

Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

APPROVAL FORM

Rev: 5/82

10

Proposal Title: Masterpieces of Western Literature I

Dr. James C. Haba

Sponsor(s): Dr. Edward L. Wolfe Dept.: English

Check one: Course Specialization Concentration Achievement Certificate

Minor Change Major Program

(please name: deletion or credit/title/catalog change)

Certification Program

Undergraduate Graduate Credit Hours

Step 1 (Department)

Approved 11/14/83
date

Not Approved

James C. Haba
Dept. CC Chairperson

Reviewed 12/7/83
date

Richard L. Wolfe
Chairperson, Dept.

Step 2 (Receipt)

SCC# 83-84-30

Proposal Received 12/14/83
date

Shirley A. O'Day
Chairperson, SCC

Step 3 (Division CC)

Reviewed Jan 26 84
date

Approved

Not Approved

Comments: 1
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McCoy
Chairperson, Div. Curr. Comm.

Step 4 (Academic Dean)

Comments:

Reviewed 1/27/84
date

Mar. Brown
Signature, Dean of Division

Step 5 (SCC)

Open Hearing Date: 2/29/84 Approved by Senate Curriculum Committee 2/29/84 (date)

Returned to sponsor(s) for the following reasons:

objections
cat. description on separate page None

Step 6 (Faculty Senate)

Presented to Faculty Senate (date): 3/2/84

Approved
 Not Approved

Notification to Vice-President Academic Affairs (date): 3/2/84

Shirley A. O'Day
Signature: SCC Chairperson

Step 7 (Vice-President for Academic Affairs)

Course received _____ (date)

Course approved Yes _____ No _____

If no, reasons are as follows:

Student credit hours _____

Faculty load hours _____

Equalized credit hours _____

Official copy and approval sheet filed _____ (date)

Signature _____
(Vice-President for Academic Affairs)

Registrar

Approved course description received _____ (date)

Hegis Taxonomy and Course Number assigned _____

Signature _____
(Registrar) _____ (Date)

Notification forwarded: Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Department Chairperson(s),
Academic Dean(s), Registrar, Sponsor(s)

GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE
GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY

COURSE PROPOSAL

I. Details

- A. Course Title: Masterpieces of Western Literature I
- B. Sponsors: Dr. James Haba and Dr. Edward L. Wolfe, on behalf of the English Department
- C. Course Level: Undergraduate (Freshman/Sophomore); 3 semester hours
- D. Curricular Effect: General Education
- E. Prerequisites: None
- F. Implementation: Beginning the Spring of 1984 three or four sections, as needed.
- G. Adequacy of present staff, library facilities, space needs: entirely adequate.

II. Rationale

Masterpieces of Western Literature I offers students the opportunity to become familiar with the basic scale and nature of the literary heritage of Western Civilization from the Ancient World to the Reformation. By combining material from several discrete courses regularly offered by the English Department, this course offers a combination of range and concentration not presently available. Students will be able to acquire a basic understanding of our Western literary heritage through reading carefully selected works and through practice in analyzing and synthesizing these works as essential and formative contributions to the development of Western Civilization.

Masterpieces of Western Literature I will naturally complement those courses in other departments which also concern themselves with the nature and the works of Western Civilization to the Reformation, especially, for example, such courses as Western Civilization to 1660 (History), Art History Survey I (Art), and History of Western Philosophy I: Ancient and Medieval (Philosophy).

III. Essence of the Course

- A. Objectives: By taking this course students will gain a basic understanding of the nature of Western Literature during its first 2,000 years. The students

will, in the process, have extensive opportunity to practice textual analysis and comparative criticism. They will also learn to see the literary sources of Western Civilization more accurately and to appreciate them more sensitively. Ultimately, by taking this course, students should become more knowledgeable, more perceptive, more articulate, and more able people. The selection of works for this course provides an interesting challenge in terms of preserving accurately and transmitting effectively our literary heritage. The challenge is the perennial one of trying to reconcile the ideal and the real: in this case, identifying the many works that are so important that they should be included, while recognizing the very limited number of works that can, in fact, be included; realizing the value of a relatively common or uniform reading list that would guarantee that all students taking the course would have some familiarity with a few great works, while recognizing the value of sufficient diversity to fulfill the individual interests of the various instructors who will teach the course; realizing the value of including enough works to represent the literary traditions of the West and the essential influence of literature on the development of Western Civilization, while recognizing the value of limiting the number of works so that the few studied will be emphasized, reinforced, and elaborated sufficiently to have some lasting impact upon our students.

To guarantee uniformity with focus and emphasis and yet permit diversity with some breadth and continuity, two lists have been adopted. The first list is limited to four works that will be taught by all instructors to all classes every time the class is taught. The second list is limited to ten works from which instructors could select a maximum of our works for inclusion in their individual syllabi. The number of works to be taught in any semester would, therefore, be limited to a maximum of eight.

- B. Topical Outline/Content: This course is designed to enable students to work directly with complete texts of up to eight Masterpieces of Western Literature from The Old Testament to Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. The works studied

162 1 3

during any given semester will include selected books from The Old Testament, The Odyssey, Oedipus, The Inferno, and up to four additional works such as The Symposium, The Aeneid, selected books from The New Testament, and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.

The works will be read chronologically and examined against the historical circumstances in which they appeared. A major feature of the course will be to stimulate the practice of reading one work in light of another and thereby to sharpen reading skills and to gain a broader understanding of our cultural traditions at the same time.

IV. Consultations

This course was discussed by the English Department Curriculum Committee in several of its meetings in January and February 1983. It was discussed by the English Department at meetings on January 20, January 28, and February 8, 1983 and on September 26, 1983. The course was finally passed unanimously by the English Department on November 14, 1983.

Catalog Description

This course is designed to give the student some knowledge of and sensitivity toward the literary sources of Western Civilization. The course includes a limited number of works carefully selected from the beginnings of Western literature to the Reformation. Emphasis is placed upon works of great literary merit that exhibit perceptions, ideas, and values that were essential and formative contributions to the development of Western Civilization. Such works as selected books of The Old Testament, The Odyssey, Oedipus the King, The Aeneid, selected books of The New Testament, The Inferno, and selected tales from Chaucer are read, analyzed, and discussed.

V. Catalog Description

This course is designed to give the student some knowledge of and sensitivity toward the literary sources of Western Civilization. The course includes a limited number of works carefully selected from the beginnings of Western literature to the Reformation. Emphasis is placed upon works of great literary merit that exhibit perceptions, ideas, and values that were essential and formative contributions to the development of Western Civilization. Such works as selected books of The Old Testament, The Odyssey, Oedipus the King, The Aeneid, selected books of The New Testament, The Inferno, and selected tales from Chaucer are read, analyzed, and discussed.