

English 226

Lara Farina, ENGL 226, Fall 2006, Non-Western World Literature

ENGL 226: Non-Western World Literature

Professor Farina

Fall 2006, TuTh 4:00-5:15

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 on narrative fiction in prose, though two of our ancient texts, *The Bhagavad Gita* and *The Conference of Birds*, are narrative verse.

This course meets the GEC objectives for "Artistic Expression" and "Non-Western Culture."

Required Texts:

- *The Bhagavad Gita* (India)
- *Tales from the Thousand Nights* (Middle East)
- *The Conference of Birds* by Farid al-din Attar (Middle East)
- *The Tale of Genji* by Murasaki Shikibu (Japan)
- *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*, by Amos Tutuola
- *The Storyteller*, by Mario Vargas Llosa
- *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, by Salman Rushdie
- *Borderlands/La Frontera*, by Gloria Anzaldúa

Required Coursework:

- Participation in class discussion - (20%)
- 7-8 quizzes - (20% total)
- Midterm exam - (30%)
- Final exam - (30%)
 - Graduate students may opt to do a 10-page research paper instead of the final.

Course Policies:

1. Although there is no limit on absences, poor attendance will hurt your class participation grade. After six absences, you will receive an “F” for class participation.
2. Missed quizzes may not be made up. To account for occasional absence, I will drop your lowest quiz grade from your average.
3. 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.
4. Exams missed and not made up will result in failure of the class.

Contact Info:

My office hours are Tu-Th, 12:00-1:00, in 357 Stansbury. If you cannot make these hours, I encourage you to make an appointment with me for another time. You can email me via MIX or directly at Lara.Farina@mail.wvu.edu. Do not email me to see what you missed in class: get the notes from another student. If I have an important announcement, I will email the class via MIX as well as state it in class. Any suggestion as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be given serious consideration.

Social Justice:

WVU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Our university does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin.

Schedule:

Tu. 8/22 Introduction

Th. 8/24 *Wonders of the East* (online)

Tu. 8/29 *The Bhagavad Gita*, ch. 1-9

Th. 8/31 *The Bhagavad Gita*, ch. 10-18

Tu. 9/5 *Tales from the Thousand Nights*, pp. 15-78

Th. 9/7 *Tales from the Thousand Nights*, pp. 79-112, 303-329, 405-407

Tu. 9/12 *The Conference of Birds*, pp. 29-76

Th. 9/14 *The Conference of Birds*, pp. 77-139

Tu. 9/19 *The Conference of Birds*, pp. 140-229

Th. 9/21 *The Tale of Genji*, pp. 3-64

Tu. 9/26 *The Tale of Genji*, pp. 146-185

Th. 9/28 *The Tale of Genji*, pp. 236-278, 345-360

Tu. 10/3 Review

Th. 10/5 **Midterm Exam**

Tu. 10/10 Tutuola, *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*, pp. 191-253

Th. 10/12 Tutuola, *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*, pp. 253-307

Tu. 10/17 Tutuola, excerpts from *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*

Th. 10/19 Meeting with Graduate Students

Tu. 10/24 Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, ch. 1-4

Th. 10/26 Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, ch. 5-8

Tu. 10/31 Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, ch. 9-12

Th. 11/2 discussion of censorship

Tu. 11/7 No Class: Election Day

Th. 11/9 Llosa, *The Storyteller*, pp. 3-69

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

Th. 11/16 Llosa, *The Storyteller*, pp. 146-246

Thanksgiving Break

Tu. 11/28 Anzaldua, *Borderlands*, ch. 1, 3

Th. 11/30 Anzaldua, *Borderlands*, ch. 5, 7

Tu. 11/5 Borges, "Averroes's Dream" (handout)

Th. 11/7 Review

12/11-12/16 Finals Week: Exam during scheduled period.