

English 125A
Classical Backgrounds to English Literature
Spring 2012

Professor Stork
TR 1030-1145

Nancy.Stork@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: T 1615-1815, R 1230-1330 and by appointment

This course is an introduction to Hebrew, Greek, Roman, Muslim and Medieval backgrounds to English Literature. It is heavily focused on the history of these texts and on a close reading of the excerpts provided in the Norton Anthology. You will choose one research topic on the Old Testament, one on Greek Literature, one on Roman literature and one on Christian or Muslim texts. Your research topics will provide the starting point for four essays written in class as open book exams. More details on these topics will be provided in class. The final exam will consist entirely of the identification of up to 100 short passages from our reading.

Text:

The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, Volume One, Seventh Edition,
edd. Lawall, Mack, et. al.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Four open book essays	80%
Final Exam	20%

Late work can only be accepted in the case of genuine and compelling emergencies beyond your control. If you let me know as soon as possible about such emergencies, I can arrange to accept your work up to one week late.

Please see me if you need Disability Accommodations or have an unalterable university commitment that conflicts with a due date.

All work must be your own. I do not mind if you study together with another student or students, as long as you all contribute actively to the process.

All selections below are the excerpts found in the *Norton Anthology*.

Schedule of Classes:

Jan	26	Introduction
	31	Old Testament (all Genesis selections)
Feb	2	Old Testament (Job and the Psalms)
	7	Old Testament (Song of Songs and Jonah)
	9	<u>Open Book Essay on the OT</u>
	14	The Iliad (I, VI, VIII, IX)
	16	The Iliad (XVIII, XXII)
	21	The Iliad (XXIV)
	23	The Odyssey (Books I, V, VIII)
	28	The Odyssey (Books IX, X, XI)
Mar	1	The Odyssey (Books XII, XIX, XXIV)
	6	Sappho
	8	Plato, <i>Apology of Socrates</i> and Aristotle <i>Poetics</i>
	13	<u>Open Book Essay on the Greeks (incorporating your research)</u>
	15	Catullus
	20	The Aeneid (I, II, IV)
	22	The Aeneid (VI, VIII, XII)
Mar 26-30		Spring Break
Apr	3	Instructor Holiday
	5	Ovid (I, II, V)
	10	Ovid (IX, X)
	12	<u>Open Book Essay on the Romans (incorporating your research topic)</u>
	17	New Testament (all selections)
	19	New Testament
	24	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> ; Hildegard of Bingen, <i>A Hymn to St. Maximinus</i> ; The Archpoet, <i>His Confession</i>
	26	The Koran
May	1	<u>Open Book Essay on Christian and Muslim Texts (incorporating research)</u>
	3	Dante "Love and Poetry", "Sonnet", (p. 1217) Inferno, Cantos I-IV
	8	Dante, Inferno V, XXII, XXIII, XXIV
	10	Dante, Purgatorio and Paradiso
	15	Review

Final Exam: Monday, May 21, 945-1200