

Geoffrey B. Elliott, PhD

**ENGL 2340.01: World Literature through the Renaissance Syllabus and Course Calendar
Revision**

Fall 2016

Office Weir 209

Office Phone 830-792-7416

Office Email GElliott@schreiner.edu

Office Hours MWF, 1200-1250, and by
appointment

Note that information on this syllabus is subject to change. Reasonable efforts will be made to inform students of any such changes that occur.

This syllabus is updated as of 28 July 2016 to include released final exam information.

Course Description

Per the University catalog, ENGL 2340: World Literature through the Renaissance is described as “A survey of the masterpieces of world literature from the ancient world through the Renaissance, this course emphasizes historical, generic, and thematic connections. Prerequisite: ENGL 1302.”

Course Objectives

This specific section of the course will focus on humor (despite the boilerplate materials in the syllabus). That is, it will look at such things as

- What in selected works of literature was likely funny for its expected original audiences,
- What is funny to modern readers in such works,
- How the humor in each case works (i.e., what makes the funny funny?), and
- What the similarities and differences reveal about the author/s, the original reader/s, and those of us who read things now.

To find the funny bits, some of which are subtle, students will need to do a number of things:

- Read and develop familiarity with a number of works of world literature, demonstrating the familiarity through in- and out-of-class discussions as well as occasional quizzes and formal exams;
- Develop familiarity with literary critical terms and practices, demonstrating the familiarity through in- and out-of-class discussions as well as occasional quizzes and formal exams;
- Develop familiarity with underlying ideas of humor, including the social and situational standards that allow for its effect, demonstrating the familiarity through in- and out-of-class discussions; and
- Apply the knowledge of literary critical terms and practices developed during the class to works of literature outside the assigned reading list to analyze and evaluate the function of humor in them, doing so in the form of two relatively short papers (1,300-1,625 words plus MLA-style Works Cited lists) suitable for publication in undergraduate journals.

It sounds like a lot, but that is because there is a lot to do, and there is not much time in which to do it. With diligence and attention, though, it can be done, and done well. I look forward to working with you as you do it.

Textbook

The course requires one text: Puchner, Martin, et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, Package 1 (Vols. A, B, and C). W.W. Norton, 2012 (ISBN 978-0-393-93365-9).

The age of the texts that will be studied means that many of them are readily available in other editions, not seldom for free online. Many such editions may be helpful in completing the work of the class (such as the papers), but for purposes of in-class discussion, the *Norton Anthology of World Literature* (NAWL) will be expected. People have to understand the reference to get the joke, and working from a common edition helps them get the reference.

The textbook may be available in electronic editions as well as print. Students who opt to use an electronic textbook should note that they, and they alone, are responsible for securing access to the text during class time and for any hardware or software problems attendant upon their doing so.

Other Resources

In addition to the required textbook, the following resources will be helpful or vital in carrying out the tasks of the course:

- The University Writing Center, Dickey Hall, Room 106,
<http://www.schreiner.edu/academics/academic-support/center-for-teaching-learning/student-academic-success/writing-center.aspx>
- The University Undergraduate Research Center,
<http://www.schreiner.edu/academics/undergraduate-research.aspx>
- Elliott RWI, www.elliottrwi.com
- Purdue University Online Writing Lab, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- The International Society for Humor Studies (yes, there is such a thing),
<http://www.humorstudies.org/index.htm?submit2=ISHS+Home>
 - *HUMOR*, the Society journal, <http://www.humorstudies.org/JournalCenter.htm>
- Major English-language dictionary, such as those from Oxford University (preferred) and Merriam-Webster
- Access to campus email and *Schreiner One*
- Pen/pencil and paper every class meeting

Evaluation

How grades happen can seem a bit complicated. How individual assignments and groups of assignments contribute to a student's overall course grade is laid out in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Grade Distribution

Assignment or Category	Percent of Grade
Minor Assignments (MinAss)	10
Online Discussions (Discus)	15
Paper 1 (Ppr 1)*	20
Midterm Exam (MTE _x)*	10
Paper 2 (Ppr 2)*	20
Final Exam (FinEx)*	15
Professionalism (Prof)	10
Total	100

*Indicates a major assignment.

The papers and many other assignments will be assessed in terms of their demonstrated performance in several areas (the areas will be discussed in more detail on individual assignments' materials). Specific areas on such assignments will be assigned a number of "steps," motions through the grading scale indicated on Table 2, below. The total number of steps, positive or negative, will indicate the final assignment score.

