Eng 576: The Classical Tradition (Spring Semester 2008)
Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00; UC 308/EV 154

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Office Hours: Wed. after class, Thurs 2-3 (Huntsville), & by appointment

Course Description: Eng 576 studies the Greek and Roman literary heritage and its influence upon subsequent texts. We will read ancient Greek and Latin texts in translation, with special emphasis on the Greeks and how the Romans later adapted their works; our approach to these texts will be from historical, cultural, theoretical, and contextual angles. Students will write a thesis-driven research paper on the classical tradition’s influence on later literary texts and will share their work by circulating proposals of their papers and presenting them to the class. Students will also critique their peers’ proposals, write five critical assessments of secondary sources (out of ten), complete a scholarly project on a select primary text, formally lead part of a class discussion, and write a final cumulative exam.

Course Objectives:
- To explore and better understand relevant literary and critical terminology
- To develop graduate-level critical and analytical skills through oral communication (in-class discussions and presentations; Blackboard postings) and written assignments
- To become familiar with the Classical Tradition and thereby gain a deeper appreciation of it by exploring the historical and cultural contexts in which Greek and Roman texts were written

Texts: The texts we are reading this semester are in translation, and no two translations are alike. For this reason, you must use only the following editions. No exceptions.

Archilochos. Selections [handout]
Aristotle. *Poetics*. [handout]
Geoffrey Chaucer. *Bok of the Duchesse*. [handout]
---*House of Fame*. [handout]

Requirements & Grading: Students are expected to meet the demands of this rigorous course. Your full participation and completion of all assignments is the minimum requirement to possibly pass the course. Class participation and attendance is expected (more than two absences will result in a 5% final grade penalty). You are also expected to have completed all readings by the assigned dates and to submit assignments on time (and in hard copy unless otherwise noted on the syllabus). Late assignments will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made in advance. Your grade will be based on the following:

Assignments: Percentages: Due Dates:
Critical Reading Assessments (1 page): 10% Weekly (five out of ten)
Class Discussion Guide (1 page): 10% Sign-up (week one)
Scholarly Project (4-5 pages): 15% February 27
Proposal (3-4 pages with ann bib): 15% April 16 (present April 23 and 30)
Proposal Critiques: 5% (April 23 and 30)
Paper (15-20 pages): 25% April 30 or May 6 (which is a Tuesday)
Final Exam (10-12 pages): 20% May 14

NB: For more information on general university policies, visit shsu.edu/syllabus/; on classroom rules of conduct, see shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html. You are expected to know these policies and procedures. You will be asked to complete a course evaluation form at the end of the semester.
Course Schedule: The following is a tentative plan; deviation may be necessary.

January 16: The Greek Bronze and Dark Ages
The Minoans and Mycenaeans; Fall of Troy and the collapse of the Mycenaean world
Sign up for Class Discussions

January 23: The Archaic Age and Epic Cycles
The Greek Renaissance; Homer and Homeric; the Epic Cycles; Mythology & Religion
*Homer. Iliad (Books 1-2) and “Introduction”; Archilochos [handout]
CRA #1 [everyone must submit]

January 30: Epic
*Homer. Iliad and Odyssey
CRA #2

February 6: Epic
*Homer. Odyssey

February 13: Epic
*Homer. Odyssey; Hesiod. Works and Days; Theogony [excerpts]
CRA #3

February 20: Classical Greece and the Rise of Attic Drama
Persian Wars, Athenian Democracy and the City Dionysia, Tragedy and Comedy
*Aristotle. Poetics [excerpts]
CRA #4 [everyone must submit]

February 27: Tragedy: Aeschylus
*Aeschylus. Oresteia.
CRA #5

March 5: Tragedy: Sophocles
*Aeschylus. Oresteia; Sophocles. Theban Plays
CRA #6

March 12: Spring Break
Sign up for Presentations (Blackboard)

March 19: Tragedy: Euripides; The Romans
*Euripides. Hippolytus
From Roman Republic to Empire
CRA #7

March 26 No Class [39th Annual CEA Conference]

April 2: Roman Epic
*Virgil. Aeneid.
CRA #8

April 9: Literary Transformations
*Ovid. Metamorphoses.
CRA #9

April 16: The Classical Tradition and Chaucer
*Chaucer. Boke of the Duchesse; House of Fame
Post Paper Proposals (Blackboard)
CRA#10

April 23
Presentations
Paper Presentations (papers will be due April 30, hardcopy)

April 30
Presentations
Paper Presentations (papers will be due May 6, [TUESDAY] hardcopy)

May 7: NO CLASS [42nd Int’l Congress on ME Studies] Final Exam Posted

Final Exam: due by May 14, 2008, 5:00 p.m., format TBA.

NB: an asterisks indicates a reading assignment. Everyone must submit CRA #1 and #4