

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: World Literature to 1650
Prefix and Course Number: ENGL 271

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

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Course Outline:

- I. Overview
 - A. What does it mean to call a text “literature”?
 - B. Why have the texts in this course survived?
 - C. Literary criticism: Issues and controversies
 - 1. Universalism vs. cultural specificity
 - 2. The power and limitations of language
- II. Periods of World Literature
 - A. The Ancient World (beginnings-100 C.E.)
 - 1. The Epic of Gilgamesh
 - 2. Poetry of Ancient Egypt
 - 3. Creating Cosmogony
 - 4. Greek poetry: Sappho, Homer
 - 5. Greek drama and satire
 - 6. Ancient Rome
 - 7. The Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads
 - B. The Middle Period (100 C.E.-1450)
 - 1. The Thousand and One Nights
 - 2. Dante’s Inferno
 - 3. The Tamil Anthologies
 - 4. Chaucer, Canterbury Tales
 - 5. The Tale of Genji and The Pillow Book
 - 6. Muslim and Christian accounts of the Crusades
 - C. The Early Modern Period (1450-1650)
 - 1. Poetry of Petrarch and Shakespeare
 - 2. Cervantes, Don Quixote
 - 3. Wu Chengen, Monkey
 - 4. Sunjata
 - 5. Poetry of India
 - 6. Narratives from the New World
- III. Conclusions
 - A. Connections
 - 1. What have been common themes across cultures?
 - 2. In what ways does the present reflect the past?

B. Divergences

1. What have been some notable cultural differences?
2. How have conflicting world views shaped cultures?