

**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 (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Examines major works of world literature from the ancient period to the early 17th century. Involves critical reading and writing. The course emphasizes both the global development of literary forms and their unique expressions within individual cultural contexts. The course also examines the social and historical influences on literary texts. ENG 251 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English Department. Prerequisite: ENG 111 or approval by the English program head. ENG 251 and 252 may be taken out of order. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

ENG 251 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of world literary writing from the ancient period to the early 17th century. The course examines sacred texts, social and political writing, and the rise of drama, poetry, and narrative traditions within the global context. As a writing intensive course, ENG 251 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have produced at least 12–15 pages of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and 12–15 pages of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

ENG 112 or Divisional Approval

Course Objectives (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Analyze and interpret the critical texts of world literature from the ancient period to the early 17th century
- b. Understand literary texts within their unique cultural contexts, as well as analyze these texts as representations of global art forms
- c. Reflect an awareness of the historical and social contexts from which the literature emerges
- d. Write critically and analytically about literary texts.

Major Topics to be Included

- 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 (Month, Date Year): February 13, 2009