A. Course Description and Goals:

"Through lectures, discussions, and presentations by visiting faculty, the course provides Honours students with an enriched survey of the discipline of literary studies. Topics of discussion will be drawn from bibliography and research methods, critical approaches to literature, literary history, genre studies, rhetoric, media perspectives, and other areas of scholarly interest." Course calendar description.

As the description indicates, 301H is an overview of the discipline of literary studies for Honours Literature majors only. As such, the course naturally organizes itself around two interrelated questions: (1) What is the object of these studies? (i.e., what is literature?); (2) How are these studies conducted? In this section of the course, we will discover some answers to these questions by returning to the beginning, to one of the first and founding texts of literature in the Western world, Homer’s *The Odyssey*. Composed in its final form, scholars believe, in the middle and later part of the eighth century BCE, *The Odyssey* (and its companion epic *The Iliad*) inaugurates the institutions of both literature and literary studies in the West. All questions of literary production (literature) and reception (literary studies) either begin with it or are directly related to its multiple and intensely structured modes of narration. Given the restrictions of time, we will mostly address ourselves in lecture and discussion to the first of our two interrelated questions. We will primarily be reading or studying the text with a close attention to its own foregrounding of literature, literariness, and narration. In this reading, we will be assisted by several contemporary critical and theoretical texts that will provide us with some indicators or vocabulary to organize our reading.

As the course description also suggests, 301H is also an overview of literary studies in the English Department at the University of Waterloo. Accordingly, we have five faculty members make presentations on how they have conducted and/or are conducting their literary (and non-literary) studies.

B: Required texts:


*English 301H: Honours Literary Studies (Main Campus)* coursepackage.
C. Class schedule:

SEPTEMBER:

Week 1
10: Introduction
12: Homer and Literature, Reading: Roland Barthes, “From Work to Text”
14: The Beginning: the Proem and First Divine Assembly: Polytropos and Theodicy

Week 2
17: Book 1: Telemachiad: Theoxeny
19: Books 2 and 3: Telemachus in Ithaca and with Nestor
21: Book 4: Telemachus with Menelaus and Helen

Week 3
26: Book 5: Entry into Narrative Time, Reading: Derrida, “Plato’s Pharmacy”
28: Book 6: Nausicaa

OCTOBER:

Week 4
1: Book 7: Phaecian Boundary between Narrative Worlds

Week 5
12: Book 11: Nekyia

Week 6
15: Book 12: Sirens, Scylla and Charybdis, Oxen of the Sun
17: Books 1-12: Beginning to Middle
19: Mid-term

Week 7
22: Visitor 1: Prof. Sarah Tolmey
24: Books 13 and 14: Return to Ithaca: Narrative by Other Means
26: Books 15 and 16: Father and Son
Week 8
29: V2: Prof. Randy Harris
31: Books 17 and 18: Recognition and Fictions

NOVEMBER:

2: Book 19: Penelope and Naming

Week 9
5: V3: Prof. Ken Hirschkop
7: Books 20 and 21: Testing
9: Book 22: Odysseus, Man of ________

Week 10
12: V4: Prof. Fraser Easton
14: Book 22: The Iliadic Odyssey
16: Book 23: Loom, Mast, Bed

Week 11
19: V5: Prof. Linda Warley
21: Book 23 and 24: The Anti-Odysseys
23: Book 24: Beginning, Middle, Ending

Week 12
26: Summing up: The Complete Epic
28: " 
30: " Second essay due.

DECEMBER:

3: Review

D. Assignments and Marks:

1. First essay: Due: October 10; Worth: 15%; Length: 5-6 pages (1500-1800 words); topics to be assigned. MLA system of citation required.


3. Second essay: Due: November 30; Worth: 35%; Length: 8-10 pages (2400-3000 words);
topics to be assigned. MLA system of citation required.

4. **Final examination.** Time: TBA, two hours, thirty minutes. Format: two short essays based on identification and discussion of passages from texts on course (worth 25% each) and one longer essay on themes central to the course (worth 50%). All three will be in response to a choice of quotations and questions. Worth: 35%.

E. Notices

*Attendance and participation:*
Attendance at all classes and participation in discussion is expected of all students. To succeed fully in the course, students will have to participate in this process. **In order to participate, you must have the assigned text with you in class.**

*Late penalties:*
Assignments are due on the due date. All extensions must be arranged with me before the due date. Extensions longer than five days (Saturday and Sunday count as “days”) will require documentation. A penalty of 2% per day will be taken for late assignments.

**Note on plagiarism:**

The Faculty of Arts requires that the following statement on the **avoidance of academic offences, including plagiarism,** be included on all Arts course outlines:

"Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

Note: On November 18/02, Senate passed a motion that all course outlines also contain the following reference to the student’s right to grieve: **“Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html.”**

For guidance on avoiding plagiarism and other academic offences, please consult the Arts Faculty Web page, **“How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors”** (http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html).

English 301H: Section 01, Fall 2007