

**ENG 251**  
**WESTERN WORLD LITERATURE I**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: ENG 112 or ENG 113

Corequisites: None

This course provides a survey of selected European works from the Classical period through the Renaissance. Emphasis is on historical background, cultural context, and literary analysis of selected prose, poetry, and drama. Upon completion, students should be able to interpret, analyze, and respond to selected works. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will be able to do the following:

- a. Discuss the works of major Western writers in the context of literary, historical, cultural, and intellectual movements such as the Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance, periods;
- b. Examine distinctions between sacred and secular texts;
- c. Examine the forging of ethnic, cultural, and national identities as revealed in world texts;
- d. Discuss artistic structure shared by literary works from different cultures and periods;
- e. Trace the development of themes and genres of literature;
- f. Analyze literary works for their aesthetic features and thematic patterns;
- g. Identify styles, themes, and works of major writers;
- h. Understand and apply critical approaches to literature;
- i. Understand critical and popular reception of works of this period;
- j. Communicate critical insights about world literature in writing and orally.

**OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Overview of issues in world literature
  - A. Religious, cultural, and historic background
  - B. Genres and literary movements
  - C. Tradition and development of national literatures
- II. Ancient literature: Judaeo-Christian and Greco-Roman
  - A. Historical, political, social, religious, and cultural context
  - B. Literary characteristics

- III. Medieval literature
  - A. Historical, political, social, religious, and cultural context
  - B. Literary characteristics
  
- IV. Renaissance literature
  - A. Historical, political, social, religious, and cultural context
  - B. Literary characteristics
  
- V. Selected authors and works from each period
  - A. Biographical overview
  - B. Critical and popular reception
  - C. Stylistic and thematic characteristics
  - D. Contributions to national and world literature

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Texts to be selected by instructor

**STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.