



AMBROSE

**EN 335  
Ancient World Literature and Myth  
Winter 2014**

**Course Description**

**Number of Credits: 3**

*From the course catalogue:* This course introduces students to the classical backgrounds of English literature through readings in Greek and Roman mythology, drama, epic, and poetry and continues through to the Renaissance. Students will study selections and entire works from Homer, Ovid, Virgil, Dante, and other major classical authors.

*From the professor:* This year's course will look exclusively at the ancient Greek and Roman literary tradition with an eye toward longer, major works that have crucially informed the English literary tradition. While Greek and Latin short poetry (the lyric, ode, epigram, satire, etc.) are equally formative of writing in English, they are less fruitfully studied in translation than are the plot-driven epic, tragedy, and comedy we will consider. In addition, we will look at several important theoretical inquiries into the nature of literature by Plato, Aristotle, Horace, and Longinus – studies that still determine the terms of all subsequent literary theory.

**Class Schedules**

W F 11:15am-12:30pm

Room A2212

Office Hours: T Th 4:15-5:15pm

**Instructor Information**

Dr J. Goossen

Office: L2062

[JGoossen@ambrose.edu](mailto:JGoossen@ambrose.edu)

403-410-2000 x5960

**Textbooks**

Ovid. *Metamorphoses*. Trans. Charles Martin. Norton Critical Edition. New York: Norton, 2010.

Russell, D. A. and Michael Winterbottom, eds. *Classical Literary Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008.

Sophocles. *The Three Theban Plays*. Trans. Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin, 1984.

Virgil. *The Aeneid*. Trans. David West. London: Penguin, 2003.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Trans Robert Fitzgerald. New York: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 1998

Hesiod. *Works and Days, Theogony*. Trans. Stanley Lombardo. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993

Terence. *The Comedies*. Trans. Peter Brown. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2009.

**Attendance**

Attendance will be taken for every class and counts toward your participation grade.

**Course Outline**

Wednesday	Friday
<p>January 8 Course Introduction</p>	<p>January 10 <b>Mythology I</b> Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i></p>
<p>January 15 <b>Epic I</b> Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> 1-8</p>	<p>January 17 <i>The Odyssey</i> 9-21</p>
<p>January 22 <i>The Odyssey</i> 21-24</p>	<p>January 24 <i>The Odyssey</i> <b>Presentations:</b> <u>  Amy  </u>    <u>  Jason  </u></p>
<p>January 29 <b>Ancient Literary Theory I</b> Plato, <i>Ion</i> <i>Republic</i> 2, 3, 10 (in Russell and Winterbottom)</p>	<p>January 31 <b>Ancient Literary Theory II</b> Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> (in Russell and Winterbottom)</p>
<p>February 5 <b>Greek Tragedy</b> Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i></p>	<p>February 7 <i>Oedipus the King</i></p>
<p>February 12 Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i></p>	<p>February 14 <i>Antigone</i> <b>Presentations:</b> <u>  Nancy  </u>    <u>  Travis  </u></p>
<b>TERM    BREAK</b>	
<p>February 26 <b>Oral Midterm Examination – no class</b></p>	<p>February 28 <b>Roman Comedy</b> Terence, <i>The Brothers</i></p>
<p>March 5 <i>The Brothers</i> <b>Presentations:</b> <u>  Sandra  </u>    <u>  Gianna  </u></p>	<p>March 7 <b>Epic II</b> Virgil, <i>The Aeneid</i> 1-3</p>
<p>March 12 <i>The Aeneid</i> 4-6</p>	<p>March 14 <i>The Aeneid</i> 7, 8, 12</p>

Wednesday	Friday
<p>March 19 <i>The Aeneid</i> <b>Presentations:</b> <u>Michael</u> <b>Research essay thesis due</b> (via Moodle only)</p>	<p>March 21 <b>Ancient Literary Theory III</b> Horace, <i>The Art of Poetry</i> (in Russell and Winterbottom)</p>
<p>March 26 <b>Ancient Literary Theory IV</b> Longinus, <i>On Sublimity</i> (in Russell and Winterbottom) <b>Presentations:</b> <u>Denaë</u> <u>Rory</u></p>	<p>March 28 <b>Mythology II, or Un-Epic Epic</b> Ovid, <i>Metamorphosis</i> (selections TBA) <b>Research Essay Due</b> (in hard copy only)</p>
<p>April 2 Ovid, <i>Metamorphosis</i> (selections TBA) <b>Presentations:</b> <u>Havanah</u></p>	<p>April 4 <b>Last Class</b> Exam Review</p>
<p>April 9 Professor away - class cancelled</p>	
<p><b>Final Exam: Monday, April 14, 9:00am-12:00pm</b></p>	

