

English 301H Honours Literary Studies (Lec 001)
M-W 1:30-2:50, DEW 3519

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A. Course Description and Objectives:

“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, our objective is to discover some answers to these questions by returning to the beginning, to one of the first and founding texts of the literary tradition 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, our objective is to address ourselves in lecture and discussion mostly 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. At the end of the course, we will be reading four examples from the literary tradition that *The Odyssey* inaugurates: Virgil’s *Aeneid II and III*; Dante’s Canto 26 from *Inferno*; Tennyson’s “Ulysses”; Joyce’s “Telemachus,” “Calypso,” “Lotus Eaters” from *Ulysses*.

B: Required texts:


*Excerpts from the Odysseus-Ulysses Tradition*. (Engl 301H: Fall Courseware).

C. Class schedule:

SEPTEMBER:

Week 1
10:  Introduction
12:  Homer, the Oral Formulaic, and Writing

*The Son, the Mother, and the Father:* Telemachiad (Books 1-4); Approach to Rings 1 and 2 (Book 5)
Week 2
17: The Beginning: the Proem and First Divine Assembly; Book 1: Telemachus, Athena, Penelope, and the Suitors
19: Books 2 and 3: Assembly in Ithaca and Adventure 1 with Nestor

Week 3
24: Book 4: Adventure 2 with Menelaus and Helen; Book 5: Odysseus on Ogygia
26: Book 5: From Ogygia to Phaeacia

OCTOBER:

Ring 1: Phaeacia and the Apologia (Books 6-12)

Week 4
1: Book 6: Nausicaa; Book 7 and 8: Phaeacia and Demodocus
3: Book 9: Odysseus’ Apologia: Three triplets (Books 9-12)

Week 5

Week 6
17: Book 11: Nekyia and Circe b and c.

Week 7
22: Book 12: Third triplet and Scylla and Charybdis a, Oxen of the Sun, and Scylla and Charybdis b.
24: Ring 1: Phaeacia

Mid-point of the epic

Week 8
22: Mid-term

Ring 2: Ithaca and the Slaughter (Books 13-22)

24: Books 13 and 14: Return

Week 9
29: Books 15 and 16: Father and Son
31: Books 17 and 18: Return to the oikos
NOVEMBER;
Week 10
5: Book 19: Naming; Penelope
7: Book 20 and 21: The Bride Contest

Week 11
12: Book 22: The Slaughter of the Suitors
14: Book 23: The histos

Week 12
19: Book 23 and 24: The Anti-Odysseys; Rings 1 and 2: Phaeacia and Ithaca
21: The Odysseus-Ulysses Tradition. Virgil, Aeneid II

Week 13
26: Virgil, Aeneid III; Dante, Canto 26, Inferno.

DECEMBER
3: “Calypso,” “Lotus Eaters,” Ulysses; 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.
2. Mid-term examination: Time: October 22, 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: 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:**

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

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm)

**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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm)

**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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** [http://uwwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)