

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: ENG 251

Credits: 3

Course Title: Survey of World Literature I

Course Description: Examines major works of world literature from the ancient period to the early 17th century. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 251 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: ENG 251 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for humanistic study, and promotes an understanding of selected American literature from the pre-colonial period through the mid-nineteenth century. As a writing intensive course, ENG 251 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, and substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Students will produce at least 12 pages (3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and at least 12 pages (3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: ENG 112 or equivalent

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe, analyze, and interpret themes and features of literary texts from a variety of genres, using appropriate literary terminology;
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the literary movements covered in the survey, including literary techniques, innovations, major writers, and major texts;
- c. Explain the relationship between literature and the historical and cultural contexts in which it is produced, with particular attention to the shaping of cultural identities as reflected in the literature;
- d. Compose writing about literature that includes clear and concise argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation; and
- e. Use literary study as a means for engaging in meaningful and enduring questions across human cultures.

Major Topics to Be Included:

Students may expect to study the following:

- a. Examination of world literary traditions, including founding myths, the emergence of dramatic forms, lyric and epic poetry, fictional narrative, and non-fiction texts, beginning with the ancient period and moving to the early 17th century
- b. Examination of the cultures and societies from which this literature emerges
- c. Examination of issues relevant to the growth of epic and mythic texts, oral histories, the emergence of written literary traditions, and the cross-cultural influences of literary forms

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