

# INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN LITERATURE

Instructor: Chien-heng Wu

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the first-year student of literature to some of the major concepts, themes, as well as some of the most famous narratives, characters, and literary forms of the western literary tradition. The aim of such a course is to provide students the basic tools, concepts, and reading knowledge for more advanced study of western literature in upper-level courses beyond their first year at the university. While such a course does not offer a comprehensive coverage of all the major texts of western literature, it conceptualizes the western literary tradition as a series of debates and issues for discussion. We will analyze the literary texts in their historical, cultural, and political contexts, and we will examine the significance of these texts for the western literary tradition.

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

1. Introduce students to the masterpieces of Western literature from its inception to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Develop students' appreciation for values and ideals that have come to shape societies and cultures in the West.
3. Cultivate students' analytic skills (e.g. textual and contextual analysis).

## GRADING

- Participation: 35%
- Presentation: 20%
- Midterm: 15%
- Final: 30%

\* Please apply for a free Office365 account at <http://learning.cc.nthu.edu.tw/p/412-1319-12292.php?Lang=zh-tw>. After registration, please download the application Teams. I will set up a forum for online discussion and communication.

## SCHEDULE

週 別	内 容	作 業
（上學期）	1 General Introduction	
	2 The Hebrew Bible	
	3 The Christian Bible	
	3 Film: <i>The Bible, the Epic Miniseries</i>	
	4 The Mythological Background	
	5 Greek Mythology, I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chap. 1 The Gods</li> <li>• Chap. 2 The Two Great Gods of Earth</li> <li>• Chap. 3 &amp; 4 (Prometheus and Io &amp; The Cyclops Polyphemus"; Chap. 8 "Daedalus"</li> </ul>
	6 Greek Mythology, II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chap. 9 Perseus</li> <li>• Chap. 10 Theseus</li> <li>• Chap. 11 Hercules</li> </ul>
	7 Greek Mythology, III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Trojan War"</li> <li>• "The Fall of Troy"</li> <li>• "The Adventure of Odysseus"</li> </ul>
	8 Review Session	
	9 <b>Mid-Term</b>	
	10 Homer's <i>Iliad</i> I	
	11 Homer's <i>Iliad</i> II	
	12 Film: <i>Troy</i>	
	13 Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> I	
	14 Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> II	
	15 Conclusion	
	16 <b>Final Exam</b>	