

**Course Outline**  
**ENGL 205**  
**World Literature I**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

World Literature I studies representative literary works from both Western and Eastern civilizations, from the invention of writing through the European Renaissance. In addition to works of Classical Greece and Rome and Medieval Europe, contemporaneous selections from China, India, Japan, the Middle East, and Africa will be studied. The readings are chosen to acquaint students with the attitudes and ideals characteristic of each culture and to illustrate the universality of themes fundamental to the human experience.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101 with a “C” or better.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze works of early world literature, texts representative of the wide diversity of racial and ethnic cultures that have expressed themselves through the written word.
2. Assess the ways in which literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context.
3. Identify the different ways in which the concept of a literary tradition has been defined, and analyze the ways in which this concept has reflected and supported aesthetic and ethical values associated with diverse cultures.
4. Write a well-informed literary analysis with a thesis and textual support.
5. Access relevant literary criticism through both traditional sources and the internet.
6. Incorporate literary criticism into their own textual analyses.
7. Engage in thoughtful discussion about a text’s relevance to life today, and whether and how contemporary readers can benefit from it.
8. Work collaboratively on questions and problems related to the texts, and on developing and refining their written work.
9. Apply appropriate terminology and tools for analyzing literary texts.
10. Identify different literary genres and periods as they have been traditionally

defined.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Invention of Writing and Earliest Literature
- II. Ancient Greece and the Western Mind
- III. Poetry and Thought in Early China and India
- IV. The Romans
- V. Classical India and China
- VI. The Rise of Islam
- VII. Medieval Western Literature
- VIII. Medieval Japan and India
- IX. Africa - The Mali Epic of Son-Jara
- X. The European Renaissance

## **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures, exams and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor. However, all students will

1. Participate actively in class discussions.
2. Write at least two essays and take at least one exam with an essay component, for a total of not less than 2500 words.
3. Participate in at least two projects or in-class exercises that require collaborative work.
4. Present information orally to the class at least once during the semester.