

English 2110-01: World Literature

The Aesthetics of War

Fall 2020 * T/Th 3:30-4:45 * Humanities 134

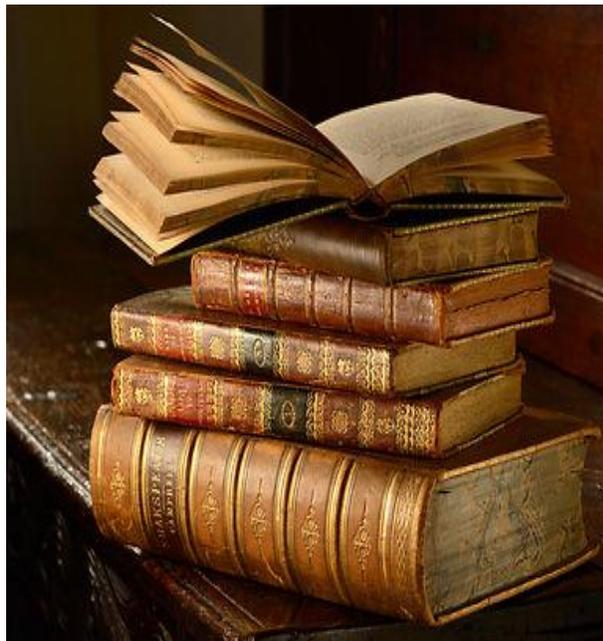
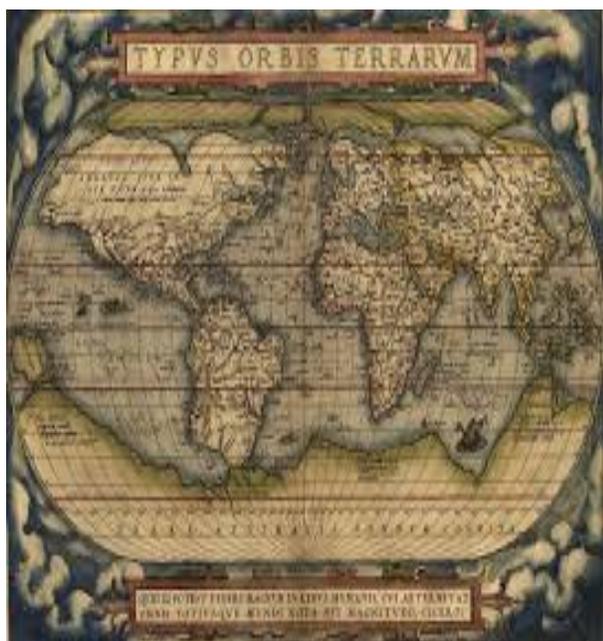
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Course Description

As human beings we like to think of ourselves as the most intelligent and evolved species on the planet. The simple fact remains, however, that we are the only species that routinely wages organized campaigns of war with one another to resolve seemingly unresolvable disagreements. In this survey of world literature, we will explore how different cultures have explained and, in some cases, celebrated war as a fundamental part of the human experience, for better or for worse.

Fair warning: many of the texts we will read deal with the harsh realities of war, which can sometimes be difficult to read about. If you need to take a break while reading, that is perfectly okay, as is talking to someone—me, a UWG counselor, or trusted friend—about why you find a particular topic especially difficult to process. Please see the “UWG Cares” section below for more information about the services available to you as a member of the UWG community.

Be advised that this is a reading heavy course, which is reflective of its status as a Core C.2 course and as a requirement for all English majors. If you cannot commit to the reading schedule outlined

below for whatever reason, you might want to consider taking this course another semester. A minimum grade of “C” in ENGL 1102 is a required pre-requisite for this course.