More explanation of my grading practices can be found on *Elliott RWI* as "Some Remarks about Grading," <https://elliottrwi.com/2016/02/28/some-remarks-about-grading/>.

Some assignments will only be offered an overall score. Such scores also conform to Table 2, below.

Table 2: Grading Scale

Score	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	0
Steps	+7	+6	+5	+4	+3	+2	+1	+0	-1	-2	-3 or more	N/A*
Numerical Equivalent	98	95	92	88	85	82	78	75	72	65	55	0

*Grades of zero (0) result from non-submission of assignments or for academic integrity violations.

Final grades will be reported according to the scale in Tale 3, below.

Table 3: Final Grades

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Overall Score	90+	80-89.999	70-79.999	60-69.999	Below 60

Ppr 1 and Ppr 2 are expected to be submitted as works of polished prose, meaning that they should be written and revised more than once. Some class time will be given over to reading and critique of the work done for the class. As such, you will need to be ready to read and comment appropriately on the work of your classmates, as well as to have them do the same to your work. **Peer review is a vital component of this class, and is to be conducted respectfully and only within the context of the classroom.**

Please note that you may be asked to read your work aloud for the class to critique; sometimes talking through a piece is just what is needed. As with peer review, **presentations will be conducted respectfully and only within the classroom context.**

Please note that many assignments will be submitted through Schreiner One and that the originality-checking software included in it will be applied to the materials submitted through it.

I generally grade fairly holistically. This does not mean that I shall not mark or penalize your errors, but I shall do my best to give you better and more useful feedback on the work you do than simply "fixing" your punctuation and spelling and slapping a grade on the work. Mechanical "correctness" is important, but organization, depth, and originality of thought are more so.

In this class, the fact that you or somebody else paid for you to have a seat does not entitle you to any specific grade. By registering and meeting the requirements for this class, you have earned

the right to have access to higher learning and the **opportunity to earn** credit, much as you have to pay to take a martial arts class but are not assured of earning any specific belt. I do not **give** you a grade, you **earn** a grade; I report to you on the quality of the work you turn in to me, as measured against standards expressed for each assignment.

Discussion of Grades and Progress

I am always happy to discuss your progress and grades with you. I am not going to discuss your grades with your parents, your siblings, your roommates, your spouses, your children, or anyone else except as required by my superiors and the law. I am also not going to discuss your grades over the phone or through email; if you want to know your grades, come see me during office hours or set up an appointment, and we can go over how you are doing, what you have done well, and what you can improve upon.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken during each class meeting, whether formally through the submission of a piece of writing or informally through some convenient means. Ideally, every student will attend every class meeting. Things happen that ought not to happen, however, and so some allowance for absence is made. Students may miss five (5) class meetings without direct penalty; no explanation of the absence is requested or required. Each absence after the fifth will lower the student's grade by ten percent. That is, a sixth absence will drop a grade of 92 to an 82. A seventh will drop a grade of 92 to 72. An eighth will drop a grade of 92 to 62, and a ninth will drop a grade of 92 to a 52

There are limited exceptions to the attendance policy noted above. Perhaps the most pressing is that necessitated by military or judicial service. Students in military or military reserve units called to duty, or who are summoned for judicial proceedings, will have their absences excused (i.e., not counted against the number of absences allowed to the student) once appropriate documentation (e.g., a copy of mobilization orders, an email from the student's commanding officer, or a court summons) is provided. Students absent from class for University (**not student organization, intramurals, or Greek life**) events will have their absences excused, as well, once appropriate documentation is provided. Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the instructor, the Department Chair, the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, or higher-level administration, but such circumstances are rare. Assignments due during excused absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis, as circumstances warrant.

Tardiness and Early Departure

Please be in class when it is scheduled to begin, and please remain in class for the scheduled duration. Students who arrive late or leave early are subject to being counted absent without in-class comment. So are students who are out of the room for protracted periods during class or multiple times in a given class period. Showing up late makes it hard to get the joke, and leaving early makes it hard to hear the punchline.

Late Work

Late work is generally not acceptable, and many instructors (as well as employers and authorities) will not accept it. In this class, minor assignments are not accepted if they are submitted late. The exams generally may not be taken late, although certain extenuating

circumstances (e.g., military or judicial service) may make other arrangements appropriate. If you believe your circumstances merit consideration, please discuss them with me during office hours. The major papers (Ppr 1 and Ppr 2) will be accepted late, albeit at an automatic grade of F; late papers will generally receive minimal or no feedback other than the grade.

