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.

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:

C. Class schedule:

SEPTEMBER:

Week 1
8: Introduction
10: Homer and Literature
12: The Beginning: the Proem and First Divine Assembly: *Polytropos* and Theodicy

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

Week 3
22: Book 5: The Man of Many Turns
24: Book 5: Entry into Narrative Time
26: Book 6: Nausicaa

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

OCTOBER:

1: Book 8: Demodocus, Homeric Bard

Week 5
6: Book 9: Cyclops. **First essay due.**
8: Book 10: Circe.
10: Book 11: Nekyia.

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

Week 7
20: Mid-term
22: V1: Prof. Katherine Acheson
24: Books 13 and 14: Return: Narrative by Other Means
Week 8
27: V2: Prof. Kate Lawson
29: Books 15 and 16: Father and Son
31: Books 17 and 18: Recognition and Fictions

NOVEMBER:

Week 9
3: V3: Prof. Kevin McGuirk
5: Book 19: Naming
7: Book 19: Penelope

Week 10
10: V4: Prof. Heather Smyth
12: Book 20: The Gothic Odyssey
14: Book 21: The Bride Contest

Week 11
17: V5: Prof. Aimee Morrison
19: Book 22: Odysseus, Man of ______
21: Book 22: The Odyssey as Western

Week 12

DECEMBER:

3: Summing up: The Complete Epic.

D. Assignments and Marks:

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

2. Mid-term examination: Time: October 20, in class, fifty minutes. Format: one essay in response to one of two questions. Worth: 15%.

3. Second essay: Due: November 28; 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 and the University of Waterloo require that the following notes be on all course outlines.

*Academic Integrity:* in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

*Grievance:* A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,  
http://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPoliciespolicy70htm

*Discipline:* A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPoliciespolicy71htm

*Appeals:* A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,  
http://wwwadm.uwaterloocainfosecPoliciespolicy72htm

English 301H: Section 01, Fall 2007