

IDS 101-3
The Journey to the Self: Narrative and the Hero

TTh 12:50-2:20

ETN XXX

Prof. Mary R. Bachvarova

503-370-6984

mbachvar@willamette.edu

Office Hour M 11:30-12:30 or by appt. Feel free to email me any time with questions.

The modern Western novel, an extended prose narrative telling of a hero's often life-changing experience, has its roots in the Mesopotamian epic of "Gilgamesh", first recorded on clay tablets ca. 2100 BC. The figure of Gilgamesh, a historically attested Sumerian king who chose friendship over family, who failed in his quest to achieve physical immortality but left behind one of the most enduring monuments to man's search for the meaning of life in the face of inconsolable grief, was a major influence on Homer as he composed the story of Odysseus. And, Homer's *Odyssey*, considered by many to be the "first novel" of Western civilization, has proved to be a formative influence on Western literature. We will explore how the development of the familiar literary form of the novel over the course of millennia was a product of man's developing sense of self, his/her changing understanding of his relationship to the divine and his/her desire to understand the purpose of life, through these two "proto-novels" and a series of key works such as Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and Hermann Hesse's *Rosshalde*.

Required Books

The Odyssey, by Homer (trans. M. Hammond) 0715629581

This book must be purchased before the beginning of our first class.

To be purchased at the bookstore

Gilgamesh (trans. Andrew George) ISBN 0140449191

Jacques the Fatalist, by Denis Diderot 978-0-19-953795-2

Crime and Punishment, by Fyodor Dostoevsky 0553211757

To the Lighthouse, Virginia Woolf 0156907399

Rosshalde, by Hermann Hesse 0312422296

A Pocket Style Manual, by Diana Hacker

Required Reading on e-reserve (accessed on Hatfield library's main page under "course reserves"):

"Transition and ritual in Odysseus' return," by Charles Segal

"The brown stocking," by Erich Auerbach

All printed handouts, the syllabus, etc. will be saved on a website set up for this class in Wise.

Your grade in College Colloquium will be based on your achievement of the following student learning outcomes:

*Your ability to engage (read and think about) texts.

*Your ability to contribute positively to seminar discussions.

*Your ability to write analytically, by framing and supporting a critical argument.

Your progress will be assessed through a series of assignments, graded as follows:

Grading policy:

papers: 55%

#1: 15%

#2: 20%

#3: 20%

participation: 45%

attendance and in-class participation 10% (you are allowed 2 excused absences, as long as you inform me IN ADVANCE)

reading journal 15%

take-home assignment 5%

draft critiques 10%

leading part of one class 5%

The reading diary, draft critiques, and leading part of one class are graded as follows: √-, √, √+.

Your Reading Diary: For each class when no other written assignment is due (approximately 22 times over the course of the semester), I ask you to pause and reflect on what you have read. I will provide questions for each reading to serve as prompts for your thinking and for the class discussion. The assignments will enable you to develop your skills in close reading and critical analysis of texts. Submit these reflections through our Wise website (except for the first three assignments), with the title: YOUR-LAST-NAME-ASSIGNMENT#, **BY 9:00 AM**.

Each **paper** will be written in at least two phases. The first phase is a **rough draft** that will be critiqued in class by a small group of your fellow students and by me via email. **Draft critiques** develop your skills in analyzing your own writing and in writing for a readership of your peers (rather than an omniscient teacher). You then have a few days to rework your ideas, incorporating further data, analysis and insights, and clarifying your thesis and argumentation, before you turn in the **final draft**, a polished piece of writing.

Take-Home Assignment: Handed out in class Aug. 30, due Sept. 1 via Wise. This is primarily a diagnostic assignment that helps me understand where you are as a writer.

You will each be assigned a 20-minute section of one class, in which you will **lead the class discussion**. This allows you to practice the process of active listening, facilitating contributions from your peers and constructive communication, transitioning you from a passive student to an engaged scholar.

Turning in Papers: All papers must be submitted electronically via Wise by the date and time indicated. The file name should be: Your-last-name-1/2/3.doc.

Plagiarism Policy: You should familiarize yourself with Willamette's plagiarism policy, which you can find at <http://www.willamette.edu/cla/catalog/Sect3/aca.html#plag>. Plagiarism can take different forms, but its essence is presenting the words or work of another as your own. When you are quoting from a source you must place that material in quotation marks and correctly cite the source of the quotation. If you are paraphrasing the words of another you must provide the source from which you are paraphrasing. When using your own words to express an idea or argument of another, the source should be credited. A paper that is plagiarized – wholly or partially – will receive an F and may not be rewritten. Depending on the severity of the plagiarism, the penalty may very well also extend to failing the course. In accordance with university policy, any instance of plagiarism will be promptly reported to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Schedule

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|----|-------|--|
| 1 | 8/25 | <i>Odyssey</i> 1-70
Submit first entry of reading journal to WISE site by 9:00 AM |
| 2 | 8/26 | <i>Odyssey</i> 71-129 |
| 3 | 8/27 | <i>Odyssey</i> 130-94 |
| 4 | 8/29 | <i>Odyssey</i> 195-256 |
| 5 | 8/30 | Segal, "Transition and ritual in Odysseus' return," on e-reserve |
| 6 | 9/1 | TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE ONE HOUR BEFORE CLASS
<i>Gilgamesh</i> 1-29 |
| 7 | 9/6 | <i>Gilgamesh</i> 30-99, 100, 175-95 |
| 8 | 9/8 | <i>Jacques the Fatalist</i> 1-53 |
| 9 | 9/13 | <i>Jacques the Fatalist</i> 54-180 |
| 10 | 9/15 | DRAFT #1 DUE |
| 11 | 9/20 | NO CLASS
1 st PAPER DUE 5:00 |
| 12 | 9/22 | <i>Jacques the Fatalist</i> 180-240 |
| 13 | 9/27 | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 1-133 |
| 14 | 9/29 | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 134-95 |
| 15 | 10/4 | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 197-329 |
| 16 | 10/6 | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 330-400 |
| 17 | 10/11 | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 401-525 |
| 18 | 10/13 | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 526-42
DRAFT #2 DUE |
| 19 | 10/18 | NO CLASS
2 nd PAPER DUE 5:00 |
| 20 | 10/20 | <i>To the Lighthouse</i> 1-54 |
| 21 | 10/25 | <i>To the Lighthouse</i> 54-124 |
| 22 | 10/27 | <i>To the Lighthouse</i> 125-162 |
| 23 | 11/1 | <i>To the Lighthouse</i> 162-209 |
| 24 | 11/3 | Auerbach, "The Brown Stocking," on e-reserve |
| 25 | 11/8 | <i>Rosshalde</i> 1-100 |
| 26 | 11/10 | <i>Rosshalde</i> 101-147 |
| 27 | 11/15 | <i>Rosshalde</i> 148-213 |
| 28 | 11/17 | DRAFT 3# DUE |
| 29 | 11/22 | NO CLASS
3 rd PAPER DUE |