# English 2110: World Literature

Kristin Rajan

## Course Overview

As we delve into various genres (types) of literature—fiction, drama, film, essays, poetry—from various time periods (ancient to now) from a vast array cultures, we will be asking these questions: What can I learn from this? How do these themes apply to my life today? What defines identity? How can I learn about myself from these literary reflections on selfhood?

In order to answer these questions, we must engage completely in the work. Reading, interacting with the art actively and critically requires full and complete concentration. This is the time for total immersion in the artistic world, bringing in experiences, background, and the deepest self in order to make connections and discover interpretations reflective of life experience.

We will learn techniques for analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating literature, all the critical terms that will give us the language to articulate valid views in class as well as in in papers and exams. Everyone has a valuable contribution to share. We will also learn a bit of the background that inspired the works. But ultimately, we will look at each piece as a world unto itself, and as we bring our personal perspectives to this world, we will enrich our own reading and the class as a whole.

Commit to engaging in the class and the entire class will benefit from this experience.

“The mind is its own place and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.” - Milton

## Course Materials

### Week 1: Making Connections: The Journey of Identity and a Redefinition of Hero

Syllabus

Literary Terms and Figurative Devices

Literary Terms PDF

Literary Devices

[Literary Devices](https://www.uccs.edu/Documents/wrtgcntr/LiteraryDevices.pdf)

The Hero’s Journey (4.33)

[What makes a hero? - Matthew Winkler](https://youtu.be/Hhk4N9A0oCA)

Campbell Why Read Myths (less than 4 minutes)

[Joseph Campbell - Why should I care about myths? The Power Of Myth](https://youtu.be/BPt23KuW-ZM)

Longer Explanation of Campbell’s Hero’s Journey (1 hour 24 minutes)

[Joseph Campbell The Hero's Journey documentary](https://youtu.be/T3LozCNO30w)

### Week 2: The Beginning and Now

(Due Reactions, Responses, Pledge)

Tips for Reading Literature

[Tips for Reading Literature](http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/files/2013/10/tips-for-reading-literature.pdf)

Read Gilgamesh (Sandars Translation)

[Gilgamesh](http://www.aina.org/books/eog/eog.pdf)

Prologue through section 4

### Week 3: Finish Gilgamesh

Gilgamesh (Sandars Translation)

[Gilgamesh](http://www.aina.org/books/eog/eog.pdf)

Section 5 through conclusion

### Week 4: Oedipus Free Will vs. Destiny: Choices and Selfhood

Oedipus The King (Fagles Translation) 65 pages, 4 episodes or acts

[Sophocles Oedipus Rex](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/720/oedipus_full_text_fagles_with_scenes_labeled.pdf)

Finish first reading during week 2 (1st half on T, 2nd half on Thursday)

### Week 5: Finish Oedipus

Read Oedipus The King in its entirety AGAIN tracing irony throughout the work

Oedipus The King Fagles Translation

[Sophocles Oedipus Rex](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/720/oedipus_full_text_fagles_with_scenes_labeled.pdf)

### Week 6: Hamlet: To Be or Not To Be (and what the hell does THAT mean?!)

Hamlet

[Shakespeare The Tragedy of Hamlet: The Prince of Denmark](https://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/download/pdf/Ham.pdf)

Read one act a day until finished; then repeat

We will be watching the entire 4-hour film in class. Be sure you’ve read each section, ideally twice, before we watch it in class. Take notes of differences between the performance and the text. Consider paper topics always.

### Week 7: Hamlet continued

Hamlet

[Shakespeare The Tragedy of Hamlet: The Prince of Denmark](https://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/download/pdf/Ham.pdf)

Continuing to watch the film and make comparisons between the performance and the text. Ideally you will have read the play twice by the end of week 7.

### Week 8: Midterm Exam and Essay

**Tips on Writing Literary Paper:**

**Quoting from literature**

[**Using Literary Quotations**](https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/quoliterature/)

**How to Write a Literary Analysis**

[**How To Write A Literary Analysis Essay**](https://www.bucks.edu/media/bcccmedialibrary/pdf/HOWTOWRITEALITERARYANALYSISESSAY_10.15.07_001.pdf)

Review for midterm in class on Tuesday; Actual midterm on Thursday in class.