Required Texts and Instructional Resources

- Euripides. *The Trojan Women and Hippolytus*. Dover Thrift Editions, 2002. ISBN 978-0-486-42462-0. [An online version of the poem is available through the Internet Classics Archive at http://classics.mit.edu/Euripides/troj_women.html.]
- Homer. *The Iliad*. Trans. Peter Green. University of California Press, 2015. ISBN 978-0-520-28143-1. [An online version of the poem is available through the Internet Classics Archive at <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>.]
- Kourouma, Ahmaddu. *Allah is Not Obligated*. Anchor Books, 2007. ISBN 978-0-307-27957-6.
- The Song of Roland*. Trans. Robert Harrison. Signet Classics, 1970. ISBN 978-0-451-53193-3.
- Tzu, Sun. *The Art of War: Bilingual Chinese and English Text*. Trans. Lionel Giles. Tuttle Publishing, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8048-4820-6.

All books are available in the UWG bookstore. If you opt to use online or other editions of these materials, it is your responsibility to make sure you know what sections of your text correspond to the reading assignments listed below.

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 and can be rented from the English Program as well (for a three-day period of time):

Wonder Woman. Dir. Patty Jenkins. Perf. Gal Godot and Chris Pine. Warner Brothers, 2017.
[Streaming at HBO (free with subscription), Amazon Prime (3.99), and iTunes (3.99)]

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and assess the traditions, conventions, and contexts associated with the study of the English language and world literatures, including how relevant social, historical, and aesthetic contexts shape texts and authors.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information and ideas from diverse oral, written, and or visual sources.
3. Conduct research, develop organizational strategies, and compose professional documents using the academic conventions of English Studies as a discipline.

Assignments

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

- *Daily Participation* (10%): whether you are participating in both modalities or predominately online, you are expected to not only do the assigned readings, but also be 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. Challenge yourself to talk at least

once a week if not once a “class period,” either in person or via our Slack channel (see CourseDen for more information). To that end, you should take notes while reading, bring those notes to class, and come prepared to take notes during class discussions. Students participating in the weekly in-person sessions will take turns posting their notes to a class Google Doc so that everyone can see what was discussed during these sessions. I will post your participation grade twice: around midterm and at the end of the semester. [L.O. 1 and 2]

- *Weekly Discussion Posts* (10%): at least once a week, you will post a “key passage” to your study buddy groups on CourseDen. These will be due on the days you are not in class if you are participating in both modalities. Those who are predominately online will be asked to produce additional online materials (see CourseDen for more information). [L.O. 1 and 2]
- *Problem Papers* (30%): twice during the semester you’ll be asked to compose short papers (2.5 to 3 pages, worth 15% each) on one of the texts we have read thus far. Each paper should use your close reading skills to argue for a specific interpretation of a question or problem raised by one of the texts that we have read for class. [L.O. 1, 2 and 3]
- *Syllabus Pitch Presentation* (15%): working remotely in teams, you will design a unit you would add to our syllabus if your group were responsible for teaching this class. You will then pitch your unit to your peers by way of a fifteen-minute formal presentation with slides, which you will record on Zoom. [L.O. 1, 2 and 3]
- *Midterm* (15%): a writing intensive exam covering the texts and concepts from the first half of the semester. [L.O. 1 and 2]
- *Final Exam* (20%): a writing intensive exam covering class readings, discussions, and lectures. 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. [L.O. 1 and 2]

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 and standards I use are detailed in the “Grading Scale and Guidelines for Formal Assignments” document on CourseDen. Generally speaking, however, they follow a two-point scale in which a 98 is an A+, a 96 an A+/A, a 94 an A, a 92 an A/A-, a 90 an A-, and so on.

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. You should come to this meeting with your *revision plan/goals typed up or written out*. We will settle on a due date for your revision during our meeting. 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. If you are revising a paper that was penalized for plagiarism, your old grade and your new grade will be averaged to determine the final grade that you will receive. You are welcome to revise late work, but the late penalties associated with the first assignment are also applicable to your revision.

Schedule of Homework and Assignments

The work listed below is due on the date on which it is listed. This schedule 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. All readings labeled “e-reserve” can be found in the CourseDen module for the corresponding week.

