

Western University  
Department of Languages and Cultures  
2022-2023

**WorldLit 1030**  
***World Literatures and Cultures:  
East to West and North to South***



**Instructor**

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University College, UC 4307

Office Hours: TBA

Class Time and Location: Tuesday 12:30-2:30 & Thursday 1:30-2:30, TC 343

**Course Content and Aims**

In this course you will take an exciting journey of discovery across continents and civilizations, from Europe to Asia, from Africa to the Americas. Along the way you will explore a selection of writers and works that have changed, challenged, and connected cultures from antiquity to the present. The focus of the course is on the major role that storytelling from around the world has played and continues to play in enhancing our lives by illuminating our experience and understanding of love, justice, power, happiness, and other aspects of the human condition. To further enrich your journey, you will be introduced to the relationship between verbal and visual art in some crucial historical periods.

The masterworks from various epochs and cultures that you will study include *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Thousand and One Nights*, Murasaki Shikibu's *The Tale of Genji*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Goethe's *Faust*, Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, and many more.

**N.B. The course material will be available on Owl through the *Course Readings* tool**

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, you are expected to be able to:

- Identify cross-cultural patterns of similarity and difference as evidenced in the circulation of themes and the exchange of stories across time and space
- Recognize the roots of today’s globalizing world in a number of literary works.
- Understand how literature, from around the world, has historically contributed to generate, disseminate, and transgress cultural assumptions and values.
- discuss the role that literature has played, and continue to play, in exploring how the meaning of universal human concerns – such as love, friendship, power, justice and happiness – evolves in time.
- show awareness of some of the basic questions regarding adaptation.
- appreciate the role of cultural networks that cities have played throughout history.
- demonstrate basic critical skills in discussing topics and in analyzing works



**Course Requirements**

1) Reading Responses (4 x 8 each)	32%
2) Writing Project	15%
3) Midterm	15%
4) Participation	8%
5) Final Exam	30%

**Reading Responses**

You will write four reading responses (two per term) based on questions that will be posted on Owl one week before each submission date. The questions will address specific aspects of works and topics covered throughout the year. Each reading response should be no less than 750 words in length (about three double-spaced pages).

**Writing Project**

A list of topics will be uploaded on Owl at least one month before the due date for the submission of the project (around mid-March; check the lecture schedule that you will receive in September, when classes start). You will write on one of the topics of your choice from the list. The purpose of the writing project is for you to build

research skills while developing, in combination with the reading responses, proper familiarity with academic writing. You are expected to use no less than two secondary sources. Keep in mind that secondary sources are important, as they are supposed to help you in constructing and supporting your argument.

### **Midterm (1 hour)**

It will consist of identification questions to be answered in short-paragraph form. The questions will focus on the reading material covered in class up to that point.

### **Participation**

You are expected to maintain regular attendance and to complete all readings for each class. Participation is assessed on the basis of day-to-day preparation and contribution to class-discussions.

### **Final Exam (2 hours)**

The final exam will consist of questions to be answered in short paragraph and short essay form. It is cumulative, i.e., it covers the entire year. Please note that all final examinations are timetabled by the Office of the Registrar without any input from the Department. Since your exam may be scheduled for any date during the April examination period, and since students must write at a scheduled time, you should not make any plans which might run into conflict with the examination timetable.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Antirequisite:** Clc 1040, Clc 1050E

### **Information about late or missed evaluations:**

Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day including weekend

Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report

An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight of a missed test will be transferred to an upcoming assignment to be decided by the instructor

Use of any type of electronic devices will not be permitted during tests and exams

### **Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their

convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## **Accommodation and Accessibility**

### **Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### **Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## **Academic Policies**

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

## **Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

## **Support Services**

### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: [https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Accessible Education**

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.