

**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. This course has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English department. ENG 251 and ENG 252 may be taken out of order. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or its equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** ENG 251 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes an understanding of world literature from the ancient period to the early 17th century. It emphasizes both the global development of literary forms and their unique expressions within individual cultural contexts. It also examines the social and historical influences on literary texts. 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 its equivalent

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing this course, students 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. Produce at least 12 pages (a minimum of 3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay examinations, and at least 12 pages (a minimum of 3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries; academic writing about literature should include clear argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation;
- e. Participate in interactive discussions, peer reviews, and/or one or more formal individual and/or group multi-modal presentations;
- f. Locate and evaluate information retrieved from electronic sources, such as academic databases and Web resources;
- g. Use available electronic technologies for creating and submitting texts; and
- h. Recognize literary study as a means for intellectual, aesthetic, and personal growth, and for engaging 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
- d. Development of critical thinking and writing skills

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** Spring 2014 (revised 6/10/2014)