

ENG 22071–003 (20834)—Great Books I

Wesley Raabe
Class Meets MWF 11:00 am–11:50 am, Merrill Hall, 103
Satterfield Office, Rm. 202c, M W 9:30–10:45
Office Phone: 672-1723

E-mail: wraabe@kent.edu (preferred)
Library Office, Rm. 1118
T 9:00–12:00 and Th afternoon, by appt.
Office Phone: 672-2092 (during hours only)

Course Description

The formal catalog description of this course is as follows: “Great works of world literature read in English from ancient world to 1700, covering a wide range of ethnic and national voices, genres and traditions.”

Course Goals

I have established a set of course goals. These goals, given in brief form below, are published on Blackboard Vista in expanded form.

1. To know the material conditions of texts
2. To know the text in a larger context of creation and adaptation
3. To know the text in a larger context of the human condition
4. To present, orally, a question or observation that prompts others to respond
5. To propose a relationship between a small section of a text (one passage, or a small number of passages) and the text’s larger contexts
6. To present the text in a new context
7. To respond with sympathy and understanding to other views
8. To present your own work in an appropriate form

We will work toward these goals by developing a process for reading that will be more ambitious (and time-consuming) than reading for surface understanding. And as we gain greater understanding and insight, we will also develop the skill of sharing insights with one another.

Textbooks and Materials

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Trans. Fagles, Publisher: Penguin

Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*, Trans. Cooper, Publisher: Hackett

Book of Job, Trans. Scheindlin, Publisher: W. W. Norton

Malory, *King Arthur and His Knights: Selected Tales*, Ed. Vinaver, Publisher: Oxford

Cervantez, *Don Quixote*, Trans. Grossman, Publisher: Harper

Access to Blackboard Vista (formerly Web CT) and account on WordPress for blog (instructions to follow)

Grades

20%	Blog and In-Class Participation
20%	In-Class Quizzes
50%	Exams
10%	Final Blog Portfolio

In-Class Participation

Participation during in-class discussion is preferred. A smaller number of high-quality contributions is valued more than contributions of great quantity. A handout on the art of Sprezzatura will list suggestions for developing high-quality oral contributions. Active in-class participation can complement blog posts and assignments and improve your grade, but in-class verbal participation cannot substitute for blog posts and quizzes.

In-Class Quizzes

Short in-class quizzes will review the reading and discussion from the previous class. You will be expected to recognize major character and place names, identify basic plot events, and comment on the significance of brief quotations. If you miss a quiz because you are absent or late, you will receive a grade of “0” on the quiz. At end of semester, I will drop the two lowest quiz grades from average. Quizzes, which are part of in-class participation, may only be taken in class.

Blog Posts

You will contribute 8 blog posts of approximately 250 words to the class blog (2 posts for each major work, 1 post for each minor work). A blog post is your opportunity to build on in-class discussion and to contribute your own observations. A handout will list requirements and suggestions for blog posts. A blog post may be submitted anytime before the due date. But the post must be submitted by 8:00 pm on the due date. Blog posts can complement active in-class participation, and ambitious blog posts can compensate entirely for limited in-class participation. Blog assignments are submitted only in electronic format. The quality of blog posts will be reflected in your participation grade. Also see “Final Blog Portfolio.”

Final Blog Portfolio

At semester’s end, you will be asked to prepare a Final Blog Portfolio. At that time, you will revise and expand your three strongest blog posts to 400 words each. You will also be asked to contribute a 200-word narrative about the purpose of your expanded blog posts. A handout will list requirements, and you will be required to make an office visit to discuss the Final Blog Portfolio submission. These revised posts should develop ideas from earlier blog posts into a more ambitious presentation, and the printed result should resemble three short college-level papers.

Exams

Three essay exams count toward 50% of your grade. The exam will consist of essay questions, which will be provided before the exam. If you miss class on an exam date with an unexcused absence, you will receive a one-grade deduction for that exam and must complete a make-up exam. For an excused absence with formal notification, you may take custom exam with no grade deduction. If you miss two exam dates or fail two exams—grade below D—you will automatically fail the course.

