



HL 2040 | Adapting the Classics

Nanyang Technological University
Division of English
HL 2040 Adapting the Classics
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Course Description

Ancient stories from classical literature have inspired many later authors to reconsider and revisit the power of the mythological narrative. Through selected readings of classical works and a careful examination of their adaptations, this course will examine how themes in the classical literary tradition are used in a variety of adaptations that responds to different historical and cultural contexts. We will examine the use of language and imagery in adaptations of classical works. Students will be encouraged to explore the subject in depth and acquire a sense of contexts in terms of the intellectual landscapes that shape the study of literature and culture.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to

1. develop critical reading, writing and research skills through the study of classical literature and its adaptations,
2. demonstrate an understanding of literary devices used in classical narratives and encourages students to trace how these devices are still important in the analysis of modern literature.
3. identify major characters in classical literature will also be used as context to trace the foundations of the Western literary tradition,
4. explain the significance of the materials covered in the course and how they related to your projects, engage with secondary scholarly resources that help broaden your interpretive strategies in approaching classical literature, and employ these resources professionally in your critical,
5. raise critically informed questions in class discussion and assignments which sustain an extended critical treatment of a major author/text.

Course Guidelines

- Use of course resources from course blog: All materials distributed in class and on the course blog are meant to be used for class lectures and discussions only. They are not to be re-distributed outside of class for any other purposes. If you wish to use the materials for your assignments, you must cite them accordingly.
- You are welcome to make an appointment to see me in my office if you have any concerns about the course. Please keep in mind that appointments should be arranged at least 3 working days in advance.
- All materials distributed in class and on the course blog are strictly meant for class lectures and assignments only. These materials are protected by copyright laws and are not to be re-distributed outside of class for any other purposes. If you wish to use the materials for your assignments, you must cite them accordingly.
- If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to check our course blog for updates or announcements that you may have missed.
- Late assignments: written assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty of half a grade each day (including weekends and holidays); if I do not receive an assignment a week after it is due, you will receive a 0 for the essay.

- Absence in class: if you are absent on the day when an in-class writing assignment is due, you will not be able to make-up for this. Those who are absent for presentations will not have the opportunity to make-up their work in another group's presentation.
- Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity. If you are not familiar with plagiarism guidelines, please consult the university's plagiarism policy here: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>

Course Assessment

Final Essay	30%
Presentation &	20%
Participation Final Exam	50%

Required Texts:

- Barker, Pat. *The Silence of the Girls*
- Heaney, Seamus (trans.). *Aeneid Book VI* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, ISBN: 978-0374104191)*
- Hughes, Ted (trans.) *Aeschylus' The Oresteia* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, ISBN: 978-0374527051)*
- Homer. *The Iliad* (Trans. Richmond Lattimore) (University of Chicago Press, 1962. ISBN: 978-0226470498)*
- Malouf, David. *Ransom*. (Vintage, 2010. ISBN: 978-0307475244)

*You are required to use these editions of the texts. Pls. note that other editions will not be acceptable—they will be entirely different from the ones used in this course.

Tentative Reading Schedule

Week	Topic	Deadlines
Week 1 14 Jan.	Introduction: Classical Literature and Adaptations	
Week 2 The War 21 Jan.	Excerpts from Homer's <i>Iliad</i> Books I-IV pp. 59-127	
Week 3 The War 28 Jan.	Excerpts from Homer's <i>Iliad</i> Book XVI and XVIII pp. 330-353; 375-385	
Week 4 The War 4 Feb.	<i>Excerpts from Homer's Iliad</i> Book XIX-XX and Book XXII pp. 392-417; 435-449	
Week 5 Victims of War 11 Feb.	Pat Barker's <i>Silence of the Girls</i> Ovid's <i>Heroides and Amores</i> (under "E-Resources" on course blog)	
Week 6 Victims of War 18 Feb.	Pat Barker's <i>Silence of the Girls</i>	
Week 7 The Aftermath 25 Feb.	David Malouf's <i>Ransom</i>	
Week 8 The Aftermath 10 Mar.	David Malouf's <i>Ransom</i>	
Week 9 The Aftermath 17 Mar.	Jean Racine's <i>Andromaque</i> (under "E-Resources" on course blog)	
Week 10 Resettlement 24 Mar.	Seamus Heaney's <i>Virgil's Aeneid Book VI</i>	Essay due
Week 11 Homecoming 31 Mar.	Ted Hughes' <i>Aeschylus' Oresteia: Agamemnon</i>	
Week 12 Homecoming 7 Apr.	Ted Hughes' <i>Aeschylus' Oresteia: Choephoroi</i>	
Week 13 Review 14 Apr.	Exam Review	