

LIT 2340 – Western Literature

Dr. Donald Deardorff II

3 Credit Hours

Online Version

Course Description

Students will read, understand and appreciate some of the classic works of western literature; develop a distinctly Christian understanding of the philosophical evolution of western literature; understand how the dominant ideas and philosophies reflected in the works of western literature influence American society today.

NOTE: The Cedarville University general education course "Western Literature" (LIT 2340) is an overview of the literature of western civilization from a Biblical perspective. Qualified high school students are welcome to take the course; however, parents should understand that the course will treat some mature subjects in the literature (such as sexuality, substance abuse, and pagan religious activities) analytically at a college level of discussion. Parents are advised to weigh carefully whether their teens are ready for this level of discussion; we encourage parents to take an active role in engaging and advising their children as we deal with such delicate subjects in a Christian context.

Texts and Resources

The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, 5th ed. ISBN: 9780393954869

Historical Fieldguides - provided online

Twelve Video Units - provided online

Twelve Visual Timeline(s) - provided online

1 Comprehensive Visual Timeline - provided online

Grading Scale

A	94-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	C	74-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-73
B	84-86	D	65-69
B-	80-83	F	64 or below

About the Course

This course covers 12 units of material regarding the history of Western Literature. The units function as consecutive parts to a larger story that I am trying to help you understand; therefore, each week's lessons will build on previous weeks about the history of Western Literature. Basically, you will be learning the story of Western Literature in twelve parts. Disclaimer: A few of the stories ("Lysistrata",

"Candide") include some material that some Christians might find objectionable. All of the stories were chosen because they are widely regarded as great and important art, and because they help me tell you the story of Western literature that I am trying to tell you. However, if you have objections to any of the readings, I will be happy to give you an alternative assignment.

Assignment Details

Students will be assessed on their reading and understanding of the material from the following

Online Quizzes – 30%

For each piece of literature assigned, there will be a quiz. The quiz questions may be drawn from the introductory front-matter that precedes each work. Quiz questions will be multiple choice or short-answer questions. The questions are designed to test your reading comprehension. Quizzes are not open book.

Submitting Quizzes

When you are ready to take a quiz, please go to the WebCT homepage and click on the "Assessments" link under the Course Tools menu

Unit Essays – 50%

Each week, I will assign a question and each student will write an essay. The essay will be a 3-4 page answer to my question. You will be graded on substance (how well you answer the question), organization, and style (grammar and syntax).

Submitting Individual Essay Assignments:

When you are ready to submit the group essay, please go to the WebCT homepage and click on the "Assignments" link under the Course Tools menu.

Final Exam – 20%

8-10 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, title page) on a final question that I will assign you. Your final examination will consist of your reflections on the Western Literature story and how it impacts American society and Christian life today.

About Good Essay Writing

A good essay will have a clear, defining thesis that guides the piece, sound evidence to support that thesis, and a conclusion that is provocative and somewhat memorable. Each essay should have a title.

Submitting the Final Exam

When you are ready to submit your final exam, please go to the WebCT homepage and click on the "Assignments" link under the Course Tools menu.