Revisions

I encourage revision of papers, but I think that effective revision takes outside guidance. Thus, students desiring to revise any assignment for a higher grade must consult with me before so doing. I shall determine on a case-by-case basis what the revision must entail and whether or not the revision will result in a change of grade for the assignment. Be advised also that I will tend to allow more leeway in revision on late work the less late it is. Trying to turn in late work during the last week of class and hoping to get to revise it up to an A is not going to get you anywhere, but if you miss the deadline by a day or two, you might just make it in revision.

Student Professionalism

Please treat the classroom with the same degree of attention and consideration as any professional space. Please show up to class prepared and on time; **this means having necessary materials, having completed the assigned readings, and having prepared any assignments upon entry into the classroom.** Silence or deactivate cell phones during class time, and refrain from private conversations outside of group/class discussion. If you are late, please be respectful of the instructor and others in the classroom by quietly and quickly finding a seat without gratuitous comment, questioning, or other obtrusive behavior (this includes interrupting lecture or discussion to explain your tardiness, ask what the class is doing, or make other comments). The same requests also apply to those who need to leave early. If you feel the need to discuss late arrival or early departure, please do so via email, during office hours, or before or after class.

Please note that excessive tardiness or early departure will negatively impact my assessment of your professionalism. Please note also that egregious violations of professional conduct will result in your being asked to leave; if you are thusly asked to leave, you will be counted absent for the class.

Section 504 (per University Standards)

Schreiner University is compliant with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 with respect to providing academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to qualified students. Students requiring such accommodations should contact the Section 504 Coordinator in Dickey Hall, Room 218. Should a faculty office prove inaccessible, special arrangements to meet outside the office can be made for students with mobility impairments.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in any of its various forms (e.g., plagiarism, presenting hired writing as work done, patchwriting, Rogeting, unauthorized use of papers for/from other classes) is unacceptable and subject to adverse actions ranging from failure of an assignment to failure of the course and other University-imposed sanctions. This class will follow the University's Code of Academic Conduct, which may be found in the *Student Handbook*, in print and online at <http://students.schreiner.edu/handbook/docs/su-201516-handbook-dos-edits-page.pdf>.

Contact Policy and Schreiner One

Email is my preferred mode of contact outside of class time; I check my email at least once (and usually more often) each day I am scheduled to teach, usually in the morning. As a note, I do not sit up all night waiting for my email inbox to chime, and I may not have time to read and answer all emails before class.

Per University standards, “All email communication for this course will be done via our schreiner.edu email accounts. Emails sent to me without schreiner.edu addresses will *not* [emphasis in original] be accepted by my faculty inbox. Grades, attendance, due dates, and handouts will be posted to Schreiner One on a regular basis.”

Agreements

Students who remain enrolled in the class past the last day to add, drop, or change sections online signal their understanding of, and agreement to, the policies and procedures outlined in this syllabus.

Late in the term, a form asking after students’ agreement to allow instructor use of their materials in future teaching, research, and professional development will be distributed. Whether permission is granted or not will not affect the course grade, but a clear answer will be greatly appreciated.

Course Calendar

Readings and daily assignments not already on the course calendar may be announced in class. When they are, they are to be treated as appearing on the calendar at the correct time. Also, readings may not always be discussed in class. You are still responsible for knowing the material; the readings form the bases for discussions and are likely to undergird any necessary quizzes.

“Readings Due” indicates that the readings listed are assigned **to be completed before the beginning of class** on the day listed, unless otherwise noted. “NAWL” in the calendar (Table 4, below) refers to *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*; reading assignments are listed by volume and page numbers. “Assignment Due” indicates that the activities listed are to be completed and submitted at the time and in the manner indicated.

In the event that a given day has neither reading nor activity listed, class will still meet normally (and class will probably continue discussion from earlier. The only times class does not meet as scheduled will be announced in advance (if possible) or posted on the door to the classroom.

Table 4: Course Calendar

Week	Date	Readings Due	Assignment Due
1	24 Aug.	• Syllabus (in class)	•
	26 Aug.	•	•
2	29 Aug.	• “The Invention of Writing and the Earliest Literatures,” NAWL A 3-21; “Ancient Egyptian Literature,” NAWL A 57-59; “Egyptian Love Poems,” NAWL A 76-81	•
	31 Aug.	• “Setne Khamwas and Naneferkaptah,” NAWL A 81-91	•
	2 Sept.	• “The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant,” NAWL A 1124-29	•
3	7 Sept.	• “The Epic of Gilgamesh,” NAWL A 95-151	•
	9 Sept.	•	• Discus 1 (online before class begins)
4	12 Sept.	• “Ancient Athenian Drama,” NAWL A 644-49; “Aristophanes,” NAWL A 823-25; <i>Lysistrata</i> , NAWL A 825-62	•
	14 Sept.	•	•
	16 Sept.	• “Frogs,” NAWL A 1133-43	• Discus 2 (online before class begins)
5	19 Sept.	•	• Ppr 1 PV (in class)
	21 Sept.	• “Catullus,” NAWL A 940-59	•
	23 Sept.	•	• Discus 3 (online before class begins)
6	26 Sept.	• “India’s Ancient Epics and Tales,” NAWL A 1161-69; <i>The Ramayana</i> , NAWL A 1170-1234	• Ppr 1 RV (online before class begins)
	28 Sept.	•	•
	30 Sept.	•	• Discus 4 (online before class begins)

