All men owe honor to the poets—honor
and awe, for they are dearest to the Muse
who puts upon their lips the ways of life.


There is a typical hero sequence of actions which can be detected in stories from
all over the world and from the many, many periods of history. It is essentially the
one deed done by many, many different people. The hero [or heroine] is someone
who has given his [or her] life to something bigger than himself [or herself]. . . .
Losing yourself, giving yourself to another, that’s a trial in itself, is it not? There
is a big transformation that’s concerned. And what all the myths have to deal
with is the transformation of consciousness—that you’re thinking this way, and
you have now to think in that way.

Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth* with Bill Moyers

I’m kind of hooked to the game of art and literature; my heroes are artists and writers.
Jim Morrison, The Doors

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Ellery
**Office:** A021B
**Phone:** 486-6142

**Hours:** 8-9 MWF, 2-3:30 MW; 1:30-3:30 TR
**E-mail:** chris.ellery@angelo.edu

**Catalogue Description**

“A study of diverse works by writers from various countries. Emphasis on reading,
comprehending, appreciating, and thinking critically about the selected works within the context
of the culture and literary history of the works’ origin.”

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The most important learning outcome of the class is that students learn to read and respond to
literature with pleasure and insight, practicing techniques in literary analysis that will enable
them to find meaning in sophisticated texts and communicate this meaning to other readers.
More specifically, students should

- understand the role of literature as an expression of values and an interpretation of the
  human experience;
- understand the interaction among history, society, and the individual as expressed through
  literature;
- apply relevant literary terminology;
- apply various critical methods in order to analyze and discuss literature thoughtfully;
- understand and appreciate cultural and social diversity;
- comprehend the heroic ideal, or *aristos*, as it emerges from the ancient world to the
  Renaissance.
**Required Texts**


**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Daily work** includes frequent reading quizzes, group activities, short response essays, and miscellaneous class exercises.

**Exams** are a mixture of objective and essay questions.

[Odysseus and the Sirens, Greek Red-Figure Stamnos Vase, c. 480-460 BCE, British Museum](http://traumwerk.stanford.edu/philolog/2009/10/homers_odyssey_in_art_sirens_f.html)

**Attendance and Make-up Policy:**

The following attendance policy is consistent with University OP 10.04 (“Academic Regulations Concerning Student Performance”).

- **This is a face-to-face class.** Regular attendance is essential for success in the class. Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of the period. Students who arrive late should see the instructor after class to be sure they are counted present. Students who enter during a quiz will not receive extra time to complete the quiz.

- **Be prepared for class each day.** An absence does not excuse the student from being prepared for the next class. Thus, students who miss class should contact a classmate or the instructor to be sure of the assignment for the next class.

- **All assignments are due when called for.** Being permitted to accept work after the deadline gives students an advantage over those who turn work in on time; thus **late work will be accepted without penalty only in the case of excused absences.** The penalty for an unexcused late assignment is one-half letter grade for each day late.

- **Students must present credible documentation to receive an excused absence.** Absences are excused for school travel, religious holidays, illness, or personal or family emergency. Contact the instructor as soon as possible (before a school trip or personal travel) to excuse the absence and arrange make-up work.

- **Daily grades for quizzes and other in-class activities cannot be made up.** Two daily grades will be dropped at the end of the term.

- **E-mailed assignments will be accepted only at the request of the instructor.**
Accommodations for Disabilities

“Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.” (Dean of Student Life)

Departmental Statement on Academic Honesty

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions (www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf) of the Student Handbook. Blatant cases of plagiarism, cheating, or misrepresentation will result in an F for the course and possibly other disciplinary actions.

Tips for Success

- Keep up with your work and be prepared every day for quizzes, discussions, and other activities.
- Critical reading is the core of the course. This means reading with a questioning attitude. Have a conversation with the works as you read. Put some thought into your responses. Talk about your reading with others.
- Participate actively (both listening and speaking) in class discussions. Pay attention in class. Note any terms written on the board and passages read in class.
- Review regularly; don’t wait until exam time. Visit the instructor at the first sign of trouble.
**Tentative Schedule:** The following schedule lists *tentative* assignments and exam dates for the term. If you miss a class, you should always check with a classmate or the instructor for the correct assignment.

**Week 1**
- T 1/16: Introduction
- R 1/18: Homer, *Odyssey* Books 1-2

**Week 2**
- T 1/23: *Odyssey* Books 3-6
- R 1/25: *Odyssey* Books 7-8

**Week 3**
- T 1/30: *Odyssey* Books 9-12
- R 2/1: *Odyssey* Books 13-16

**Week 4**
- T 2/6: *Odyssey* Books 17-20
- R 2/8: *Odyssey* Books 21-24

**Week 5**
- T 2/13: Review
- R 2/15: TBA

**Week 6**
- T 2/20: **Exam 1**
- R 2/22: ASU Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton

**Week 7**
- T 2/27: Dante, *Inferno* Cantos 1-9
- R 3/1: *Inferno* Cantos 10-18

**Week 8**
- T 3/6: *Inferno* Cantos 19-27
- R 3/8: *Inferno* Cantos 28-34

3/12-3/16: SPRING BREAK

**Week 9**
Week 10
T 3/27  Hamlet, Acts IV and V
R 3/29  Review

Week 11
T 4/3  Exam 2
R 4/5  TBA

Week 12
T 4/10  Voltaire, Candide Chapters 1-10
R 4/12  Candide Chapters 11-20

Week 13
T 4/17  Candide Chapters 21-30
R 4/19  Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist Prologue-35 [“Then, taking his sheep, he walked away.”]

Week 14
T 4/24  The Alchemist Prologue-35 [“At the highest point in Tarifa…”]-82 [“‘And I’d better read your books,’ said the boy.”]
R 4/26  The Alchemist 82 [“They were strange books”]-127 [“the hope for his return.”]

Week 15
T 5/1  The Alchemist 127 [“Don’t think about what you’ve left behind.”]-167 [“‘I’m coming, Fatima,’ he said.”]
R 5/3  Review

Final Exam: 8-10 a.m., Tuesday, May 8