

# 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.

## GENERATIVE AI USAGE POLICY

In this course, we encourage the responsible and ethical use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, to assist in the learning process. These tools can be valuable for

generating ideas, providing inspiration, and enhancing your understanding of course material. However, it is crucial that students transparently indicate where and how AI-generated content has been used in their work.

To promote academic integrity and ensure appropriate use of AI tools, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Citing AI-generated content: If you use any AI-generated content in your assignments, papers, presentations, or other course-related work, you must clearly cite the AI tool used as a source. Include the name of the AI tool, version, and date of access in your citation. For example:

Generated with the assistance of ChatGPT-4, OpenAI, accessed on May 5, 2023.

2. Originality and authenticity: While incorporating AI-generated content is allowed, it should not be the sole basis for your work. You are expected to use your own thoughts, ideas, and understanding of the course material to create original and authentic work. AI-generated content should be supplementary and contribute to your overall argument or analysis.
3. Collaborative use of AI tools: If you are working on a group project or engaging in a class discussion, ensure that all group members or participants are aware of the use of AI-generated content. Discuss and evaluate the generated content together, to promote transparency and shared understanding.
4. Ethical considerations: Be mindful of the potential biases and limitations of AI-generated content. Always critically evaluate the accuracy, relevance, and ethical implications of AI-generated content before incorporating it into your work.
5. Continuous learning and reflection: Use AI-generated content as a tool to expand your knowledge and understanding of the course material, rather than as a shortcut to complete assignments. Reflect on how the AI-generated content has contributed to your learning process and consider what you have learned from the interaction.

By adhering to these guidelines, you will be able to harness the power of generative AI in a responsible and ethical manner, while ensuring academic integrity and maintaining a focus on your own learning and development.

\* This policy is generated with the help of ChatGPT-4, accessed May 05, 2023.

## **SCHEDULE**

週 別	内 容	作 業
一	1 General Introduction	
上	2 The Hebrew Bible	
學	3 The Christian Bible	
期	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>	