

English 44B, World Literature  
9:30-10:45 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday, LS 6  
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Phone: 638-3641 (college) or 225-4068 (home)

Spring Semester 1998

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS

**English 44B** is the second semester of a year-long course, but you may take it without taking English 44A. You do need to be eligible for English 1A because the reading and writing required in English 44B are fairly demanding. While the focus in the class will be reading and talking about major works in the literature of the western world, works from the East, Africa, and the Americas will be sampled, too. Obviously, in one semester, we cannot be thorough about the works from any time or place, but we hope for a broad view and some selections that are important to everyone in class.

**Our principal goal** is to read and understand the literature in such ways that we discover more about ourselves and others in it and enjoy it. Opportunities for improved reading, more skillful writing, and lots of discussion are also built into the course, which will be conducted essentially through discussion. We will talk about the literature as it is related to the times and places in which it was written and read so that we may notice not only how literature reflects its time but also how some literature may make history of its own.

The text is Wilkie and Hurt, Literature of the Western World, Volume II, Fourth Edition, 1997. There is much more in this book than we can read in this semester. We will select those works which are good stories today, avoiding anything that you've studied thoroughly recently or anything interesting primarily for its historical importance. In other words, we'll try for lively works that capture their readers' attention today. In addition to the works in the text, the instructor will bring in some works from non-western sources, and there will be an opportunity for individual reading in sources outside the text.

The class will be conducted through **much discussion and some lecture or explanation**. Good discussions depend on everyone's being prepared for them: completing the reading assignments on time for each class is vital. Please plan to participate, ask questions, and work with others in class. There will be five or six major papers assigned. While these are essays which are written outside class time, we will discuss the assignments, the work in progress, and individual topics as they develop. These essays serve as the major "tests" in the class. Short tests or quizzes are possible but not inevitable.

**Grades in the class** are determined by the major papers (60-70%), quiz grades or journal grades (10%), and the final examination (30%). The final examination will have two parts: (1) an essay completed before the final period and handed in at that time and (2) an oral or written final conducted during the final exam period.

It is expected that you will attend regularly and be prepared for class and will complete written assignments in a timely and thoughtful way. Major graded papers may be revised and improved for a reevaluation by the instructor and improved grades if the papers warrant it. Late papers will be accepted, but this policy will be revised if too many people turn in too many late papers. (Any change in this policy will be discussed in class.) You are expected to come to class on time, but if you are tardy, you are expected to come in quietly and get to work. Once class is well started, everyone will