Absences and Disruptions

You are permitted to miss the equivalent of up to 1 week of classes (3 sessions) on non-exam days with no formal penalty to your participation grade for the absences. Additional absences will result in a formal deduction to your participation grade as well as a grade of “0” for missed quizzes. Each unexcused absence beyond the 3rd will harm participation grade, and each set of three additional absences will result in a one-grade reduction in the final average. For 6 absences, subtract one letter grade from final average. For 9 absences, subtract two letter grades from final average.

Update: Given the notices on swine flu (H1N1), I have modified course policies. For absences that are attributed to flu-like symptoms, you may make up one quiz or turn in one blog assignment late without penalty. You will earn full credit for the make-up. A flu-related absence on a major exam date will be treated as an excused absence, but the custom exam option will apply. One additional flu-related absence will be allowed before the penalty for excessive absences is applied.

I will distinguish between excused (family crises, illness, university activity) and unexcused absences. To grant an excused absence, I expect formal notification (email or voice mail message) as soon as practicable. In the case of family matters or serious illness, please send me a brief message as soon as practical. For scheduled university activities, contact me **BEFORE** the expected absence. So that I can arrange make-up exams or quizzes, please provide a one-week notice prior to the absence.

Keep disruptions to a minimum. Before class begins, silence or turn off electronic devices (pager, phone, etc.). Conversations unrelated to class should be held outside of class, and minimize communication (talk, text, or tweet) that distracts you or others from class. If you need to consult with the instructor, brief matters can be discussed immediately after class. For matters demanding more time, send an email, drop by during office hours, or schedule an appointment. Arrive in class on time, and do not leave early. If you arrive more than ten minutes late or leave before class is dismissed, expect to be counted absent.

Maintaining Communication

Regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused, you are responsible for checking on Blackboard Vista, on class blog, and with classmate to see what you missed. I recommend also that you visit during my office hours or contact me by email. Missing a scheduled office visit without a 4-hour notification (email preferred) will be counted as an absence.

An extended series of absences without communicating with the professor is a serious disruption, which must be addressed with a formal effort to reinstate yourself in the class. Any of the following three events demand that you initiate an action to reinstate yourself: missing more than three classes in a row, missing an exam, missing a blog due date and the subsequent class. If you have not formally dropped and wish to continue in the course, you are required to send an email of explanation and schedule an office visit within two days after returning to class.

Registration Requirement

Please observe the official registration deadline for the course. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class that they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

Accommodations for Documented Disability

University Policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, **you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services** (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

Cheating and Plagiarism

I have posted a Blackboard Vista assignment in which you affirm your familiarity with the university's cheating and plagiarism policy and in which sanctions for cheating and plagiarism are described. You must complete the assignment before you can earn credit for written submissions or quizzes. If you cheat on a quiz, you will receive a permanent "0" on your quiz average. If you cheat on an exam or present falsified information to avoid due dates, you will automatically fail the course. If significant sections of writing presented as your own (blog posts or papers) are plagiarized, you earn a permanent grade of "0" for the work in question. For cases of possibly inadvertent misrepresentations (citation omitted, quotation presented as paraphrase), you earn a permanent deduction of one letter grade. For cheating or plagiarism offenses deemed serious—which undermine the integrity of assigned grades—you will earn a grade of "F" for the course. I will forward the evidence to the department chair, have the charge added to your record, recommend further judicial sanction, and pursue the case during the appeals process.

Class Schedule

The class schedule is an attempt to plan the entire class. In response to pedagogical or scheduling concerns, I may alter or revise the schedule. I will notify you of revisions and publish a revised version on Blackboard. When a reading is assigned for a date, you should complete the day's reading BEFORE class.