## Course Requirements

- **Primary readings** must be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Additional secondary reading may be assigned at the instructor's discretion.
- Class sessions will be largely devoted to considering the assigned texts. **Always bring your textbook** to class.
- In addition to assigned readings, **you are responsible for the content of all lectures** on the historical and literary backgrounds of these readings. In other words, attend class.
- **All** assignments must be submitted to receive a passing final grade.
- **Extensions** may be granted on essay assignments in exceptional circumstances, but must be arranged in advance. **Late papers** will be marked down one refined letter grade per class day late.
- The most current version of this syllabus, readings marked "Moodle" on the schedule, and any supplementary handouts will always be available on Moodle.

### **Participation & Reading Quizzes – 15%**

This is a senior English course. As such, it requires active, thoughtful **participation** from each member: look alert, ask questions, share your thoughts, and visit my office when you need help. It goes without saying that doing all of this necessitates regular attendance: skip classes and your grade will suffer. Moreover, intelligent participation also depends upon thorough and careful reading of the assigned texts. To encourage this, **short reading quizzes** will regularly be inflicted at the beginning of class.

### **Seminar Presentation and Paper – 15%**

Choose one major author or topic (indicated on the schedule) and make a 15-minute presentation on an important aspect of the works in question. Presentations should incorporate both explication of primary texts and discussion of critical opinion and result in a carefully written manuscript which you submit immediately following. Two students will present each day; as such, plan your presentation in consultation with both the instructor and the other student.

### **Research Paper – 30%**

Write a **10-12 page** research paper. You may not write on an author on whom you present. You must submit your tentative thesis statement and list of sources on **Wednesday, March 19** to Moodle; the essay is **due Friday, March 28** in hard copy.

### **Midterm Examination – 15%**

This will be a 20 minute oral exam (not of your teeth) in which I will ask you to respond intelligently to questions about particular works we've read and their relationship to other works, authors, and themes of the period. **February 24.**

### **Final Examination – 25%**

The exam will be comprehensive of the entire course. **April 14.**

*Further directions for these assignments will be given well before they are due.*

### **To guide your study in this course:**

"...the one thing that is indispensable for the study of literature is intimate familiarity with texts – familiarity of such a kind that the student cannot open any text at random and read more than ten lines without being reminded of a second passage, in some other text, which is relevant, and therefore illuminatory, in form and context. It is this kind of recollection which makes it possible to interpret literature without confinement to paths trodden by previous communications. It does not always come...as a result of deliberate efforts at memorization, it comes rather from the constant reading of texts for different purposes, with different questions in mind." *K. J. Dover*

## Classroom Etiquette

In order for each of us to get the most out of this class, please observe the following points:

- Arrive on time. Attendance will be taken. If you arrive after a quiz begins, you may not write it.
- Do not talk compulsively. Be self-aware and leave space for others' voices.
- Do not be silent. Speaking is a crucial aid to formulating your thoughts on a topic.
- No eating in class. Unslurped beverages are fine.
- Students may not use any device more technologically complex than a pen in our classroom. Beeping mobile phones will be confiscated.

## Grading

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	96-100	Excellent
A	91-95	Excellent
A-	86-90	Excellent
B+	82-85	Good
B	75-81	Good
B-	72-74	Good
C+	68-71	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Satisfactory
C-	60-62	Satisfactory
D+	56-59	Poor
D	50-55	Minimum Pass
F	0-49	Failure

## Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

## Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by Monday, November 25, 2013 (Fall semester) or Monday, March 31, 2014 (Winter semester). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

## Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record. In order to discourage plagiarism, papers submitted for this course may be subjected to an originality analysis by *Turnitin* software. For more information, see [http://turnitin.com/en\\_us/features/originalitycheck](http://turnitin.com/en_us/features/originalitycheck).

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.