

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities
Course Number: ENG 435
Course Title: Major Literary Figures
Number of Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Any 200-level literature course

A. Catalog Description of Course:

An intensive study of the works of a major writer or a highly limited number of related authors. A student may take this course more than once for credit under different literary figures.

B. Goals:

- * To enrich students cultural lives and their awareness of the scope/impact of the authors considered.
- * To encourage close reading of and discussion about major literary texts.
- * To explore the interrelationships between an author and his works.

C. Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- * Identify the major periods of an author's work and relate that to the major historical, philosophical, political and social elements which make up the context of those works.
- * Recognize the author's affinity with and uniqueness from their own periods through a broad sampling of the major works of an author.
- * Apply significant literary criticism to selected works studied.

D. Outline of Course Content:

1. Background on author(s) and periods including significant historical and social events.
2. Background on the major forms and techniques author(s) employ e.g. novel: stream of consciousness, omniscient narration, etc.
3. Reading and study of the major works of author(s).
4. Review of selected criticism of works studied.

E. Suggested Texts:

Dostoyevsky: The Brothers Karamazov
Crime and Punishment
The Idiot
Notes From the Underground

Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales
Robert Ackerman's Backgrounds to Medieval Literature

Faulkner: Absalom, Absalom!
Light in August
The Portable Faulkner
As I Lay Dying

Milton: Complete Poems and Major Prose

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

Films, recordings, videos, guest lecturers, discussion groups and collaborative learning projects.

G. Instructor References:

Bellamy, Joseph D. New Writers for the Eighties. Fiction International, 1981.

Carlsen, Robert and Gilbert Niriham. British and Western Literature. 3rd ed. (Themes & Writers Series) illus. New York: McGraw Publishing, 1979.

Currie, Gregory. The Nature of Fiction. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Patterson, Margaret, ed. Author, Newsletters and Journals. (American, English & World Literature in English Information Guide Series. Vol 19). Gale Research, 1979.