**World Lit Units**

**Unit Overview:** Each five weeks you will pick a different period of World Literature to study. Each choice corresponds to a second of our World Lit textbook. Explained below are the required readings and assignments for each unit.

I will give you time to work on these contracts on the last day of class each week (so on Thursdays or Fridays depending on the week). You will have an entire block to work on contracts and meet individually with me.

**Unit Due Dates:**

**2nd contract= Thursday, November 13th**

**3rd contract= Thursday, December 18th**

**Unit 2: The African Literary Tradition**

**Required:**

1. Read The African Literary Tradition Intro (61), look over the timeline (62) and read African Literature essay (64-71). Write a half-page summary in response (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
2. *The Great Hymn to the Aten* (72-76). Write: Writer’s Response (72), Interpreting Meanings and Creative Writing Response (77).
3. African Dilemma Tales (94-97). Write: Writer’s Response (94), Applying Meanings and either Creative Writing Response or Critical Writing Response (97).
4. From *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (102-115). Write: Interpreting Meanings, Applying Meanings and Language and Vocabulary (115-117).

**Choice:** You need to choose **three** of the following options.

1. Elements of Literature & Song of a Mother to Her Newborn (88-92). Write: Writer’s Response (89), Applying Meanings and either Creative Writing Response or Critical Writing Response (93).
2. Talk: An Ashanti Tale (98-100). Write: Identifying Facts and Critical Writing Response (101).
3. Behind the Scenes: daily Life in Ancient Egypt (78-9). In one or two paragraphs, cite information from the text you found surprising or interesting and explain why.
4. New Kingdom Love Lyrics (80-81). Write: Applying Meanings and either Creative Writing Response or Critical Writing Response (82).
5. African Proverbs (84-86). Write: First Thoughts and Interpreting Meaning (87).

**Optional**: For **TWO** of these items you can substitute the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response for another artistic medium. For ex: a slam poem to perform in front of the class, a video, a comic strip, a interpretive dance piece, a postcard to the author etc. Let me know if you have questions about how to transform comprehension into an artistic medium. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution.

**Optional:** For **TWO** of these items you can substitute between answering Interpreting Meaning and Applying Meaning. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution when you turn it in.

**Optional:** If you would prefer to read one full work from the region and time period (a novel, play, epic poem) instead of doing multiple choice items, you can. TALK TO ME TO APPROVE THE SUBSTIUTION BEFORE DOING IT!

**Unit 3: The Ancient Middle East**

**Required:**

1. Read Ancient Middle East Intro (p125), look over the timeline (126) and read the Literature of Ancient Mesopotamia essay (128-135). Write a half-page summary in response (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
2. The Epic of *Gilgamesh* (p136-151). Write: Writer’s Response (p138), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings – for this section, please choose four of the seven questions to answer(p 152). You also need to choose to either do the Applying Meanings or Creative Writing Response (p152—1pg single spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font minimum).
3. Read Hebrew Literature essay (p154-159). Write a one-page summary in response (single spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
4. *The Hebrew Bible* (p160-167). Write: Writer’s Response (p162) & Applying Meanings (p168). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (168).

**Choice:** You need to choose **THREE** of the following options.

1. Noah and the Flood from Genesis. (170-5). Write: Interpreting Meanings, Applying Meanings (p176). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (176).
2. The Book of Ruth (177-83). Write: Oral Response (p177; you can either write this down or film yourself answering the question orally), First Thoughts & Interpreting Meaning (p184).
3. Psalms 23, 104 & 137 (186-193). Write: First Thoughts & Interpreting Meaning (p194).
4. Read “The New Testament” (p196). Creative piece integrating part of text in response (ex: slam poem, song lyrics, monologue, etc).
5. “The Prodigal Son”, “The Sower” and “The Talents” (198-203). Write: First Thoughts, Interpreting Meaning& Creative Writing Response (p 203)).

**Optional**: For **TWO** of these items you can substitute the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response for another artistic medium. For ex: a slam poem to perform in front of the class, a video, a comic strip, a interpretive dance piece, a postcard to the author etc. Let me know if you have questions about how to transform comprehension into an artistic medium. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution.

**Optional:** For **TWO** of these items you can substitute between answering Interpreting Meaning and Applying Meaning. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution when you turn it in.

**Optional:** If you would prefer to read one full work from the region and time period (a novel, play, epic poem) instead of doing multiple choice items, you can. TALK TO ME TO APPROVE THE SUBSTIUTION BEFORE DOING IT!

**Unit 4: Greek and Roman Literature**

**Required:**

1. Greek and Roman Literatures (211), Timeline (212) & Greek Literature (214-223). Write a half-page summary in response (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
2. Sappho (279-283). Writer’s Response (280), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings & Applying Meanings (283). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (283).
3. Plato (293-299). Writer’s Response (294), First Thoughts& Interpreting Meanings (300). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (300).
4. Sophocles (301-367). Write: Writer’s Response (306), Applying Meanings & The Play as a Whole Interpreting Meanings (369).

