Administrative Unit: Humanities Department

Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 350

Course Title: Major Literary Figures

Number of: Credit Hours: 3   Lecture Hours: 3   Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Study of the works of one-to-three major writers (e.g. Chaucer, Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Faulkner, Cervantes, or Melville and Whitman, Donne and Milton, Dante and Goethe, etc.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 112; junior standing or instructor’s permission.

Text(s): Text selections will be based on designated writer(s) to be studied. Several well-edited, college level, inexpensive, soft-cover editions of literary classics are available: for example, those by Penguin, Dover, and New American Library, as well as Norton’s series of critical editions.

Course Objectives:
- To undertake an intensive course of readings, discussions and written exercises, focused on the designated major author(s).
- To evaluate the significance of the designated major author(s) in the canon of literature in English.
- To explain the current critical evaluation of the designated author(s).
- To reinforce principals and methods of contemporary literary criticism.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:
- Understand specific literary and historical importance of the author(s) studied.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the central works of the major author(s).
- Demonstrate familiarity with current critical reception of the major author(s).
- Understand the controversy over “canon” or “canonicity” in the contemporary literary world as well as the role of canonical literature in the literary period relevant to the major author(s) studied.
- Apply critical thought to works of the author(s) in accord with basic principles of literary interpretation and contemporary critical methodologies.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):
- Departmental policy requires a minimum of 6000 words of graded student writing, to include at least one research paper of at least 750 words, for this course.
- The Outline will vary with the literary figures designated for study. Considering relative complexity, students should be expected to read 100-150 pages each week.
Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Dr. Edward Christie

Date: September 21, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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