

**Masterpieces of World Literature:  
Beginnings through the 1500s**

Instructor: Drew Colenbrander

Please don't ever hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, or if you just want to talk. Here is how to reach me:

Office and Office Hours: My office is S-28, in the lower level of the Fine Arts Building. There is a glass door you need to walk through to find my office. You are free to stop by my office to see me any time. If you want to make sure that we can talk, it's best to set up an appointment in advance. You can do that by e-mail, phone, or in person.

My scheduled office hours this semester are:

T, 8:45 - 11:45  
W, 8:45 - 10:45

Office Phone: (989) 686-9165. The best time to reach me by phone is Monday through Thursday, during the day. If you leave a message, be sure to tell me a good time to call you back.

E-mail: [ajcolenb@delta.edu](mailto:ajcolenb@delta.edu). This is the best way to reach me. While I cannot guarantee that I can respond to you right away, I try to check my e-mail daily on weekends.

Please, when e-mailing me or your classmates for class communication, use formal punctuation, capitalization, style, and spelling.

Required Texts: Literature 228/228H Coursepack  
*The Norton Anthology of Western Literature, Volume I*  
William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*

**Course Goals:**

In this course, we will be reading a selection of seminal literary works from early Western Civilization. As we read, we will look at these works both individually and as part of a body of literature. We will seek to understand their historical and literary context, consider themes that are both unique to specific works and those that recur over time, and examine the overall significance of these writings in the development of world literature. Finally, we will look for the continuing meaning of these works in our own time and our own lives.

### **Course Requirements and Policies:**

**Class Participation and Attendance:** Regular attendance, punctuality, and active participation are absolutely essential to successfully complete this course. Much of the class will be centered on discussion, to which everyone is expected to contribute.

Obviously, if you are absent, you cannot contribute anything. I understand that life can interrupt school, so missing one class will not directly affect your grade in the course. For each absence after one, however, your final course grade will be reduced 5%. (if you earned 85% in the course assignments and missed two classes, your final grade would be 80%, a B-). After your third absence, you may be dropped from the course.

If you must miss class meetings for a genuine emergency, contact me in advance of the absence, provide written documentation for the emergency, and the absence may be excused.

**Disruptive Student Policy:** Delta College's Disruptive Student Policy prohibits any kind of classroom behavior that disrupts the learning process. In this class, the policy prohibits use of any personal electronic devices, including cell phones. All personal electronic devices must be turned off and put completely away during the period of the class. At the first violation of this policy, the student will leave class for the remainder of the session. At the second violation, the student will be dropped from the class.

### **Course Assignments and Grades**

**Weekly Readings:** The essence of this class is reading. You should be prepared for several hours per week of careful reading from the list of assigned works, plus you will need to do additional reading and research for the required papers. To be successful in this course, please be certain that you will be able to complete the reading requirements. Be sure to see me if you have any questions or concerns about this or any aspect of the course.

**Reading Response Journal:** You will have a journal assignment for each of the reading assignments during the semester. The purpose of these journals is for informal reflection on the readings. By informal, I mean that you should not concern yourself overly with style or text preparation. Journals may be hand-written in dark ink (not pencil) or typed; please just make sure your journals are legible (for me).

**Journal Grades:** I will grade the journals on the care and thought put into their content. I don't want to dictate length, but it is hard to imagine carefully, thoughtfully journal entries less than two full pages long. Journal assignments are distributed in class the week before the assignment is due, so be sure to get a copy if you miss class. Your single lowest journal grade will not be calculated as part of your final course grade.

**Formal Papers:** You will have two formal papers to write in the course. The content requirements for each essay will be given in class. Papers submitted for a grade should be free of errors in text preparation, which includes spelling, punctuation, grammar, format, and documentation of sources. Text preparation will comprise 10% of the paper grade, with 90% of the grade based on content.

**Here is the format for the Formal Papers:**

- Papers must follow MLA documentation format and include both in-text citations and a works cited.
- They must be typed, double-spaced, stapled, and printed with dark ink.
- Put your name and the date of submission single space in an upper corner of the first page, above the title, one line to an item.
- The paper should have your own original title. Center the title two lines below the above information and begin the text two spaces below the title. Do not use a separate title page.
- Margins should be about one inch around the entire text.

**Notes and Lectures for Papers:** Class lectures are important to your understanding of the specific readings and overall course content. I expect that you will use ideas, terminology, and other specific references from class lecture in your formal papers.

**Paper Two Class Presentation for Honors Credit:** Students who have signed up for the Honors section will make a 10-15 minute presentation to the class on their paper two project. The presentation will be graded on thoroughness, organization, and clarity and will be 10% of that paper's grade.

**Late Work:** Late journals and papers will be reduced by 10% in grade if turned in before the next class meeting after the due date. Papers and journals turned in more than one week late will be reduced by 20%. No work can be turned in for a grade more than two weeks late.

**Grading Information:** I will use the following formula to calculate your course grade at the end of the semester:

Reading Response Journal:	50%
Paper One:	25%
Paper Two:	25%

**Plagiarism:** Using someone's ideas or information, without giving that source credit, is completely unacceptable in college. Any graded assignment that is plagiarized will receive a zero grade and may result in the failure of the course. All journals and Papers must follow correct MLA documentation practice. Please be sure to see me if you have any questions or concerns about plagiarism.

## Reading and Assignment Schedule

The reading and journals are due on the date noted for each work. (You will see that in some readings I have assigned the text's introduction, but not in others. Feel free to read those not assigned, if you would like.)

- 8/30: Course Introduction
- 9/13: Homer, *The Iliad*. Read the introduction on Homer and *The Iliad* and entire section in text, pages 100-102, 105-205.
- 9/20: Homer, *The Odyssey*. Read Books I and II, pages 206-227, and Books V-XII, pages 260-355.
- 9/27: Homer, *The Odyssey*. Read Books XIII-XXIV, pages 355-495.
- 10/4: Sappho, Poetry. Read introduction and all poems, pages 496-501. Also read modern poems in coursepack, pages 14-19.
- 10/11: Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*. Read introduction, pages 502-506, "The House of Atreus" background, the summaries of "Agamemnon" and "The Libation Bearers" in your coursepack, pages 22-26, and "The Eumenides," 579-606.
- 10/18: Virgil, *The Aeneid*. Read the introduction and entire section in text, pages 930-1014.
- 10/25: Petronius, *The Satyricon*. Read the introduction and entire section in text, pages 1064-1082.
- 11/1: Paper One due
- 11/8: Dante, *Inferno*. Read pages 1465-1576.
- 11/15: Boccaccio, *The Decameron*. Read pages 1598-1641.
- 11/22: Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*. Read the "General Prologue," "The Miller's Prologue and Tale," and "The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale," pages 1701-1756.
- 11/29: Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Read Acts I, II, and III. Journal assignment will be distributed in class.
- 12/6: Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Read Acts IV and V. Journal assignment will be distributed in class.
- 12/13: Paper Two due. Class finale.