**Choice**—Select **FOUR** of the following options:

1. Virgil (379-407). Write: Writer’s Response (382), Applying Meanings, Critical Writing Response and Language and Vocabulary (408).
2. Catullus (409-412). Write: Oral Response (410) & First Thoughts (413). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (413).
3. Horace (414-417). Write: Writer Response (415), Interpreting Meanings and Creative Writing Response (418)
4. Ovid (420-426). Write: Writer’s Response (421), Identifying Facts & Applying meanings (427). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (427).
5. Tacitus (428-434). Write: Writer’s Response (429), Interpreting Meanings & Creative Writing Response (434).
6. Roman Literature (372-378). Write a half-page summary in response (double spaced Cambria, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
7. Classical Allusions in Modern English (436-437). After reading this section, scour modern band names, websites, movie titles, newspaper articles and book titles to find these eponyms. Make a list of at least half a page of the eponyms you find, what context you find them in and how the name relates to its origins. For example:
8. Pandora—the name of an online music streaming site; since you just put in the name of a band or song you like, the website leads to unforeseen consequences. Here it does not have the original, negative connotations.
9. From *The Iliad* Book 1 (228-244). Write: Writer’s Response (p228), First Thoughts & Interpreting Meanings (245).
10. From *The Illiad* Books 22& 24 (246-276). Write: First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings (answer 3 of the 5 questions) and either Applying Meanings or Creative Writing Response (277). Either the Applying or CW Response needs to be at least two pages in length (Cambria 12pt font).

**Optional**: For **TWO** of these items you can substitute the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response for another artistic medium. For ex: a slam poem to perform in front of the class, a video, a comic strip, a interpretive dance piece, a postcard to the author etc. Let me know if you have questions about how to transform comprehension into an artistic medium. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution.

**Optional:** For **TWO** of these items you can substitute between answering Interpreting Meaning and Applying Meaning. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution when you turn it in.

**Optional:** If you would prefer to read one full work from the region and time period (a novel, play, epic poem) instead of doing multiple choice items, you can. TALK TO ME TO APPROVE THE SUBSTIUTION BEFORE DOING IT!

**Unit 5: Indian Literature**

**Required:**

1. Read Indian Lit Intro (p443), look over the timeline (444) and read the Indian Lit essay (446-453). Write a half-page summary in response (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
2. The *Mahabharatee* (p.458-465). Write: Writer’s Response (p460), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings (p 466). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (p 466).
3. The *Bhagavad-Gita* (p 467-475). Oral Response (p460 please draw the diagram with your own answers inside and write a paragraph explanation), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings and Creative Writing Response (p475)
4. The *Ramayana* (p 484-493). Write: Writer’s Response (p485), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings (p494). You also need to choose to either do the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response (p494).

**Choice:** You need to choose **THREE** of the following options.

1. Either read The *Rig Veda* (p454-456). Write: writer’s response (p455), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings and Creative Writing Response (p 457).
2. Or read The *Panchatanta* (p478-483). Write: Oral Response (p479 or for this requirement you can record a video of you speaking your answer and submit it), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings and Creative Writing Response (p 483)
3. Mira Bai (p 496-7). After reading these two pages, look up more poems by Mira Bai on the internet. Choose one you particularly like to either mimic in style in your own poem or explicate the poem and write a one page analysis of it.
4. As it mentions in the introduction, the Mahabharata is an incredibly popular TV show. When I lived in Indonesia, one channel would always be showing the classic epic. I want you to get a sense of this sensation in the Hindu world. Watch one episode of the Mahabharata on youtube (look up Mahabharata English Subtitles). In response, please write one paragraph describing what you watched (which episode? Summarize what happened in it). Then respond to the Mahabharata in your choice of genre: write an essay analyzing it, a short story or poem inspired by it, a character sketch of one of the characters, a screen play adapting it to another time period/culture, etc. You can choose your genre (feel free to talk to brainstorm ideas with me!).

**Optional**: For **TWO** of these items you can substitute the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response for another artistic medium. For ex: a slam poem to perform in front of the class, a video, a comic strip, a interpretive dance piece, a postcard to the author etc. Let me know if you have questions about how to transform comprehension into an artistic medium. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution.

**Optional:** For **TWO** of these items you can substitute between answering Interpreting Meaning and Applying Meaning. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution.

**Optional:** If you would prefer to read one full work from the region and time period (a novel, play, epic poem) instead of doing multiple choice items, you can. TALK TO ME TO APPROVE THE SUBSTIUTION BEFORE DOING IT!