Week One: Introductions

Aug. 13	Historical overview and course expectations	<i>Post your introduction to our discussion board by midnight 8/14 and complete your Slack setup by midnight on 8/16.</i>
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Week Two: When Eras End Violently

Aug. 18	Reading war across time and space Active reading <i>*Add/drop ends at midnight tonight*</i>	<i>Homework due: watch Wonder Woman; read: Cole, “People in War” (e-reserve); Slack work starts this week</i>
Aug 20	Ancient Greece: epic	<i>Homework due: Iliad, Books 1-3</i>

Week Three: The Fall of Troy

Aug. 25	Ancient Greece cont’d	<i>Homework due: Iliad, Books 4-7; weekly discussion posts start this week</i>
Aug. 27	Ancient Greece Cont’d Introduce Problem Papers	<i>Homework due: Iliad, Books 8-10</i>

Week Four: The Fall of Troy Cont’d

Sept. 1	Ancient Greece cont’d	<i>Homework due: Iliad, Books 11-14</i>
Sept. 3	Ancient Greece Cont’d	<i>Homework due: Iliad, Books 15-17</i>

Week Five: The Fall of Troy Cont’d

Sept. 8	Ancient Greece cont’d	<i>Homework due: Iliad, Books 18-21</i>
Sept. 10	Ancient Greece Cont’d	<i>Homework due: finish Iliad</i>

Week Six: Weeping Women

Sept. 15	Ancient Greece: From Myth to Tragedy	<i>Homework due: Trojan Women; no discussion posts this week</i>
Sept. 17	Synchronous online analysis workshop for whole class via Collaborate Ultra	<i>Homework due: bring problem/thesis to workshop; Problem Paper #1 due by midnight tomorrow, 9/18</i>

Week Seven: Same story, different perspectives

Sept. 22	Ancient Rome	<i>Homework due:</i> <i>Aeneid</i> Books 1-2 (e-reserve); skim this summary of the whole poem, too
Sept. 24	Modern retellings	<i>Homework due:</i> Owen, “ Arms and the Boy ”; Teasdale, “ Helen of Troy ”; Brooke, “ Menelaus and Helen ”; Auden, “ The Shield of Achilles ”; Led Zeppelin, “ Achilles’ Last Stand ”; Dylan, “ Temporary Like Achilles ”; and look at Troy cartoons

Week Eight: War as duty

Sept. 29	Pre-Islamic Iran	<i>Homework due:</i> excerpts from the <i>Shahnameh</i> (e-reserve)
Oct. 1	Ancient to Modern India	<i>Homework due:</i> excerpts from <i>Bhagavad-Gita</i> (e-reserve)

Week Nine: Examing

Oct. 6	Midterm review—synchronous online class review session for whole class on Collaborate Ultra	<i>Homework due:</i> nominate passages for exam and come ready to ask questions
Oct. 8	Midterm exam online	<i>Homework due:</i> exam

Week Ten: Religious Precedents

Oct. 13	The Bible and the early Americas	<i>Homework due:</i> Exodus chapters 1-6, 14, and 15:1-21; Ephesians 6:10-17; Rogueneau, “An Attack by Iroquois Warriors” (e-reserve); Boudinot, “Address to the Whites” (e-reserve); “ Aztec Account of the Conquest Of Mexico ”; Bernal Díaz del Castillo, “Personal Account” (e-reserve: item 2, pp. 3-7 of “Spanish Conquest of Mexico”)
Oct. 15	Medieval France	<i>Homework due:</i> Surah , 2:190-94; <i>Song of Roland</i> sections 1-132

Week Eleven: Crusading Mentality Popularized

Oct. 20	Medieval France	<i>Homework due:</i> finish <i>Roland</i>
Oct. 22	Ancient China	<i>Homework due:</i> Tzu, <i>Art of War</i> , pp. 1-64

Week Twelve: Strategic Sacrifices

Nov. 3	Ghosts Introduce Syllabus Pitch Presentations	<i>Homework due:</i> “ The Ballad of Mulan ”; Kingston, “White Tigers” (e-reserve); no discussion posts this week
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Nov. 5	Postcolonial Africa	<i>Homework due: Allah is Not Obligated</i> , pp. 1-51; Problem Paper #2 due by midnight tomorrow (11/6)
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Week Thirteen: Child Soldiers

Nov. 10	Postcolonial Africa Cont'd	<i>Homework due: Allah is Not Obligated</i> , pp. 52-124
Nov. 12	Postcolonial Africa Cont'd	<i>Homework due: Allah is Not Obligated</i> , pp. 125-break on 175

