

HL 1007: Classical Literature – Heroic Friendship from the Classical to the Contemporary

Instructor: Samara Cahill
Office Hours: TBA
Office: HSS-03-73
Email: sacahill@ntu.edu.sg
Phone: 6592 1534
Meeting Time: TBA
Location: TBA

Course Overview

This course will introduce you to major authors, genres, themes, narratives, tropes, and conventions of what is known as the “Western canon” while putting these classics in conversation with both classical texts from non-Western cultures and with adaptations. The course has three main goals: (1) To introduce you to foundational texts of world literature; (2) To question the canon (a set of authoritative or foundational texts) and canon formation (who decides what counts as “authoritative” or “foundational”?); (3) To practice *doing* things with these foundational texts, whether that “doing” is adaptation, interrogation, translation, comparison, cultural analysis, or creative work. Your instructor and tutors welcome feedback, questions, and suggestions. This course is about grappling with the classics while also having fun with them—it will give you instruments for the scholarly toolbox that you will use throughout your time in university (and beyond). But you will only get out of the course what you put into it, so please let us know if you are confused about anything or if you have ideas for discussion points. If you find examples of contemporary or pop culture references to the classics that you think would be helpful to talk about in class, please email Prof. Sam!

Method of Instruction

Lectures: 2 hours per week
Tutorials: 1 hour per week

Texts

Most of the texts will be available on NTULearn. However, you will need to purchase the following:

- J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*

Course Assessment

Continuing Assessment: 50 %
Final Examination: 50 %

Continuing Assessment

Tutorial Presentation (10%) – These 10 minute presentations will be organized by your tutors.

Midterm Project (10%) –700-word (lower limit) essay comparing and contrasting the representation of friendship in two of the texts we have read. Essay must be written in MLA format and must include a Works Cited page with the class texts listed. Please submit **hard copies** to your tutors by 5pm.

Final Essay (30%): This 1500 word (lower limit) essay will be written in response to a list of prompts distributed to the class during week 7. You must cite and quote at least two (2) scholarly sources. Essay must be written in MLA 8th edition format and include a Works Cited page. Please submit **hard copies** to your tutors by 5pm.

****Warning: Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure on the assignment****

Course Schedule

Week 1

Introductions, Syllabus, Canon Formation and Fanfic, Essay Writing/Plagiarism Overview

Week 2

Thomas C. Foster, *How To Read Literature Like a Professor*, Chapter 5 (NTULearn)

Week 3

Epic of Gilgamesh (NTULearn)

Week 4

Excerpts from Homer, *The Iliad* and Edith Hamilton, *Mythology* (NTULearn)

Week 5

Plato, *The Symposium* (NTULearn)

(in-class overview: How to write a persuasive academic essay; What is this thing called MLA? What is a “scholarly” source?)

Week 6

Excerpts from *Journey to the West* (NTULearn)

Week 7

Vyasa (?), Chapters 1-2, *Bhagavad Gita* (NTULearn)

****Midterm Projects Due: TBA by 5pm****

Midterm Recess

Week 8

Excerpts from Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, the Book of Job, and the Gospel of John (NTULearn)

Week 9

Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* (NTULearn)

Week 10

Excerpts from *Ibn Tufayl's Hayy Ibn Yaqzan: A Philosophical Tale* (NTULearn)

Week 11

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (NTULearn)

Week 12

Rowling, *Harry Potter*

Week 13

Rowling, *Harry Potter* (continued) AND Semester Review

****Final Papers Due: TBA by 5pm****