

Autumn 2013
TTH 2:40-4:10

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Honors 101-103: World Literature

Description: Honors 101 offers students an opportunity to read, discuss, and write about a variety of literary works from several cultures and times, approaching them both as works of art and as expressions of their historical moment. The course focuses in particular on the way writers use language to construct their worlds. This quarter our readings will reflect the Honors Program theme “Searching for Home” as those terms apply to both literary art and human life. Close reading and discussion, regular writing assignments, and a shared presentation will encourage students to become observant readers and informed writers, and thus to take pleasure in literature.

Requirements: Honors 101 is taught as a seminar, which means that everyone at the table will bring the results of individual reading, analysis, and research to the general discussion. I’ll expect regular attendance, careful preparation, and thoughtful participation of everyone in class. In planning assignments, I assume you will spend at least two hours reading and writing outside of class for each hour that you spend in class. In addition to contributing to class discussion, you will complete three papers, an oral presentation, and a final examination. The first formal paper may be revised and resubmitted for credit, and I will schedule time to review drafts of the longer paper.

General Guidelines for Written Work: In addition to the assigned papers, the final examination, and the presentation, you will be asked to complete occasional in-class or brief homework assignments; please come to class prepared! Note also that in-class work and homework cannot be made up if you are absent, and that late papers will be penalized. All papers must be carefully prepared, correct in grammar and usage; they must be submitted in class, not by e-mail. Secondary sources, when they are used, must be acknowledged in the standard MLA format; consult a handbook such as *The Everyday Writer* or see me if you have questions about using sources. Please remember in all your work that plagiarism, presenting the work of another as your own, is a serious academic offense and will be grounds for a failing grade in the course as well as further disciplinary action. For further information on the university’s policy on academic integrity, consult the *Student Handbook*, available online through Campus Connect and the library’s web site. If you need particular accommodations for your in-class work, please notify me at our first meeting.

Oral report: An oral report is a presentation of the week’s reading. You should consider what you found interesting and intriguing and present it to the class, while looking up terms and names or allusions you found unfamiliar. Each 10-minute presentation will address some aspect of the assigned reading for that class meeting and should help other class members understand and appreciate the work. Please submit a final outline or summary of the presentation at the time you speak.

Evaluation: The final grade in Honors 101 will reflect the following distribution of credit:

In class work, written and oral, 20%
Two papers, 20%, 30%

Presentation: 15%
Final Exam: 15%

Learning Outcomes for Honors 101:

- Students who complete Hon 101 successfully will be able to
- Perform a “close reading” of specific passages from a text;
- Locate information to help provide some historical and/or cultural context for specific texts
- Identify particular literary techniques at work in a text (such as choice of genre, point of view, patterns of imagery, development of character
- produce a written argument offering an interpretation of a text (see below):
- Compare or contrast the way two or more authors address a particular issue, in terms of both form and content.

Course Outcomes for written work in Hon 101: This course is writing intensive. It includes a mix of formal and informal writing assignments that will help students improve their writing and analytical skills. Students who complete this course should be able to

- Construct an appropriate thesis
- Support the thesis with evidence from the text and from outside sources as appropriate
- Provide a persuasive analysis of the evidence
- Produce an organized, readable essay free of grammatical errors

Required Texts (Please use these editions)

“First Love”, Turgenev, Dover, **ISBN-10:** 0486287750

A Doll’s House, Ibsen (Dover Edition); **ISBN-10:** 0486270629

Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground*; Dover, **ISBN-10:** 048627053X

Shakespeare, “As You Like It” (Signet); **ISBN-10:** 0486404323;

Foscolo, *On Sepulchres*, Oneworld Classics (January 1, 2010); **ISBN-10:** 1847490972

Homer, *Iliad, Lattimore translation* University Of Chicago Press (November 15, 2011);

ISBN-10: 0226470490

Jumpha Lahiri, *Lowland*, Knopf (September 24, 2013), **ISBN-10:** 0307265749

Office Hours: Students should plan to see me at least once or twice during the quarter to discuss their progress in the course. To review drafts of the second paper, I will provide a sign-up sheet for appointments. At other times you may request an appointment or drop in during office hours: Tuesdays 11-12 and TH 2:00-2:40

Tentative Schedule: (Subject to Revision)

September 12, *Odyssey*, Book 1

September 17, *Odyssey*, 1-5
September 19, *Odyssey*, 6-10

September 24, *Odyssey*, 11-18
September 26, *Odyssey*, 18-24

October 1, *As You Like It*, Act 1
October 3, *As You Like It*, Act II

October 8, *As You Like It*, Acts 3 and 4
October 10, *As You Like It*, Act 5, Short Paper Due

October 15, Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*
October 17, Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*

October 22, Ibsen, *A Doll's House*
October 24, Ibsen, *A Doll's House*

October 29, Ibsen, *A Doll's House*
October 31, Foscolo, *Sepulchres*

November 5 Foscolo, *Sepulchres*
November 7 Lahiri, *Lowlands*

November 12 Lahiri, *Lowlands*
November 14 Lahiri, *Lowlands*

November 19 Lahiri, *Lowlands*

Exam Week: November 20-26;

The final exam will be a one hour test starting at 2:40 on Tuesday, November 26