



# Syllabus

## ENG 203 Early World Literature

### General Information

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**Department** Humanities

**Course Prefix** ENG

**Course Number** 203

**Course Title** Early World Literature

### Course Information

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**Catalog Description** ENG 203 invites students to explore stories from ancient times up through the seventeenth century with a focus on both culture and history. By looking at literature from around the world, we can critically explore who we once were and who we have come to be. This course meets the SUNY General Education Humanities outcome.

**Credit Hours** 3

**Lecture Contact Hours** 3

**Lab Contact Hours** 0

**Other Contact Hours** 0

**Grading Scheme** Letter

### Prerequisites

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ENG 102

### Co-requisites

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None

### First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

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**This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.**

# SUNY General Education

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This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category

Humanities

## FLCC Values

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### Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Vitality, Inquiry, and Interconnectedness

## Course Learning Outcomes

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### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize and analyze the nuance and complexity of meaning by critically reading and reflecting on a variety of texts which may include images, epic and lyric poetry, fiction, and drama from ancient times to the 17th century.
2. Analyze the ways literature is embedded in cultural, historical, linguistic, and ethical contexts.
3. Explain the interconnectedness of world cultures from the ancient to the 17th century by analyzing how complex networks of social structures create and perpetuate the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity.
4. Recognize and articulate the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of their personal as well as group identities involving race, class, and gender.

## Outline of Topics Covered

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Students will read a variety of literary texts from around the globe and spanning ancient, medieval and early modern periods in order to better appreciate, understand, and analyze them. Texts may include *Gilgamesh*, selections from the Bible and the Qu'ran, *The Book of Songs*, *The Ramayana* by Valmiki, *The Tale of Genji* by Shikibu, *The Medea* by Euripedes, *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, *The Illiad* and *The Odyssey* by Homer, *The Thousand and One Nights*, *Beowulf*, *Inferno* by Dante, *The Canterbury Tales* by Chaucer, *Don Quixote* by Cervantes, *The Tempest* by Shakespeare, and *Canzoniere* by Petrarch. The following is a list of general topics and subtopics which are likely to be covered.

### Primary Texts

- Representing multiple genres including images, epic and lyric poetry, oral tradition, fiction, and / or drama
- Representing multiple voices such as Asian, Mesopotamian, Western, Norse, Indian,

## Greco-Roman

### Literary Elements

- Literary traditions such as theme, motif, character development, symbolism, allusion
- Literary forms such as epic, romance, myth, allegory, oral tradition

### Socio-cultural Context

- Sociological values such as the role of women, agricultural vs. nomadic, warrior culture, social class and hierarchy
- Cultural values such as the value placed on the arts, the characteristics of romantic love, the life of the author

### Historical-political Context

- Political structures of the time such as local and national governments, relationships with neighboring nations, economic stability,
- Specific historical events such as recent wars, drought or famine, territorial expansion, treatment of the labor class, government overthrow or other shift in leadership

### World culture

- Connections and influences from and on other world literatures
- Comparisons and contrasts with modern, personal perspective