**Unit 6: Chinese and Japanese Literatures**

**Required:**

1. Read Chinese and Japanese Literatures (503), look over the timeline (504) and read The Literature of China essay (5066-511). Write a half-page summary in response (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
2. The Book of Songs (512-516). Write: Identifying Facts and either Creative Writing Response or Critical Writing Response (517).
3. Li Ch’ing-chao (532-534). Write: Writer’s Response (533), First Thoughts, Creative Writing Response and Language and Vocabulary (535).
4. Confucious (536-539). Write: Writer’s Response (537), First Thoughts & Interpreting Meanings (540).
5. Haiku & Basho (572-578). Write: Writer’s Response (575), Identifying Facts and Creative Writing Response (577).

**Choice:** Please read **THREE** of the following:

1. Li Po (518- Write: Writer’s Response (519), Identifying Facts & Applying Meanings (522).
2. The Art of Translation (523-525). Write: Answer questions 1-3 on page 525.
3. Tu Fu (526-530). Write: Interpreting Meanings, Applying Meanings and Critical Writing Response (531).
4. Ssu-ma Ch’ien (551-556). Write: Writer’s Response (552), First Thoughts & Interpretting Meanings (557).
5. Sei Shonagon (579-586). Write: Oral Response (580—either write your response or film yourself saying it orally), Interpreting Meaning, Creative Writing Response and Language and Vocaublary (586-7).
6. Noh Plays (596-609). Write: Writer’s Response (599), Interpreting Meanings, Language and Vocabulary (609-10).
7. Taoist Writers: Fourth through Second Centuries BC (546-549). Write: Interpreting Meanings and Speaking and Listening (to be presented orally to the class on the day you submit your contract) (550).
8. The Literature of Japan (558-563). Write a one page summary in response (single spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
9. Tanka Poetry (564-570). Write: Writer’s Response (568), Interpreting Meanings (570).
10. Zen Parables (589-594). Write: First Thoughts & Applying Meanings (595).
11. Senryu: Japan’s Comic Verses. Write: try one of your own!
12. Lao-tzu (541-544). Write: First Thoughts, Applying Meanings and do either Creative Writing Response or Critical Writing Response (545).

**Optional**: For **TWO** of these items you can substitute the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response for another artistic medium. For ex: a slam poem to perform in front of the class, a video, a comic strip, a interpretive dance piece, a postcard to the author etc. Let me know if you have questions about how to transform comprehension into an artistic medium. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution.

**Optional:** For **TWO** of these items you can substitute between answering Interpreting Meaning and Applying Meaning. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution when you turn it in.

**Optional:** If you would prefer to read one full work from the region and time period (a novel, play, epic poem) instead of doing multiple choice items, you can. TALK TO ME TO APPROVE THE SUBSTIUTION BEFORE DOING IT!

**Unit 7: Persian and Arabic Literatures**

**Required:**

1. Read Persian and Arabic Literatures (619), look over the timeline (621) and read Persian and Arabic Literatures (622-629). Write a half-page summary in response (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font) and answer the question: what was surprising/interesting to you? Why?
2. *The Koran* (633-637). Write: First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings and Creative Writing Response (637).
3. *The Thousand and One Nights* (638-645). Write: First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings and Critical Writing Response (644). Also, you will need to do the activities mentioned on pg 645: look for examples of *1,001 Nights* in the arts and share your findings with your classmates on the day your contract is due. For extra points, create your own story, poem, drawing or other artwork inspired by *1,001 Nights*.
4. Rumi (661-664). Write: Writer’s Response (662), Identifying Facts and Creative Writing Response. Additionally, research five or more of Rumi’s poems online. Make a list of the poems that you read. Choose one that particularly resonates with you and either write a response to the poem (what do you agree/disagree with?), explicate the poem and write an analysis or use some of the lines from Rumi’s poem to construct your own poem.

**Choice**: Please read **THREE** of the following:

1. al-Khansa (630-632). Write: Writer’s Response (631), Applying Meanings and Creative Writing Response (632)
2. Omar Khayyam (654-660)Write: Writer’s Response (655), Creative Writing Response and Critical Writing Response (659).
3. *The Shahname: The Epic of Persia* (646-652). Write: Writer’s Response (648), First Thoughts, Interpreting Meanings, and either Creative Writing Response or Speaking and Listening (which would be presented to the class on the day your contract is due) (653).
4. Where the Mulla Goes, Laughter Follows (672-3). Read this passage about Mulla Nasrudin. Then go to the website ninedonkeys.wordpress.com and read at least eight of the other parables. Inspired by these stories, sculpt your own short, comedic retelling of Mulla’s adventures.
5. Saadi (665-670). Write: Applying Meanings and either Creative Writing Response or Critical Writing Response (671).

**Optional**: For **TWO** of these items you can substitute the Creative Writing Response or the Critical Writing Response for another artistic medium. For ex: a slam poem to perform in front of the class, a video, a comic strip, a interpretive dance piece, a postcard to the author etc. Let me know if you have questions about how to transform comprehension into an artistic medium. Please indicate on your contract if you have made this substitution.

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