Week	Date	Readings Due	Assignment Due
7	3 Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Early Chinese Literature and Thought,” NAWL A 1311-1319; “Classic of Poetry,” NAWL A 1320-1330 	•
	5 Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Zhuangzi</i>, NAWL A 1374-98, 1424-27 	•
	7 Oct.	•	• Ppr 1 (online before class begins)
8	12 Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Circling the Mediterranean: Europe and the Islamic World,” NAWL B 3-17; “Apuleius,” NAWL B 34-35; <i>The Golden Ass</i>, 36-44 	•
	14 Oct.	•	• MTEEx (in class)
9	17 Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Aboloqasem Ferdowsi,” NAWL B 182-85; <i>Shahnameh</i>, NAWL B 185-207 	•
	19 Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Song of Roland</i>, NAWL B 219-84 	•
	21 Oct.	•	• Discus 5 (online before class begins)
10	24 Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Thousand and One Nights</i>, NAWL B 552-605 	•
	26 Oct.	•	•
	28 Oct.	•	• Discus 6 (online before class begins)
11	31 Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “India’s Classical Age,” NAWL B 837-45; “Visnusarman,” NAWL B 846-48; <i>Pañcatantra</i>, NAWL B 848-55 	•
	2 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The Classical Sanskrit Lyric,” NAWL B 943-59 	•
	4 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Somadeva,” NAWL B 960-62; <i>Kathasaritsagara</i>, NAWL B 962-67 	• Discus 7 (online before class begins)
12	7 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Medieval Chinese Literature,” NAWL B 969-77; Li Bo, NAWL B 1022-29; Du Fu, NAWL B 1030-35 	•
	9 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Han Yu,” NAWL B 1047-48; “The Biography of Tipp O’Hair,” NAWL B 1048-51; “Liu Zongyuan,” NAWL B 1051; “A Theory of Heaven,” NAWL B 1051-53 	•
	11 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Japan’s Classical Age,” NAWL B 1073-81; “Poetry of the Heian Court,” NAWL B 1099; “Suguwara no Michizane,” NAWL B 1100-1104 	• Discus 8 (online before class begins)
13	14 Nov.	•	• Ppr 2 PV (in class)
	16 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Kokinshu</i>, NAWL B 1104-18; Ki no Tsurayuki, NAWL B 1118-1119; <i>Tosa Diary</i>, NAWL B 1119-26 	•
	18 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Sei Shonagon,” NAWL B 1127-31; <i>The Pillow Book</i>, 1131-53 	• Discus 9 (online before class begins)

Week	Date	Readings Due	Assignment Due
14	21 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Encounters with Islam,” NAWL C 3-11; “Evilya Çelebi,” NAWL C 84-86; <i>The Book of Travels</i>, NAWL C 87-92 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ppr 2 RV (online before class begins)
15	28 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Europe and the New World,” NAWL C 123-33; “Ludovico Ariosto,” NAWL C 191-93; <i>Orlando Furioso</i>, NAWL C 193-204 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	30 Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Lazarillo de Tormes,” NAWL C 302-03; <i>The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes and of His Fortunes and Adversities</i>, NAWL C 304-41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	2 Dec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discus 10 (online before class begins)
16	5 Dec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Miguel de Cervantes,” NAWL C 381-86; <i>Don Quixote</i>, NAWL 386-515 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ppr 2 (online before class begins)
	7 Dec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
FinEx (in class), 13 December 2016, 1030 to 1230			

Dates to Remember

- 30 August, last day to add, drop, or change sections online
- 1 September, last day to drop a class without a grade
- 5 September, Labor Day holiday
- 10-11 October, Fall Break
- 27 October, last day to withdraw from a course (1pm)
- 23-25 November, Thanksgiving holiday
- 7 December, last day of classes
- 8 December, Reading Day
- 9-14 December, final exams; term ends

Other dates may be announced.