

Humanities 2: Poetry, Drama, and Fiction

Humanities 2 is an introduction to the European literary tradition. Together we will study a small number of outstanding works in a range of genres—poetry, epic, drama, novel, and short story.

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Texts

Required

The following works are required:

Selected poems from an anthology of English language poetry (such as the *Norton Anthology of Poetry*, 4th edition)
Homer, *The Odyssey*
Sophocles, *Antigone*, *Oedipus Rex*
Shakespeare, any tragedy

Also required are any *two* of the following, including no more than one by a single author:

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*
Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*
Eliot, *Middlemarch*
Ellison, *Invisible Man*
Faulkner, “The Bear”
James, *The Turn of the Screw*

Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Morrison, *Song of Solomon*
Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*
Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
Short stories by Borges, Chopin, Dinesen, Joyce, Melville, and/or O'Connor

One modern play, selected from among the following, is also required:

Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (recommended)
Chekhov, *Three Sisters*
Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*
Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*
Shaffer, *Equus*
Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

The following play may also be included:

Sophocles, *Oedipus at Colonus*

Course Requirements

Like other classes at Shimer, regular participation in our conversation is essential. Approximately one-half of students' grades will be based on how I judge they are contributing to, and what they are getting out of, class discussions. Excellent attendance is essential. Students who miss too many classes will not be able to pass the course.

Humanities 2 is a designated writing course. It includes an extensive writing component. There will be four short papers assigned throughout the semester. Students will be required to rewrite at least two papers, but may be required or encouraged to rewrite more than that. Student writing can be one of the most rewarding areas of collaboration. I encourage students to contact me during any phase of the writing process.

Because it is a designated writing course, no student can pass Humanities 2 without completing all writing requirements. I will accept late papers only under unusual circumstances. If you think a paper may be late, contact me as far in advance as possible.

Syllabus

Week 1

Thursday, 1/30

Note: Poetry selections are taken from *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, 4th edition
Adam Lay i-Bounden, p. 63; Western Wind, p. 68;
The Sick Rose, p. 680; John Anderson, My Jo, p. 689;

The Owl and the Pussycat, p. 942; How Pleasant to Know Mr. Lear, p. 943; Titwillow, p. 1043; Incident, p. 1337; The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner, p. 1446; Eighth Air Force, p. 1446; We Real Cool, p. 1481; Warming Her Pearls, p. 1875;

Friday, 1/31

Spenser no. 75, p. 169; Shakespeare, no. 73, p. 238; no. 129; no. 130; no. 138; Donne, no. 10, p. 288; no. 14; Milton, When I consider. . . , On the late massacre. . . , p. 378

Tuesday, 2/4

A Sonnet Addressed to My Mother, p. 738; Carrion Comfort, pp. 1064–65; Leda and the Swan, p. 1095; Euclid Alone. . . , p. 1273; The Cambridge Ladies, p. 1283

Week 2

Thursday, 2/6

Hurt Hawks, p. 1212; Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, p. 1230

Friday, 2/7

Writing session: First draft of essay on a poem

Tuesday, 2/11

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 1–4

Wednesday, 2/12

ESSAY ON A POEM IS DUE

Week 3

Thursday, 2/13

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 5–8

Friday, 2/14

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 9–12

Tuesday, 2/18

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 13–18

Week 4

Thursday, 2/20

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 19–24

Friday, 2/21

Homer, *The Odyssey*: compare translations

Tuesday, 2/25

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*

Wednesday, 2/26

ESSAY ON *THE ODYSSEY* IS DUE

Week 5

Thursday, 2/27

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*

Friday, 2/28

Sophocles, *Antigone*

Tuesday, 3/4 Sophocles, *Antigone*
REWRITE OF POETRY PAPER OR *ODYSSEY* PAPER IS DUE

DEAN'S BREAK

Week 6

Tuesday, 3/11 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Acts 1 and 2

Wednesday, 3/12 ESSAY ON SOPHOCLES IS DUE

Thursday, 3/13 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Acts 2 and 3

Friday, 3/14 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Acts 3 and 4

Week 7

Tuesday, 3/18 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Acts 4 and 5

Thursday, 3/20 Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Acts 5 and whole play

Friday, 3/21 Writing session: First draft of essay on *Hamlet* due

Week 8

Tuesday, 3/25 Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Wednesday, 3/26 ESSAY ON *HAMLET* IS DUE

Thursday, 3/27 Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Friday, 3/28 Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Week 9

Tuesday, 4/1 Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part 1

Thursday, 4/3 Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part 2

Friday, 4/4 Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part 3

Week 10

Tuesday, 4/8 Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part 4

Thursday, 4/10 Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part 5

Friday, 4/11	Dostoevsky, <i>Crime and Punishment</i> , Part 6
Week 11	
Tuesday, 4/15	Dostoevsky, <i>Crime and Punishment</i> , Epilogue and whole novel
SPRING BREAK	
Thursday, 4/24	ESSAY ON <i>CRIME AND PUNISHMENT</i> IS DUE Kafka, <i>Stories</i>
Friday, 4/25	Kafka, <i>Stories</i>
Week 12	
Tuesday, 4/29	Kafka, <i>Stories</i>
Thursday, 5/1	O'Connor, "The Artificial Nigger"
Friday, 5/2	O'Connor, "The Artificial Nigger" and "Parker's Back"
Week 13	
Tuesday, 5/6	O'Connor, "The Artificial Nigger" and "Parker's Back"
Wednesday, 5/7	Rewrite of <i>Hamlet</i> or <i>Crime and Punishment</i> paper due
Thursday, 5/8	Poetry: Hurt Hawks, p. 1212; and Sunday Morning, p. 1151
Friday, 5/10	Poetry: Hurt Hawks, p. 1212; and Sunday Morning, p. 1151