

## Honors Program: “Great Works”



Instructor  
Honors Program  
Spring 2018  
MW 12:30 - 2:00 pm

György Túry, Ph.D.  
HON2201  
Ground Floor, 004  
Office Hours: based on app't via e-mail  
(turygy@gmail.com)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Reading and comparative analysis of major works of literature from a range of genres, cultures and national literatures, from antiquity to the modern period. Emphasis on the nature of literary tradition, intertextuality, and the relations between texts across history and culture. Texts include works by authors such as Homer, Sappho, Dante, Goethe, Tolstoy, Kafka, Nádas. Each section will cover the chronological period to be determined by the professor.*

Note: The syllabus may change to reflect new materials, assignments and scheduling.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students in this course will:

- Study a diverse range of literatures and genres of writing for breadth and master some in depth
- Articulate the ways in which great works of literature across the ages reflect but also challenge and change our conceptions of society, culture, history, and art
- Identify and discuss the aesthetic and cultural elements in given works of literature using multiple perspectives
- Analyze the intimate connections between works of literature and history, culture, and world view
- Understand the important role that literature plays in ethical development, in requiring that readers adopt perspectives and subject positions that are different in terms of (for instance) race, class, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation
- Increase understanding of human relationships (erotic and romantic bonds, familial ties, political behavior, power dynamics, the connection with the natural world and the cosmos, and one's sense of connection with the divine)
- Gain experience writing critically. Be able to organize, research, and communicate ideas effectively in both oral and written form
- Reflect on what makes a particular work of literature "great" and how one reads texts comparatively

## REQUIRED TEXTS

To be discussed in first class. Many pieces are available free on the Internet. You are free to use other e-versions, where available, provided you can access it quickly in class. Other textual materials will be distributed and/or posted on Blackboard.

## REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

You are expected to keep a notebook for the course and to take careful notes. Your notebook should record in-class discussion and your own questions, comments and reflections. Grades for the course will be determined as follows:

1. *Short Papers*. A number of 'response papers,' one or two pages each, will be assigned at various points in the course.
2. *Major Paper*. Paper will be 5-6 pages in length, not including notes and bibliography, and will focus on the learning objectives for the course. Instructions will be distributed in class.
4. *Midterm Examination*. The midterm exam for the course will consist of an in-class essay (March 19).
5. *Final Examination*. Further information will be available later in the course.
5. *In-class contribution*. You should be prepared to participate daily and make a strong contribution to the class. You are expected to:
  - come to all class meetings
  - complete assigned readings before class
  - engage with the readings, offer responses, and join in the general discussion.
  - give 2-3 class presentations on assigned topics.

## ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. Excused absences are limited to documented illness and to doctor, hospital or medical appointments: a signed statement from a health professional is required.

## TECHNOLOGY AND THE CLASSROOM

During the class period phones and mobile devices should be turned off and put away. Email, texting and social media are not allowed: if a student engages in any of these activities during class, it will be regarded as the equivalent of a class absence. Laptops and tablets may be used only for note taking or to access course related materials.

## BLACKBOARD

This course makes regular use of Blackboard. Important course documents and other materials will be posted on Blackboard. Blackboard email will be the regular way in which I communicate with you. I will ask a number of ‘focus questions’ for you to consider for discussion in the next class. *Be sure to check your email the day before each class.*

## CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students who enroll in this class thereby agree to read, accept and adhere strictly to the terms of the Honor Code. Please include and sign the Honor Pledge on all written assignments: “I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this piece of work, nor have I knowingly tolerated any violation of the Honor Code.”

## STUDENT RESOURCES

1. *Non-Discrimination Policy.* McDaniel College does not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, military status, genetic information, marital status, veteran’s status, or any other legally protected status. To report an incident occurring within an academic context, contact the Office of Academic Affairs. To report other on-campus incidences, contact the Division of Student Affairs.

3. *Resources for Students Who May Witness or Experience Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, or Violence (Title IX).* McDaniel College is committed to preserving an educational environment that is free from gender-based discrimination, gender-based harassment, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and relationship violence and stalking. To report an incident and/or to obtain an academic accommodation, contact any member of the Division of Student Affairs, Department of Campus Safety, any Dean, the Provost or the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty members are not considered confidential resources and therefore incidents shared with them must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident, please contact the Wellness Center.

## READING SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

M Jan	29	Introduction to the course
W	31	Akutagawa. "In a Bamboo Grove"
M Feb.	5	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> (Books 1-12)
W	7	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> (Books 13-24)
M	12	Sappho (selections)
W	14	Early Chinese Literature (poetry, Confucius, Laozi, etc.)
M	19	Euripides, <u>Medea</u> .
W	21	Plato, <u>Symposium</u>
M	26	Catullus, Poems and Ovid, <u>Metamorphoses</u> (excerpts)
W	28	Augustine, <u>Confessions</u> . (excerpts) (from Books I, II, III, V, VI, VIII, IX)
M Mar	5	Dante, <u>Inferno</u>
W	7	Dante, <u>Inferno</u>
M	12	<u>The Thousand and One Nights</u> (excerpts)
W	14	Montaigne, <u>Essays</u> (selections)
M	19	Mid-term in-class essay/test
M	26	SPRING BREAK
W	28	SPRING BREAK
M Apr	2	Easter Monday (no class)
W	4	The Enlightenment in Europe and the Americas (Johnson, Kant, Descartes, Diderot, B. Franklin, Hume, de Sade, etc., selections from <u>Norton</u> )
M	9	Voltaire, <u>Candide</u>

W	11	Voltaire, <u>Candide</u>
M	16	Goethe, <u>Faust</u>
W	18	Goethe, <u>Faust</u>
M	23	Gogol, "Overcoat"
W	25	Romantic Poetry (mostly non-English, e.g., Hölderlin, Heine, Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Verlaine, Rimbaud, etc.)
M	30	No class
W	May 2	Tolstoy, <u>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</u>
M	7	Kafka, Franz. "Metamorphosis"
W	9	Modern Poetry, e.g., Cavafy, Rilke, Neruda, Paz, [Ginsberg], etc. (mostly non-English)
M	14	Fuentes, Carlos. "Aura"
W	16	Nádas, Péter, <u>Parallel Stories</u> (selections)