

Romance languages: French and Italian / Spanish Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: Comparative Literature with Theory of Literature
Course Unit Title: The Classics of World Literature 1
Course Unit Code: 21KK016
Name of Lecturer(s): Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Gvozden, PhD
Type and Level of Studies: Bachelor
Course Status (compulsory/elective): elective
Semester (winter/summer): winter
Language of instruction: English or Serbian
Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): Face-to-face
Number of ECTS Allocated: 3
Prerequisites: /
<p>Course Aims:</p> <p>The objective of this course is to introduce students to the fundamental topics of the humanities. It aims to familiarize them with the foundational practices of academic studies in literature and the basic concepts of the history of ideas within the Western civilization. Throughout the course, essential themes of biblical literature (sin and forgiveness), classical antiquity (epic paradigm, the conflict between law and customs in tragedy), and the early modern period will be explored. Students will also become acquainted with the processes of self-fashioning in the modern individual during the Renaissance period (universal human, human dignity, humanism, individualism, learned ignorance, humor, and the theory of medical humor). Finally, through the character of Candide, discussions will revolve around the project of enlightenment, while the figure of Faust will serve as a basis for examining the tension between knowledge and the individual versus the community.</p>
<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>The course aims to equip students with the ability to apply knowledge related to the formation of the canon of European literature and the development of modern subjectivity, as well as to recognize their elements in subsequent periods. Students will acquire a foundational understanding of the principles of interpreting literary texts, the ability to recognize literary myths and their function, and the capacity for independent interpretation and evaluation of literary texts. Furthermore, they will develop a deepened understanding of various phenomena within the broader field of humanities.</p>
<p>Syllabus:</p> <p>The course will commence with an introductory discussion on classics and literary canons. Topics covered will include the Epic of Gilgamesh (themes, structure, and its influence on the Western canon), the Book of Job, and the ancient path of sinners in world literature. The Bible's significance as a major code in Western literature will be explored. Additionally, Borges' idea of the four types of stories (quest, city conquest, warrior's return, and the death of God) will be examined. The Odyssey will serve as a precursor to the typical literary hero, an individual who embodies an entire civilization. Aristotle's Poetics will be discussed as the foundation of Western literature. Antigone will be explored as a paradigm of the tragic heroine. The ideas of Socrates concerning knowledge and ignorance will be analyzed and connected to the Christian tradition of wise folly. Dante's descent into the underworld and Christian art will be examined. Petrarch's ascent of Mount Ventoux will reveal the depths of the human soul. Erasmus' In Praise of Folly will be analyzed as an archetypal text of "foolish literature." Don Quixote will exemplify Renaissance humor. The modern novel, modern subjectivity, and the problem of the narrator will be addressed. Montaigne's ideal of self-fashioning will be explored. Love and suffering, as portrayed in Romeo and Juliet, will be discussed in the context of early modern times. Hamlet will be analyzed as an expression of complex intellectual and moral currents of modernity. Voltaire's Candide and the paradigm</p>

of Enlightenment will be examined. Lastly, Faust's journey from medieval myth to modern individualism will be scrutinized.

Required Reading:

Primary sources:

1. Epic of Gilgamesh (selection)
2. Book of Job
3. Homer, *The Odyssey* (selection)
4. Sophocles, *Antigone*
5. Plato, *Defense of Socrates*
6. Dante, *Inferno* (multiple translations)
7. Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*
8. Montaigne, *Essays* (selection)
9. Cervantes, *Don Quixote Part I*
10. William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*
11. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
12. Voltaire, *Candide*
13. Goethe, *Faust*

Secondary sources:

Milos Đurić, History of Hellenic Literature (multiple editions); Rene Girard, *The Old Sinners' Way*; Francesco de Sanctis, "Dante Alighieri," *Critical Essays*; Leon Alken, *Erasmus Among Us*; Erich Auerbach, *Mimesis*, (Chapter XII on Montaigne, Chapter XIV on Cervantes); Ljiljana Pavlović-Samurović, *The Book about Cervantes*, Belgrade, 2002, V. Gvozden, "Love and Suffering," introduction to William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Belgrade, 2012 Veselin Kostić, *The Creative Work of William Shakespeare I and II*, Belgrade, 1994 Denis de Rougement, *Love and the Western World*; Thomas Mann, "On Goethe's Faust," *Collected Essays*

Weekly Contact Hours: 2

Lectures: 2

Practical work:

Teaching Methods: dialogical, multi-medial, textual

Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):

Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points
Active class participation	10	written exam	70
Practical work	/	oral exam	
Preliminary exam(s)	20	
Seminar(s)			

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.