

Comparative and World Literature 241  
Fall 2005  
Michael Palencia-Roth et al.

Comparative Literature 241 introduces the student to the history of western literature and thought, from some of its earliest known texts (for instance, “The Epic of Creation,” Gilgamesh, and Genesis) through the Greeks (Hesiod, Homer, Sappho, Aristophanes) to the epic poet of Rome (Virgil), and on to the European Middle Ages and Renaissance. Here we begin with the North-African St. Augustine and then go on to the crusades (principally The Song of Roland) and the epic poet of Italy (Dante). We will look at Petrarch (“Ascent of Mount Ventoux”) as an answer to Dante’s worldview, consider the conquest of Mexico from both Spanish and indigenous perspectives, and we will end with Montaigne, Marlowe, and Cervantes – troubled exemplars, all three, of the birth of the modern out the medieval worldview.

**From *Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Book 1:***

Wednesday, August 24: Introduction & *Gilgamesh* (prologue)  
Friday, August 26: *Gilgamesh*, 1-2 – 62-74.  
Monday, August 29: *Gilgamesh*, 3-4 – 74-85. COMMENTARY 1 DUE  
Wednesday, August 31: *Gilgamesh*, 5, 6, 7 – 86-91.  
Friday, September 2: *Bible*, “Cain & Abel” and “The Flood,” 144-149.  
Monday, September 5: **(Labor Day: No Classes)**  
Wednesday, September 7: *Bible*, “Creation & Fall,” 140-144; “Epic of Creation,” ll. 1-20 – 44-45  
Friday, September 9: Hesiod, *Theogony* and *Works and Days*, 263-277.  
Monday, September 12: Homer, *Iliad* 1 – 288-308. COMMENTARY 2 DUE  
Wednesday, September 14: Homer, *Iliad* 6 – 308-320.  
Friday, September 16: Homer, *Iliad* 9 – 323-344.  
Monday, September 19: Homer, *Iliad* 22 – 381-396. COMMENTARY 3 DUE  
Wednesday, September 21: Homer, *Iliad* 24 – 396-420.  
Friday, September 23: Homer, *Odyssey* 9 – 529-544.  
Monday, September 26: Sappho, Lyrics – 794-798. ESSAY 1 DUE  
Wednesday, September 28: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (all) – 1049-1082.  
Friday, September 30: Aristophanes continued  
Monday, October 3: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, 1 – 1181-1195. COMMENTARY 4 DUE  
Wednesday, October 5: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, 2 – 1195-1215.  
Friday, October 7: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, 4 – 1222-1240.  
Monday, October 10: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, 6 – 1240-1265.  
Wednesday, October 12: **EXAM**

**From *Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Book 2:***

Friday, October 14: St. Augustine, *Confessions* 1 & 2 – 70-82.  
Monday, October 17: St. Augustine, *Confessions* 3, 6, & 8 – 82-96.  
Wednesday, October 19: Pope Urban II’s “Call to the First Crusade,” – 588-590  
& *The Song of Roland* – 546-564.  
Friday, October 21: *The Song of Roland* – 564-577.  
Monday, October 24: Dante, *Inferno, canto 1* – 689-694. COMMENTARY 5 DUE  
Wednesday, October 26: Dante, *Inferno, cantos 2, 3, 4* – 694-708.  
Friday, October 28: Dante, *Inferno, cantos 5, 6* – 708-717.  
Monday, October 31: Dante, *Inferno, cantos 11, 15* – 735-738; 753-757. COMMENTARY 6 DUE  
Wednesday, November 2: Dante, *Inferno, cantos 32, 33, 34* – 834-848.

**From *Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Book 3:***

Friday, November 4: Petrarch, “The Ascent of Mount Ventoux,” – 74-79.  
Monday, November 7: FREE

Wednesday, November 9: Aztec account of “the Conquest of Mexico” – 736-757; Cortés, “Letters from Mexico, 783-789. COMMENTARY 7 DUE  
Friday, November 11: Las Casas, “Are not the Indians Men?” & “The Destruction of the Indies,” – 793-796. Montaigne, “Of Coaches,” – 797-803.  
Monday, November 14: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part I, 1 – 262-265.  
Wednesday, November 16: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part I, 2, 7, 8, 10 – 266-280.  
Friday, November 18: *Quod libes*

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

Monday, November 28: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part II, 3, 4, 5 – 296-308. COMMENTARY 8 DUE  
Wednesday, November 30: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part II, 22, 23 – 308-318.  
Friday, December 1: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part II, 73, 74 – 376-383.  
Monday, December 5: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Acts I-III – 389-425. ESSAY 2 DUE  
Wednesday, December 7: Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, Acts IV, V – 425-451.  
Friday, December 9: Last day of classes: Evaluations & review.

The text for the course: *The Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Books 1, 2 & 3.*

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### Course policies and grading:

- 1) On plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of someone else’s work and passing it off as your own. Please consult the appropriate University handbooks for further details. The penalties for plagiarism can be severe: from failure for that particular assignment to failure for the course, even to dismissal from the University. Your work will be checked for plagiarism, both among and between graders and through the use of plagiarism detection software. Similar policies on cheating also apply. You are expected to do your own work.
- 2) Attendance is not taken in the course. However, there will be a number of pop quizzes during the semester. Each will be graded, and the two lowest grades will be dropped. The quizzes may be given in either the lecture or the discussion sections. If you are not there for the pop quiz, that quiz will be graded as an “F”. The quizzes cannot be made up. – 10%
- 3) There will be one midterm examination. – 20%.
- 4) There will be two 1000-word essays. – 30%. Or, 15% each.
- 5) There will be a final examination. – 20%
- 6) There will be 8 critical commentaries, each a minimum of 500 words (and you may write up to 1,000 words). – 15%.

I will give you instructions concerning each commentary. Although these commentaries are informal in nature, my aim is to develop in you a writing style that is fluid, thoughtful, intelligent, and engaging.

- 7) Participation. – 5%