**Composition and Reading in World Literature.** Reading of masterpieces of world literature and intensive training in writing and in critical analysis of literature. Three lecture hours a week for two semesters. Only one of the following may be counted: English 603A, Rhetoric and Writing 306, 306Q, Tutorial Course 603A; only one of the following may be counted: Comparative Literature 315, English 603B, 316K, Tutorial Course 603B. Prerequisite: For 603A, admission to the Plan II Honors Program; for 603B, English 603A.

**Syllabus**

**Voyages**

**Requirements and Assignments**

**Readings:** All readings must be completed by the day specified in the syllabus. Sometimes I will give you a specific topic or issue to think about as you read the material for the next class. You will be expected to be able to discuss this topic if called upon in class. Intermittently the topics will be addressed in written form for a grade (see “memos”).

**Student Teaching:** You will each be assigned to a three-person teaching group. This group will lead class discussion on a section of *The Odyssey*. In preparation for teaching, you will need to meet as a group and decide on major issues, questions, and points of debate.

**Memos:** You will write 5 memos, and I will count the best 4. Three of the memos (2 pp. typed) will be assigned as a means of addressing significant critical issues in advance of class discussion. Another memo will take the form of a report to the class on the historical basis for a character, place, or event in *H.M.S. Surprise*. The final memo will comprise revisions to the first essay. The latter two memos may not be dropped. Memos must be handed in at the end of the given class period. Memos are graded on a 20 point scale. **Late memos lose 5 points per day late.**

**Essays:** You will write two essays (5 pp.), one at the midpoint and one at the end of the term. The first will be peer edited prior to the final revision. These essays should be typewritten, double-spaced. I will suggest the general subject area when the time comes, but you are free to choose your own topic (clear it with me to be safe). Papers will be graded on a 100 point scale. **Late papers are accepted but will be penalized 10 points per day late.**

**Grading Policy**

Because participation contributes to the class grade, attendance is strongly encouraged. Plus/minus grades will be given, and determined on the following basis: Four Memos (10% each), 40%; Two Essays (25% each), 50%; Teaching, 10%. I will add bonus participation points for the students who contribute the most to the class.

**Required Texts and Viewings**

Homer, *The Odyssey*  
Shakespeare, *The Tempest*  
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*  
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*  
Voltaire, *Candide*  
Patrick O’Brien, *H.M.S. Surprise*  
Film: *Master and Commander* (d. Peter Weir)

**N.B.** Students will have access to the course’s Blackboard site through UT Direct.
Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

**Provisional Syllabus** (subject to alteration upon notice by the instructor)
The subject of each class meeting may be determined from the assigned reading for the day (see following). The instructor retains the right to vary this syllabus.

August
27 Introduction; Memo #1 (Homeric question) assigned

September
1 Knox, introduction to *The Odyssey*. Memo #1 due
3 Homer, *Odyssey*, Book 1
8 Homer, *Odyssey*, Books 2-4. Group #1 leads discussion
17 Homer, *Odyssey*, Books 13-16, Group #4 leads discussion.
24 Comparative translation exercise. Memo #2 (Comparative Translation) assigned.

October
1 Memo #2 due. Discussion.
6 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
8 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
15 Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*.
20 Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
22 Essay #1 due for peer editing

November
3 HRC visit
5 *Gulliver’s Travels*, Book 4; Voltaire, *Candide*; Memo #3 due
10 Writing workshop; revision memo (#5) assigned
12 O’Brien, *H.M.S. Surprise*; Memo #4 assigned
17 O’Brien, *H.M.S. Surprise*.
19 O’Brien, *H.M.S. Surprise*; Memo #4 reports due
24 *H.M.S. Surprise*; Revision memo due; Essay #2 assigned
26 Thanksgiving; *Master and Commander* (film)

December
1 *H.M.S. Surprise* / *Master and Commander* comparative discussion
3 Essay consultation

7 Essay #2 due