M	31-Aug	Syllabus and Course Introduction
W	2-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 1–2
F	4-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 3–4
M	7-Sep	No Class. Labor Day Observance.
W	9-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 5–7
F	11-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 8–9 Blog Post I Due, 8:00 pm
M	14-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 10–12
W	16-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 13–16
F	18-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 17–20 Interlude: <i>O, Brother</i>
M	21-Sep	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> , books 21–24 Interlude: Tennyson, “Ulysses” Blog Post II Due, 8:00 pm
W	23-Sep	Exam 1: <i>The Odyssey</i>
F	25-Sep	<i>Book of Job</i> , “Legend” and “Curse.” In Bible, Chapters 1–3
M	28-Sep	<i>Book of Job</i> , “First Round.” In Bible, Chapters 4–14
W	30-Sep	<i>Book of Job</i> , “Second Round,” and “Third Round.” In Bible, Chapters 15–36 Interlude: Blake, “Illustrations to the Book of Job” or <i>God on Trial</i>
F	2-Oct	<i>Book of Job</i> , “Summation,” “Voice,” and “Legend.” In Bible, Chapters 37–end Blog Post III Due, 8:00 pm
M	5-Oct	Plato, <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i> , “Euthyphro”
W	7-Oct	Plato, <i>Trial and Death</i> , “Apology”
F	9-Oct	Plato, <i>Trial and Death</i> , “Crito” and Death Scene from “Phaedo” Blog Post IV Due, 8:00 pm
M	12-Oct	Malory, <i>King Arthur and His Knights</i> , “Merlin” and “Balin”
W	14-Oct	Malory, <i>King Arthur and His Knights</i> , “Peleas and Etard” and “The Knight of the Cart”
F	16-Oct	No class. Professor at Conference.
M	19-Oct	Malory, <i>King Arthur and His Knights</i> , “Lancelot and Elaine”
W	21-Oct	Malory, <i>King Arthur and His Knights</i> , “The Holy Grail,” and “The Poisoned Apple”
F	23-Oct	Malory, <i>King Arthur and His Knights</i> , “The Fair Maid of Astolat” and “The Death of King Arthur,” Part I only. Blog Post V Due, 8:00 pm

M	26-Oct	Malory, “The Death of King Arthur,” to end.
W	28-Oct	Interlude: Tennyson, “Morte d’Arthur” (see Blackboard and ERes) Selections from <i>Excalibur</i>
F	30-Oct	Exam 2: <i>Book of Job</i>, <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>, and <i>King Arthur and His Knights</i>
M	2-Nov	Cervantez, <i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, “Prologue” and Chapters 1–3
W	4-Nov	Cervantez, <i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 4–8
F	6-Nov	Cervantez, <i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 9–11 Interlude: Nabokov, Chivalry Books Theme” (pgs. 39–50), selection from “Structural Matters,” <i>Lectures</i> , (see Blackboard and ERes)
M	9-Nov	Cervantez, <i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 12–14 Blog Post VI Due, 8:00 pm
W	11-Nov	Veterans Day Observance
F	13-Nov	Cervantez, <i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 15–22 Interlude: Borges, “Pierre Menard” (see Blackboard and ERes)
M	16-Nov	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 23–27 Blog Post VII Due, 8:00 pm
W	18-Nov	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 28–32
F	20-Nov	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 33–35
M	23-Nov	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 36–41
W	25-Nov	Thanksgiving Observance
F	27-Nov	Thanksgiving Observance
M	30-Nov	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 42–47
W	2-Dec	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part I, Chapters 48–52 Blog Post VIII Due, 8:00 pm
F	4-Dec	Interlude: Welles, <i>Don Quixote</i>
M	7-Dec	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part II, Chapters 1–4
W	9-Dec	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part II, Chapters 5–11
F	11-Dec	<i>Don Quixote</i> Part II, Chapters 12–17
Th	17-Dec	(10:15 am–12:30 pm) Exam 3: <i>Don Quixote</i> Blog Portfolio Due

Revised 1 September

Basic Course Info: Top of Page. Class meets from 11:00 am–11:50 **am** (not to 11:50 pm). My email address should have an @ symbol, so wraabe@kent.edu.

Final Exam: Exam is scheduled for Thur. 17-Dec., 10:15 am–12:30 pm.

Revised 15 September

Absences and Disruptions: Absence and make-up policy update in response to swine flu (H1N1) notices. See **Update** in that section.