

ENGL 226: Non-Western World Literature

Professor Farina
Fall 2013, Tu-Th 10:00-11:15

Deciding where the “West” ends has always been difficult. We are now accustomed to thinking about global economies and cultural mobility: a student in Morgantown can watch a movie made in Hong Kong or Bombay, listen to music recorded in Brazil or Morocco, and read about events in China, the Middle East, or Africa on a daily--even hourly--basis. Yet this global blending is not a purely modern phenomenon. While past societies may not have had cell-phones and satellites, contact between cultural traditions was more frequent than most of us think. This class will explore both the formation of literary traditions from around the world and the re-formation of those traditions through cultural contact. To do this, we will read influential early literature from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, together with modern works that reflect processes of cultural and literary cross-pollination. We will focus primarily on narrative fiction in prose.

This course meets the GEC objectives for “Artistic Expression” and “Non-Western Culture.” If you are an English major, this class will help you achieve Goal 1 of the major (the ability to interpret texts within diverse literary, cultural, and historical contexts).

Required Texts:

It is very important that you have the editions specified below. If you buy other versions, you may not get the same selections from the original text and thus will not have the required material.

Tales from the Thousand Nights (Penguin, trans. Dawood)
Haroun and the Sea of Stories, by Salman Rushdie (Penguin)
When Dreams Travel, by Gita Harihan (Penguin)
Monkey: A Folk Novel of China by Wu Ch'eng-en (Grove, trans. Waley)
American-Born Chinese, by Gene Yang (Square Fish)
The Tale of Genji by Murasaki Shibaku (Penguin, trans. Tyler)
The Palm-Wine Drinkard, by Amos Tutuola (Grove)
The Storyteller, by Mario Vargas Llosa (Picador)

Optional: *Naoko*, by Keigo Higashino (Vertical)

Required Coursework:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| * Participation in class discussion | (15%) |
| * 7 quizzes | (30% total) |
| * Midterm exam | (25%) |
| * Final exam | (30%) |

Quizzes will consist of 3 interpretive short-answer questions; they will be open-book, but you will have a hard time answering the questions if you haven't done the assigned reading. Exams will be passage analysis.

Course Policies:

Attendance: This is a participatory class. You may miss two classes without penalty. Missing more will diminish your class participation grade. If you miss six classes, you will receive an F for the course. Lateness is rude and disrupts discussion and small group work. If you are more than 10 minutes late, your lateness will count as half of an absence (so, two lateness = one absence). In general, I do not care why you are absent or late; the only "notes" I need to see are for University-sponsored activities (e.g. class field trips, sports teams, etc.).

Late Coursework: There are no make-up opportunities for missed quizzes. I will, however, allow you to drop your lowest quiz grade from your total grade for the quizzes. A missed midterm exam may be taken later, provided you have a valid reason for missing the scheduled date. Missed final exams may not be taken later. Exams missed and not made up will result in failure of the class.

Access: If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services: <http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>

Plagiarism: WVU's policy regarding plagiarized work can be found online at: <http://studentlife.wvu.edu/studentconductcode.html> (see Section B of Article III). We will discuss plagiarism in class before the first response is due, but it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the WVU policy. Do note, especially, that plagiarism is regarded as such *whether it is intentional or not*. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me. Plagiarized work in this course may result in an "Unforgiveable F" for the course.

Conduct: I expect all members of the class to be respectful of each other and me, regardless of religious, social, or political differences. I will not condone discriminatory remarks regarding race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, health, economic status, etc. Disruptive behavior may impact your class participation grade and, if egregious enough, result in your expulsion from the class. Be mindful that the best way to participate in class is to *both talk and listen* to what others have to say. I don't expect class members to agree, but I do expect that you will acknowledge other points of view.

Announcements: If there are changes to our schedule or assignments, I will announce these over MIX as well as in class.

Contact Info: My drop-in office hours are Tu/Th, 2:30-3:15, in my office: 335 Colson Hall (3rd floor). I am also readily available for meeting with you at other times; just drop me an email to make an appointment. You can reach me at Lara.Farina@mail.wvu.edu.

Schedule:

8/20: Introduction

8/22: stories based on the *Puranas* (PDF)

8/27: *Tales from the 1,001 Nights*, pp. 15-76

8/29: *Tales from the 1,001 Nights*, pp. 77-112

9/3: *Tales from the 1,001 Nights*, pp. 243-347

9/5: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, pp. 15-75 + “About the Names”

9/10: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, pp. 77-142

9/12: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, pp. 145-211; excerpts from “The Disappeared” (PDF)

9/17: *When Dreams Travel*, pp.

9/19: *When Dreams Travel*, pp.

9/24: *When Dreams Travel*, pp.

9/26: *When Dreams Travel*, pp.

10/1: **Midterm Exam**

10/3: excerpts from *The Ramayana* (PDF); *Monkey*, pp. 11-19

10/8: *Monkey*, pp. 20-84

10/10: *Monkey*, pp. 85-145; excerpts from *Dhamapada* & Lao Tzu

10/15: **Fall Break**

10/17: *Monkey*, pp. 146-165, 247-305

10/22: *American-Born Chinese*

10/24: *The Tale of Genji*, pp. 4-40

10/29: *The Tale of Genji*, pp. 54-127

10/31: *The Tale of Genji*, pp. 128-151, 162-185

11/5: *The Tale of Genji*, pp. 225-260, 305-319

11/7: excerpts from *Naoko*

11/12: *The Storyteller*, pp. 3-69

11/14: *The Storyteller*, pp. 70-145

11/19: *The Storyteller*, pp. 146-188; excerpts from “The Metamorphosis”

11/21: *The Storyteller*, pp. 189-246

Thanksgiving Break

12/3: *The Palm Wine Drinkard*, pp. 191-253

12/5: *The Palm Wine Drinkard*, pp. 254-302

12/10: Review

12/12-12/18 Finals Week: Final Exam