ENGL1101 - Classics of World Literature
Course Outline

Semester: Semester 1 - 2008
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Seminar

Brief Course Description
The course introduces students to a number of classic texts of international significance, thus familiarising them with major aspects of world literature. Texts written by foreign-language authors are examined in English translation. Internal mode of delivery.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for 13 Weeks
Seminar combines lecture material and group discussion.

Learning Materials/Texts
Course reader, available from UPrint in the Union Building

Course Objectives
1. Comprehension of texts in English and in English translation.
2. Critical analysis of texts.
3. Understanding of literary, historical, social and cultural movements associated with these texts.
4. Language development through discussion and writing about texts and theories related to them.
5. Independent research using secondary literature related to the prescribed texts.
Course Content
The course aims to provide an insight into major writers from early times to the beginnings of modernity. Students will
* Engage in close reading of prose, verse and dramatic texts.
* Use literary terminology relevant to the texts
* Engage in practical criticism of literary technique
* Express opinions about and give personal responses to texts
* Refer to secondary literature
* Discuss textual interpretations
* Document textual interpretations

Assessment Items

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>3 x 1500-word Essays x 33% each = 100%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Two absences are allowable in the case of illness or other emergencies, and two more absences may be recovered by completing extra work on each of the seminars missed, but further absences will be regarded as failure to complete the course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify)</td>
<td>Students must submit all assessment items in order to complete the course.</td>
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Assumed Knowledge
None

Callaghan Campus Timetable
ENGL1101
CLASSICS OF WORLD LITERATURE
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2008
Seminar Tuesday 17:00 - 19:00 [MC132]
or Wednesday 15:00 - 17:00 [V02]
or Wednesday 11:00 - 13:00 [MCG29]

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -
· Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or

· Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).

· Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html, for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

· Requests for Special Consideration must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

· Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

· Requests for Rescheduling Exams must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2008

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2008

School of Humanities and Social Science
For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2008
For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 2008
For Trimester 3 courses: 22 September 2008
For Trimester 1 Singapore courses: 3 February 2008
For Trimester 2 Singapore courses: 25 May 2008

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty websites**

**Faculty of Education and Arts**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Contact details**

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie

Phone: 02 4921 5000

Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au
Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.


STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

--------------------------------------------- End of CTS Entry ---------------------------------------------

Essential Criteria in Assessment

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course. These essential elements are described in the CTS. Refer - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000648.html

Attendance at seminars in this course is compulsory. This is to ensure that students have the opportunity to experience the full range of plays and films, and the full variety of views about them, within the course. A class roll will be kept. Two absences are allowable in the case of illness or other emergencies, and two more absences may be recovered by completing extra work on each of the seminars missed, but further absences will be regarded as failure to complete the course. Students who are concerned that their attendance record is unsatisfactory should consult their lecturer.
It is also a requirement that all three assignments are completed. This is to ensure that students have covered a satisfactory amount of the course material and have reached an adequate level of skill in the formal presentation of responses to the texts.

**Online Tutorial Registration:**

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - [http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm](http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm)

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Important Additional Information**

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students
First essay (1500 words, due April 1)

**Choose one topic**

(a) Choose five Petrarch poems and discuss the contrasts between them, and their shared elements.

(b) What are the poetic means by which Petrarch creates in the reader the impression of contact with the feeling, thinking self of the poet or his persona?

(c) In light of our class discussion, how is the concept of "reading across cultural frontiers" useful in understanding the Narrow Road to the Far North?

(d) In light of our class discussion, evaluate the use of the supernatural in Tales of Moonlight and Rain.

Second Essay (1500 words, due May 13)

**Choose one topic**

(a) Discuss Apuleius’ portrait, in books II-III of The Golden Ass, of an intelligent young man getting drawn progressively into a world that he can neither understand nor control. How can a reader relate this remote and fictitious world to real young men in a real world?

(b) To many readers the religious conversion of the narrator of The Golden Ass and his subsequent dedication to the service of Isis cannot be taken seriously. Is there anything in the text of books VII-X that actually prepares us for the shock that our story-teller might actually be a shaven-headed religious devotee?

