



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *MASTERPIECES OF WORLD LITERATURE - I - 10510*

*Last update 25-08-2023*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: School of Ancient & Modern Literatures*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Professor Gur Zak*

*Coordinator Email: [gur.zak@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:gur.zak@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Prof Gur Zak

Course/Module description:

The aim of the course is to offer a survey of a variety of literary masterpieces from Ancient Greece up to later Middle Ages. In each class we shall focus on one literary masterpiece, analyse its content and form, and consider the possible reasons for its inclusion in the "canon". Among the themes we shall focus on in our analysis are: identity and gender, love and death, cruelty and compassion, and the reflection offered by the works themselves on the value of reading and writing literature.

Course/Module aims:

- To expose first year students of literary programs and corner stone program to representative works of world literature
- To provide students with basic tools for a deep and informed analysis of literary works.
- To lead students to reflect critically on the role of literature in society and on the value of studying literature.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To discuss in an intelligent and informed manner central literary masterpieces that shaped the world.

To understand the general line of development of world literature from antiquity to the early modern age.

To offer analysis of literary works based on the main themes that dominate them, their relationship to the historical contexts in which they were shaped, and their dialogue with the literary tradition from which they developed.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal

Course/Module Content:

1. Rage and Compassion in Homer's Iliad
2. The Returns of Odysseus - Homer's Odyssey

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3. Greek Tragedy - Euripides' Suppliants
  4. Eros and Emotion in Ancient Lyric - Sappho, Catullus, Horace
  5. The Hero's Pietas - Virgil's Aeneid
  6. Christianity and Literature: From the Gospels to Augustine
  7. Passion, Memory, and Aesthetics in Ancient Drama: Kalidasa's Shakuntala
  8. The Medieval Epic: Song of Roland
  9. The Medieval Romance: Tristan and Iseult
  10. To Hell and Back: Dante's Divine Comedy
  11. Dante's Comedy - Cont.
  12. The Human Comedy: Boccaccio's Decameron

Required Reading:

Homer, Iliad, Books 1, 18, 24

Homer, Odyssey, Books 8, 9, 10

Euripides, Suppliants

Sappho, poems 1, 2, 16, 23, 31, 47, 48, 55, 58, 94

Catullus, poems 1,2,3,5,7,11, 35, 50, 51, 52

Horace, Odes, poems A1, A13, A33, B5, B12, C29, C30

Virgil, Aeneid, Books 4, 12

The Gospel according to Matthew

Augustine, Confessions, Books 1, 8

The Song of Roland

Tristan and Iseult

Dante, Inferno, cantos 1-5, 26

Dante, Purgatorio, cantos 1-2, 30-31; Paradiso 33

Boccaccio, Decameron, Day 1 Intro; Day 1 stories 1-3; Day 2 story 5; Day 3 Story 10; Day 4 Intro and story 1; Day 10 story 10

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 20 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

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Additional information:

NO