Essay due online by Sunday, 10/13

### Week 9: Stories of Self: How we see ourselves and how others see us

**Begin meeting for group project presentations. Also start reading James Joyce’s The Dead**

**The Dead**

[**James Joyce The Dead**](http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/english/joyce_dead.pdf)

For class discussion, read excerpts from Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass PDF, Please read and annotate poems 1, 4, 7, 16, 21, 32, 46, 52. These poems will be presented by groups.

[Walt Whitman Leaves of Grass](https://whitmanarchive.org/published/LG/1881/poems/27)

Emily Dickinson Poems 216, 258, 328, 341, 712

Poems [Emily Dickinson Poems](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/james.lindahl/courses/Hum2A/s2/Selected-Poems-by-Emily-Dickinsonn)

2 Video lectures of Dickinson, “Because I Could Not Stop for Death” referenced

[McGee Video lecture of Dickinson](https://youtu.be/TfHn8x9_0Ak)

[Angela Moorjani Video Lecture of Dickinson Part 1](https://youtu.be/6JywgOOyPKY)

[Angela Moorjani Video Lecture of Dickonson Part 2](https://youtu.be/9uYukTpaeKA)

### Week 10: Stories of Self: How we see ourselves and how others see us

“The Dead” by James Joyce

[**James Joyce's "The Dead"**](http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/english/joyce_dead.pdf)

A helpful link on “The Dead”

[Analysis of "The Dead"](http://www.thedead1904.com/more-about-the-dead-1904)

### Week 11: Life, Death, and Selfhood

Oral Reports Begin

Virginia Woolf “The Death of a Moth”

[Virginia Woolf “The Death of a Moth”](https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91d/chapter1.html)

T. S. Eliot “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”

[T.S. Eliot "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/44212/the-love-song-of-j-alfred-prufrock)

### Week 12: Love and Selfhood

5 Poems by Pablo Neruda

“Tonight I Can Write”

[Neruda "Tonight I Can Write"](https://hellopoetry.com/poem/9956/tonight-i-can-write/)

“Don’t Go Far Off”

[Neruda "Don't Go Far Off"](https://hellopoetry.com/poem/9916/dont-go-far-off/)

“When I Die”

[Neruda: "When I Die "](https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/when-i-die-i-want-your-hands-on-my-eyes-by-pablo-neruda)

“Die Slowly"

[Neruda "Die Slowly](https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/1192640-die-slowly-he-who-becomes-the-slave-of-habit-who) “

"Here I Love You"

[Neruda "Here I Love You"](https://contrastpoetry.weebly.com/here-i-love-you.html)

Helpful link on these poems:

[Neruda "Here I Love You"](https://owlcation.com/humanities/5-Most-Famous-Poems-by-Pablo-Neruda)

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Eyes of a Blue Dog

[Marquez Eyes of a Blue Dog](http://www.classicshorts.com/stories/bluedog.html)

### Week 13: Culture, Nature, and Identity

Alice Walker Short Story: “Everyday Use”

[Alice Walker "Everyday Use"](https://www.acpsd.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6626&dataid=60620&FileName=everyday_use_full-text.pdf)

Poems by Mary Oliver

Read the following poems by Mary Oliver:

“The Journey”

“Sleeping in the Forest”

“Wild Geese”

“Morning Poem”

“The Swan”

[Poems by Mary Oliver](https://peacefulrivers.homestead.com/maryoliver.html)

### Week 14: Identity, Race, Power, Self-Definition

Poems by Maya Angelou

Read the following poems by Maya Angelou

“Caged Bird"

from “On the Pulse of Morning”

“Phenomenal Woman”

“Still I Rise"

[Poems by Maya Angelou](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/maya-angelou)

Oral Reports

### Week 15: Thanksgiving Break

### Week 16: Final Stuff

Oral Reports

**Final Exam Tuesday, 12/10, 1-3**

**Paper due by Sunday, 12/8 midnight**