Week Fourteen: Child Soldiers Cont'd

Nov. 17	Postcolonial Africa Cont'd	<i>Homework due: finish Allah is Not Obligated; Adiche, "Half a Yellow Sun" (e-reserve)</i>
Nov. 19	Group Work Day	<i>Homework: keep working on your pitches</i>

Week Fifteen: Wrapping Up

Nov. 24	Online class: group work day	<i>Homework due: nominate passages for final exam; Syllabus Pitches due by midnight on Wednesday, 11/25</i>
Nov. 26	No class: Thanksgiving	<i>Homework due: nominate passages for your final by noon on 11/30</i>

Final Exam: Thursday, 12/3 from 2 to 4pm

Course Policies and Expectations of Students

Attendance

We are living in the midst of a global pandemic, which likely means that some weeks will be tougher than others for all of us. It is okay to not be okay sometimes. While I have to take attendance for the sake of submitting final grades and contact tracing, I trust you all to do what you need to do to stay well, so I will not be factoring attendance into your final grades. That said, please know that what you will get out this class will depend a lot on what you are able to put into it. Thus, I encourage you to do the best you can to make your presence (virtual or otherwise) as consistent as possible. I will work with you to the best of my ability to make this class as meaningful and flexible as possible, but such collaboration necessitates you communicating with me frequently should you need to miss several class sessions.

Deadlines and Submitting Assignments

All of your work is due on the days and times indicated by the above schedule as well as our CourseDen calendar. You will submit your work electronically via CourseDen (or email if there happens to be server trouble). Your grade will drop by two grade scales (four 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 nor can I be of much help the night before an assignment is due. I am, however, happy to do everything in my power to help you produce work that you are proud of, including granting extensions that are requested in a reasonable timeframe ahead of that assignment's due date.

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, back your work up on Google Drive or Dropbox, 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](#).

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 the assignment in question 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 Writing Center's [site](#)
- The research and citation section of Purdue's online [writing lab](#)

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.

Technological Assistance

If this is your first time completing any component of your coursework online, the following resources might be helpful to you:

- UWG's Online Education Support [site](#)
- UWG's Online Help Desk [site](#); their contact information is under the "Help" tab

Classroom Etiquette

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 Support

I am happy to meet with you outside of class to discuss readings, your progress on specific assignments, or any other questions/concerns you might have about what is going on in my class or your life in general. I will be in my office during the office hours listed at the top of this syllabus, so you should feel free to email me or call me at any point during those. If you would prefer to meet in our virtual classroom, just send me an email ahead of time so that I know when to log in. 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 36 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 any class. For more information or to make an appointment, call 678-839-6513, visit TLC 1201, or email them at writing@westga.edu. The Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides many programs, including peer tutoring for Core classes, to help all students succeed academically. For more information or to make an appointment, call 678-839-6280, visit UCC 200, or email them at cas@westga.edu.

University Policies

Student Rights/Responsibilities

Please carefully review the [Common Language](#) for all university course syllabi. 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.

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](#).

UWG Cares

College can sometimes feel stressful. Please know that everyone at UWG is committed to supporting you to the best of our abilities; we've been in your shoes. If at any point during the semester you or someone you know starts to feel overwhelmed, I'd encourage you to call the Counseling Center (it's free and anything you discuss can remain confidential) at 678-839-6428 or visit them in Row Hall

123 from 8-5, Mon-Fri. If you need to contact a patient's advocate, call 678-839-0641 or 678-839-5338 (also confidential). For basic health concerns, call Health Services at 678-839-6452.

If you need me to help you find a particular support service or walk with you to an office, I am happy to do that; you need to know, however, that ***I am legally obligated to report any incident of sexual assault*** as a violation of Title IX (please see [this site](#) for more information about Title IX and your reporting options).

If you are worried about someone who does not seem to want to ask for help, visit [this site](#) to file an anonymous report on that person. In case of emergency, call the UWG police at 678-839-6000. Don't be afraid to call national help lines, like the national suicide prevention lifeline at 800-273-8255 or the national sexual assault hotline at 800-656-4673 if need be, either.