

ENG 304: The Epic
Section 1star * 24289
Fall 2016

Professor Margaret Sinex

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Class meetings: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 12:15 in Simpkins 214.

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 3:30 – 4:30, Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00.

Your successful completion of this course depends on the crucial information in this syllabus. If you lose your copy, print a replacement from our Western Online site.

Catalog Description

ENG 304: This course explores the epic form relying on two works that are part of the foundation of British and American literary tradition. We study Homer's *Iliad* as the representative of the traditional epic for the first eight weeks of class and John Milton's *Paradise Lost* as representative of the secondary epic in the last eight weeks. Topics for the *Iliad* include (but are not limited to) the tension between marriage and bonds between warriors, the preoccupation with the aesthetics of the male body and its vulnerability, the relationship between myth and this ancient poem, as well as current theorizing about oral composition. Both poems interrogate what it means to be human in a divinely created world, the nature of divine love, and humanity's obligation to observe divine law. While both poems challenge our notions about heroism, it is Milton's poem that offers us one of literature's great anti-heroes in Satan. As we read we will also enjoy some of the many works of visual art both poems have inspired.

304 Poetic Forms. (3) Study of a major form of poetic expression. May include a single genre (e.g. epic or lyric), or individual forms (e.g. sonnet or ode). The course will also address both the technical vocabularies and major concepts of poetics. Prerequisite: ENG 299 with a grade of C or better, or consent of instructor.

ENG 304 satisfies one upper-division course in Forms for the English Major, or one upper-division course in Pre-1800 Literature for the English Major.

Required Texts to Purchase:

Texts are available at the Union Bookstore.

Used copies may also be available from Chapman's Book and Office Supply, 717 W. Adams Street. 833- 4509.

You may also order through New Copperfield's Book Service on the Macomb Square; their number is: 837-3052.

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual – 2016 MLA Updated*. 7th ed. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015. ISBN: 9781319083526. University Bookstore estimated used price \$ 32.00, new \$ 24.00.

Homer, *The Iliad*. Trans. Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin, 1990. ISBN: 9780140275360. Union Bookstore's estimated price used \$13.50, new \$19.00.

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost*. Ed. Gordon Teskey. New York: Norton, 2005. ISBN: 9780393924282. Union Bookstore's estimated price used \$13.50, new \$23.75.

Required Texts Available on Western Online:

Required Supplementary readings will be posted here.

Web Sites:

For The *Iliad*: an Annotated Guide at University of Victoria, Canada.
<http://web.uvic.ca/~lwoolard/a4/iliad-annotated/index.html>

For Milton: darknessvisible.christs.cam.ac.uk Christ's College Cambridge

Course Requirements:

Evaluation

Essay # 1	25%
Essay # 2	25%
Test # 1	25%
Test #2	25%
Class participation	

Scale

	89 – 87 = B+	79 – 77 = C+	69 – 67 = D+
100 – 95 = A	86 – 83 = B	76 – 73 = C	66 – 63 = D
94 – 90 = A-	82 – 80 = B-	72 – 70 = C-	62 – 60 = D-

Course Policies:

Failure to comply with the following policies will lower your grade.

1. Participation: Your regular, punctual attendance in class is mandatory. For this class, you have three unexplained absences. After that, each class missed will result in two points off your final grade for the course. Participation in the class discussion is essential to forming a reading community in this course; consequently, participation is an integral part of your final grade. If you are present in body but never speak or fail to read the assignment, or asleep you are not participating.
2. All assigned reading must be completed in its entirety for the classing meetings as noted in the Course Schedule.

3. **Essays** must be typed and are due on the assigned date at the beginning of class. Phone me or email me **before** the due date if you have a legitimate reason for being unable to meet a deadline and we may be able to accommodate you. **Late Essays** will be penalized 2 points for each day they are late. **I do not accept essays by email.**

4. Behavior that is discourteous to your fellow classmates and consistently interferes with his or her learning experience in our classroom will not be tolerated. Please treat one another with the consideration and respect each of you deserves. No verbal attacks on a classmate are permissible. Using profanity before the class begins, during class or following class is not acceptable. **Entering the classroom late and leaving the room during the period** are distracting to your classmates and intensely annoying to me. Cell phones and all other devices will be turned off **before entering** the classroom. Remove your baseball cap for the duration of class. Why? Because the university classroom is a formal space reserved for discussion and lecture and men do not wear hats indoors in formal spaces.

Remember: if you can see my face clearly, I can see yours with equal clarity.
Consider your facial expression during class period.

5. **Academic dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to “plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, [and] cheating” will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with Western Illinois University’s Student Academic Integrity Policy. To learn about infractions and procedures see: www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php.

In her *A Pocket Manual of Style* 7th ed., Diana Hacker defines plagiarism as “(1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (115).

Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Web address for student rights and responsibilities: <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

Web address for Academic Integrity Policy: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Course Schedule:

The schedule is subject to change according to the needs of the class. All changes will be announced in a timely manner; it is your responsibility to keep informed of any alterations in the schedule.

Week 1

August

Tues. 23 Syllabus *Iliad* Book One

Thurs. 25

Week 2

Tues. 30 *Iliad* Book Two

September

Thurs. 1

Week 3

Monday Labor Day

Tues. 6 *Iliad* **Essay # 1 Topics Distributed in Class.**

Thurs. 8

Week 4

Tues. 13 *Iliad*

Thurs.15

Week 5

Tues. 20 *Iliad*

Thurs. 22

Week 6

Tues. 27 *Iliad* **Essay # 1 Due in Class.**

Thurs. 29

Week 7

October

Tues. 4 *Iliad*

Thurs. 6

Week 8

Tues. 11 *Iliad*

Thurs. 13 **Test # 1**

Friday Fall Break

Week 9

Tues. 18 *Paradise Lost*, Introduction, Book One

Thurs. 20

Week 10

Tues. 25 *Paradise Lost* Book Two

Thurs. 27

Week 11

November

Tues. 1 *Paradise Lost* Book Three selections

Thurs. 3

Week 12

Tues. 8 *Paradise Lost* Book Four

Thurs. 10

Week 13

Tues. 15 *Paradise Lost* Books Five and Six selections **Essay # 2 Due in Class.**

Thurs. 17 *Paradise Lost* Books Seven and Eight selections

Week 14

Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

Tues. 29 *Paradise Lost* Book Nine

December

Thurs. 1

Week 16

Tues. 6 *Paradise Lost* Book Eleven **Test # 2 Essay Portion Due in Class.**

Thurs. 8

Week 17

Exam Week

Thursday the 15th at 8 AM **Test # 2 GACK!!!**

Monday the 19th Grades Due