(c) Du Fu is not only regarded as the first Chinese poet to grapple with socio-political issues but also the first Chinese poet to turn his life-story into poetry. Stephen Owen remarks that “Du Fu was the historian of himself, creating in his responses to particular situations a coherent life story.” Comment on the relationship between the personal and the political in Du Fu’s work.

(d) Discuss the efficacy of Du Fu’s work as a poetry of witness reflecting the tumult of his time.

(e) Discuss the conflict between service and reclusion in Du Fu’s poems.

(f) Explore the themes of home and exile in either Du Fu or Li Bai’s poetry.

(g) Examine the vision of nature in Li Bai’s poetry.

(h) Prominent poets/critics of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) like Lu You dismissed Li Bai’s poetry as escapist, “all flowers and no fruit.” Is this a fair assessment?

(i) Pick at least two poems by Li Bai or Du Fu. Examine the different translations. What are the merits/ flaws of each version? Which versions capture the essence of the poems and poet best? What are the problems faced in translating these poems? How does each translator deal with them?
(j) Milton says he aims to “justify the ways of God to man” in *Paradise Lost* (Book I, line 26). From your reading of the poem, what are the main divine actions that need justifying? What are the poetic means Milton uses for this purpose? How well does he succeed, in your view?

(k) Discuss Milton’s portrayal of Eve in *Paradise Lost*. How do other protagonists in the poem view her? How are her actions presented by the poet?

**Third Essay (1500 words, due June 11)**

NB Groups of texts: (i) Petrarch, poems; (ii) Basho, *The Narrow Road to the Far North* and Ueda, *Tales of Moonlight and Rain*; (iii) Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*; (iv) Li Bai, poems, and Du Fu, poems; and (v) Milton, *Paradise Lost*.

Drawing on two of the text groups you have not covered in a previous essay, and providing detailed commentary in relation to each, answer one of the following questions:

(a) How are supernatural elements presented in your chosen groups of texts, and how are they related to aspects from the human and natural world?

(b) How can readers like ourselves minimise misinterpretation arising from our distance in history and in culture from the societies which gave rise to your chosen groups of texts? What particular points in these texts seem remote in time or culture, and which points seem close? Why?

(c) Where does your chosen groups of texts seem to rely most on what readers might expect and already know, and where do they seem to break most obviously with tradition? Where does the balance lie between tradition and innovation in the texts?

(d) Outline the conventions and typical subject-matter of the genres or modes of your chosen groups of texts. How does the use of these genres or modes help the writers communicate with their readers?
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18/02/2008</td>
<td>Introduction (Prof Craig)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>25/02/2008</td>
<td>Petrarch, <em>Poems</em> (Prof Craig)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3/03/2008</td>
<td>Petrarch, <em>Poems</em> (Prof Craig)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>10/03/2008</td>
<td>Basho, <em>The Narrow Road to the Far North</em> (Dr Squires)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>17/03/2008</td>
<td>Ueda, <em>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</em> (Dr Squires)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>24/03/2008</td>
<td>EASTER BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>31/03/2008</td>
<td>Apuleius, <em>The Golden Ass</em> (Prof Tarrant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7/04/2008</td>
<td>Apuleius, <em>The Golden Ass</em> (Prof Tarrant)</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-Semester Recess:</strong> Monday 14 April to Friday 25 April 2008</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>28/04/2008</td>
<td>Li Bai, <em>Poems</em> (Dr Boey)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>5/05/2008</td>
<td>Du Fu, <em>Poems</em> (Dr Boey)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>12/05/2008</td>
<td>Milton, <em>Paradise Lost</em> (Prof Craig)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>19/05/2008</td>
<td>Milton, <em>Paradise Lost</em> (Prof Craig)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>26/05/2008</td>
<td>Milton, <em>Paradise Lost</em> and conclusion (Prof Craig)</td>
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**Examination period:** Tuesday 10 June to Friday 27 June 2008