <i>Arabian Nights</i> , pp. 5-66 ("Prologue" through "The Twenty-Seventh Night")

Week Eight: Flirting With Death Cont'd

Mar. 1	<i>Homework due:</i> <i>Arabian Nights</i> , pp. 203-49 ("The Story of the Hunchback" through "The Tailor's Tale"), pp. 303-49 ("The Story of Sinbad the Sailor")
Mar. 3	Medieval Italy part two. Footnoting History Presentation #5. <i>Homework due:</i> Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i> excerpts (e-reserve) Drop period with "W" ends

Week Nine: Laughing in the Face of Trouble

Mar. 8	Problem Paper #2 due by midnight tonight. Medieval France. <i>Homework due:</i> <i>Reynard the Fox</i> (e-reserve)
Mar. 10	China's classical age. Footnoting History Presentation #6. <i>Homework due:</i> <i>Monkey</i> , pp.11-77.

Week Ten: Break

Mar. 15	No class: Spring Break.
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Mar. 17	No class: Spring Break.
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Week Eleven: Journeying West

Mar. 22	Final paper introduced. <i>Homework due: Monkey, pp. 78-209.</i>
Mar. 24	<i>Homework due: finish Monkey.</i>

Week Twelve: Mischievous Sprites

Mar. 29	The European Renaissance. <i>Footnoting History Presentation #7.</i> <i>Homework due: Shakespeare, Midsummer, Acts 1-3</i>
Mar. 31	From the Renaissance to the Enlightenment <i>Homework due: Shakespeare, Midsummer, Acts 4-5; Grimm brothers, "Children of Hameln" and "The Ratcatcher" (numbers 1 and 3: (http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/hameln.html - grimm245)</i>

Week Thirteen: Animated Animals

Apr. 5	Native American traditions. <i>Footnoting History Presentation #8.</i> <i>Homework due: "American Indian Myths" (e-reserve); "Tokwah" (e-reserve)</i>
Apr. 7	African and African American traditions. <i>Homework due: "African and African American Tales" (e-reserve); ""John" from "Jack and John" (e-reserve); "Bride of the Evil One" (pp.123-28), "All of These Are Mine" (p. 131), "The Tar Baby" (pp. 132-22), "How Brer Rabbit Bought Dust Out of the Rock" (pp. 145-46), "John, His Boss Man, and the Catfish" (pp. 146-47), "When Brer Frog Gave a Big Dinner" (pp. 147-49), "Mr. Deer's My Riding Horse" (pp.149-50), and "Abe and Dinah" (pp. 150-53 from "American Folktales," e-reserve)</i>

Week Fourteen: Coming Full Circle

Apr. 12	<i>Homework due: "Jack and the Beanstalk" (http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/jackbeanstalk/stories/langbeanstalk.html); "Jack" from "Jack and John" (e-reserve); "One-Eyed Giant" (pp. 136-38 from "American Folktales," e-reserve)</i>
Apr. 14	Writing Workshop. <i>Homework due: Kafka, "A Hunger Artist" (e-reserve)</i>

Week Fifteen: Conclusions

Apr. 12	<i>Drafts of papers due for peer review.</i>
Apr. 14	Final exam review and course evaluations. <i>Final papers due tonight by midnight.</i>

Final Exam: Tuesday, April 26, 11-1:30.