

Classics: Homer to Dante

DAVID SCOTT WILSON-OKAMURA · ENGL 3600 · AUTUMN 2011 · EAST CAROLINA UNIV.

- Aug. 24 W What is a classic?
26 F HOMER, *Odyssey*, books 1–3. Use glossary for names.
29 M *Od.* 4–6
31 W *Od.* 7–9
Sept. 2 F *Od.* 10–12
6 T **Labor Break Make-Up Day: *Od.* 13–15**
7 W *Od.* 16–18
9 F *Od.* 19–21
12 M *Od.* 22–24
14 W VIRGIL, *Aeneid*, book 1. Use glossary for names.
16 F *Aen.* 2
19 M *Aen.* 3
21 W *Aen.* 4
23 F *Aen.* 5
26 M *Aen.* 6
28 W *Aen.* 6 (cont.)
30 F *Aen.* 7
Oct. 3 M *Aen.* 8
5 W *Aen.* 9, 10
7 F *Aen.* 11
10 M **Fall Break**
12 W *Aen.* 12
14 F *Aen.* 12 (cont.)
17 M DANTE, *Inferno*, cantos 1–4 (prologue and pre-hell). Read the notes for each canto as well.
19 W *Inf.* 5–9 (lust, gluttony, greed, wrath, the gate of Dis)
21 F *Inf.* 10–13 (heresy, violence against people and property, suicide)
24 M *Inf.* 14–17 (violence against God)
26 W *Inf.* 18–22 (seduction, flattery, simony, sorcery, barratry)
28 F *Inf.* 23–27 (hypocrisy, thieves, fraudulent counselors)
31 M *Inf.* 28–31 (sowers of discord, alchemists, forgers, liars)
Nov. 2 W *Inf.* 32–34 (traitors)
4 F *Purgatorio* 1–3 (shores of Mt. Purgatory)
7 M *Purg.* 9–13 (terrace of pride)
9 W *Purg.* 17–21 (organization of purgatory; Virgil and Statius)
11 F *Purg.* 22, 25–27 (gluttony; terrace of the lustful; Virgil's leave-taking).
14 M *Purg.* 28–31 (arrival of Beatrice)
16 W *Purg.* 32–33 (prophecy)
18 F *Paradiso* 1
21 M *Par.* 2–5 (moon)
23 W **Thanksgiving Break**
25 F **Thanksgiving Break**
28 M *Par.* 18–20 (Jupiter)
30 W *Par.* 21–22 (Saturn)
Dec. 2 F *Par.* 28–33 (beatific vision)
5 M What is a classic?

REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes (25%). Monday and Friday quizzes are based on the reading for that day. Friday quizzes are based on the previous two days of lecture and discussion; you may use your notes but not your books. Each quiz is worth 1% and there will be 26 quizzes. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes. However, because there is an extra (26th) quiz, you can miss one quiz without harming your grade. Think of it as a free pass: you can use it to go to the beach, or you can use it when you're sick. Because this system is based on numbers, you don't need to explain why you missed class; the math will take care of it automatically. Of course, you'll still be responsible for the material discussed in class. But once you've used that free pass, it's gone. My advice is to save it for when you're sick or need to care for a relative.

Biweekly Analysis (75%). Every other Monday, you will submit a written analysis of the previous two weeks' discussion. Because of Labor day, the first analysis will be due Tue., Sept. 6; thereafter, analyses will be due on alternate Mondays, beginning Sept. 19.

What does a good analysis look like? First, it is not the same thing as a response paper. Nor is it a transcript of your class notes turned back into prose. Above all it is not a plot summary. It is a synthesis, rather, of ideas discussed in class. This is a short assignment, so you will not be able to cover everything that we talked about in the previous two weeks. Instead, you will need to decide which were the principal ideas. Organize your writing around those ideas and choose examples to illustrate them.

The use of phrases such as *I think*, *I believe*, and *I feel* is strongly discouraged. You don't need to report who said what, either.

A good analysis will summarize the content of discussion, but it will also evaluate that discussion: for instance, what got left out of our conversation and why does it matter? Don't just say, "We didn't talk about *x*." Say something about *x* and push the conversation forward. As a general rule, one part evaluation to two parts analytical summary is a good balance.

- Length: 900–1,200 words, not including long quotations. When you're done, do a word count (your word processor can do this for you) and write the result on the first page of your paper.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer. Ask someone at the computer lab if you don't know how to do this already.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you have trouble with these, I recommend *Grammar in Plain English* by Harriet Diamond and Phyllis Dutwin.
- Double-space. Use 12 point Times Roman.

Characteristics of an F Paper

Material from class discussion is scanty or disorganized. The cure is usually better notetaking during class.

No word count or too short.

Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.

Characteristics of a D Paper

Material from class discussion is scanty or disorganized. The cure is usually better notetaking during class.

No word count or too short.

Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.

Characteristics of a C Paper

Main points from class discussion are accurately summarized, clearly organized.

Word count \geq assigned length.

Some mechanical errors, but not more than one a page.

Characteristics of a B Paper

Material from class discussion is reorganized to make new points (=synthesis).

Word count \geq assigned length.

A few mechanical errors, but not distracting.

Characteristics of an A Paper

Synthesis + critique. What did our discussion omit? Poses fresh questions, offers new hypothesis.

Word count \geq assigned length.

The writing is finely crafted, elegant as well as clean.

Midterm and Final Exams. There will be no midterm or final exams in this course.

Please don't read, send, or monitor **text messages** in class. Please do turn off your **cell phone ringer** before class begins. **Laptops and tablets** might be helpful in some courses, but not this one; please keep them shut during class.

EXTENSIONS

Everyone gets a two-day extension on two analyses over the course of the semester. You choose which ones. You don't need to ask me ahead of time: just hand in a sheet of paper with the date and your name on it that says, "I'm taking my first (or second) extension on this paper." In the interest of fairness, no one will be granted a third extension.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas in such a way that they seem like your own. Give credit where credit is due; if you don't, it's cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask them before a paper is due; after a paper is handed in it's too late to claim ignorance. If you do it in this class, expect an F for the course. I will also report the offense and, if you've done it before, ECU may impose additional penalties, such as suspension or expulsion.

Finally, be sure that the paper you hand in to me is your final draft. If I find plagiarism, and you explain that you gave me the wrong draft, I will feel bad for both of us, but I will still give you an F for the course. So check before you turn something in and make sure it really is your final draft. Better yet, avoid plagiarism in all of your drafts.

ACCOMMODATIONS

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 (Voice/TTY 252-737-1016).

OFFICE HOURS, EMAIL

Office: Bate 2137

Office hours: MWF 10:50-11:30, 2:00-3:00. This spans two class periods: if you have class during both, grab me after class or call me on the telephone and we'll set up an appointment. My home number is in the book but, please, no phone calls after 9:00 pm.

Email: Instead of exchanging emails, let's have a conversation. That's what office hours are for.

DO YOU NEED A MINOR?

This course is taught in the English department and counts toward the English major. It also counts toward the Classics major and minor; for more information, see www.ecu.edu/classics or subscribe to our blog, Athena's Owl (<http://blogs.aos.ecu.edu/athenasowl>).