

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Spring 2014

Discipline: English

ENSP 3559- 501 (section 1): Visionaries and Exiles

Division: Upper Division

Faculty Name: Dan Kinney

Pre-requisites:

Basic composition training and an introduction to literary analysis.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A quick survey of some of the literary uses of exile from The Odyssey to The Crying of Lot 49; it has been said that travelers and poets may lie with impunity, and this course will attempt to work out what their otherworlds share that routinely lets their ways of lying pass muster alongside the truth. How do various states of exile in fiction impinge and expand on the bounds of the real? What is it to "return" from a fictional state without ever escaping the fiction?

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Apart from basic practice in critical thinking and textual analysis we will look for the various ways in which our voyage can work to illuminate these assigned texts and vice versa; in what different useful and non useful ways do exile and travel transform our perspectives, and how are they like and unlike? How do story-types migrate and morph between cultures? What should we make of fiction's numerous unavoidable detours, and how do they impact the "straight truth"?

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Please note: try to buy these specific editions!

AUTHOR: Daniel Defoe

TITLE: Robinson Crusoe

PUBLISHER: Broadview

ISBN #:10 1551119358

AUTHOR: Homer

TITLE: The Odyssey tr. Fitzgerald

PUBLISHER: Farrar Strouss & Giroux

ISBN #:10 0374525749

AUTHOR: J. M. Coetzee

TITLE: Foe

PUBLISHER: Penguin

ISBN #:10 014009623X

AUTHOR: Joseph Conrad

TITLE: Heart of Darkness
PUBLISHER: Oxford
ISBN #:10 0199536015

AUTHOR: Thomas Pynchon
TITLE: The Crying of Lot 49
PUBLISHER: Harper Perennial
ISBN #:10 006091307X

AUTHOR: Anonymous
TITLE: Gilgamesh tr. Mitchell
PUBLISHER: Atria
ISBN #:10 0743261690

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

A1- January 12: Introduction

A2- January 14: Robinson Crusoe, Day 1 -- pp. 43-99 (“just now”) – also 324-32 & App. F & G

A3- January 16: Robinson Crusoe, Day 2 -- pp. 99-151 (“Bread, &c.”)

January 17: Hilo

A4- January 19: Robinson Crusoe, Day 3 -- pp. 151-201 (“how many soever”)

A5- January 22: Robinson Crusoe, Day 4 -- pp. 201-50 (“by the way”)

January 24: Study Day

A6- January 25: Robinson Crusoe, Day 5 -- pp. 250-304

A7- January 27: Odyssey, Day 1 – Books I-IV also recomm. Fitzgerald’s “Postscript”

January 29- February 3: Yokohama and Kobe

A8- February 4: Odyssey, Day 2 – Books V-VIII

February 6-11: Shanghai, transit, Hong Kong

A9- February 12: Odyssey, Day 3 – Books IX-XII

February 14-19: Ho Chi Minh City

A10- February 20: Odyssey, Day 4 – Books XIII-XVI

February 22-23: Singapore

A11- February 24: Odyssey, Day 5 – Books XVII-XX

February 25: Study Day

February 27-March 4: Rangoon

A12- March 5: Odyssey, Day 6 – Books XXI-XXIV

A13- March 7: Foe, Day 1 – Part I

March 9-14: Cochin

A14- March 15: Foe, Day 2 – Part II

March 17: Study Day

A15- March 18: Foe, Day 3 – Part III

A16- March 20: Heart of Darkness, Day 1 – Part I

March 21: Port Louis

A17- March 23: Heart of Darkness, Day 2 – Part II

March 25: Study Day

A18- March 26: Heart of Darkness, Day 3 – Part III

March 28-April 2: Cape Town

A19- April 3: Crying of Lot 49, Day 1 – Chapters 1-2

A20- April 5: Crying of Lot 49, Day 2 – Chapters 3-4

A21- April 8: Crying of Lot 49, Day 3 – Chapters 5-6

April 10-14: Takoradi and Tema

A22- April 15: Gilgamesh, Day 1 -- Introduction & Books I-III

A23- April 17: Gilgamesh, Day 2 – Books IV-VII

April 19: Study Day

A24- April 20: Gilgamesh, Day 3 (Books VIII-XI); Summary & Review

April 22: Global Lens Finals/Study Day

April 23-27: Casablanca

A25- April 28: A Day Finals

May 2: Arrive in Southampton

FIELD LAB (At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.)

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Please do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of our field lab.

The 8-hour Field-Lab scheduled for our first day in Singapore (details to be announced) will explore how concerns of our texts are related to the history and lore of fraught cultural exchanges involving Singapore in particular and Southeast Asia more generally. Each student should attend the shore-session equipped with 6 suggestive, specific observations or questions about how quest-exploration-adventure traditions impact modern-day urban identity; in 1-2 page essays to be posted before the next class, every student should write up his/her sense of what the day out had to teach us about texts that we've been examining.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Class requirements: lively participation including 6 brief email responses, 3 short (3-5 pp.) papers 1 Field Lab with a writeup, and a final exam; grade weighting for short papers, Field Lab/writeup, and exam/participation: 20% + 20% + 20% + 20% + 20%). Extra credit for a short posted discussions of film *Castaway* or novel *The Lost Books of "The Odyssey"*. Please ask me in advance anytime that you need an extension; unexcused late essays will be marked down by a half a letter grade for each day late. You are allowed one unexcused absence from class. After that, your class participation grade drops by a full letter grade for each absence.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

W.Stanford, *The Ulysses Theme: Studies in the Adaptability of a Traditional Hero*, 2nd Ed. (1968; cheaply available via used.addall.com)
Zachary Stone, *The Lost Books of the Odyssey: A Novel* 0312680465 (2010)
Robert Pogue Harrison, *Forests: the Shadow of Civilization* 0226318079 (1992)

Margaret Cohen, *The Novel and the Sea* 0691140650 (2010)

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."