

Dr. Buckman

**Humanities and Religious Studies 188:
Multicultural America**

Spring 2007

Office: 2020 Mendocino Hall

Office Phone: 278-5335

Office Hours: MW 11-12; TR 1:30-2:30
and by appointment

e-mail: abuckman@csus.edu

Required Texts:

Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte d'Arthur*

JRR Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

Anne Sexton, *Transformations*

Stephen Donaldson, *Lord Foul's Bane*

Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Enriched Classics

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Enriched Classics

Octavia Butler, *Fledgling*

Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*

Other materials:

2 scantron sheets (886E -- multiple choice plus essay)

In addition, there will be materials presented in class for which you will be responsible.

SaLink account for WebCT (additional class materials will be available on WebCT)

Course Description and Expectations:

Catalog Description: Exploration of the aesthetic of fantasy. Approaches may include emphasis on the historical development of the quest-romance or the use of the fantastic as social commentary. Particular genres, such as science fiction, may be explored.

We will be looking, in part, at constructions of the hero and how this has changed/evolved.

Central to the class as well is a willingness to contribute actively to the class and to explore diverse viewpoints respectfully. It is a 3-credit course, and the workload corresponds to this.

Learning Goals:

Upon completion of HRS 188, successful students will be able to:

- Identify, explain, and analyze aspects of the fantastic and romantic as presented in course materials, including the aesthetics of each
- Demonstrate visual and textual literacy
- Apply the techniques of formal analysis to various works of literary and visual arts
- Communicate effectively in both oral and written formats
- Demonstrate research skills and the ability to integrate research with analysis

Class Policies and Procedures:

Classroom Etiquette: Tardiness is frowned upon, since it disrupts both students and professor; in addition, you are likely to miss important information for which you are responsible. Repeated tardiness may affect your grade. Cell phones should be turned off. Students should not leave class early unless they have a compelling reason and should, if at all possible, notify the instructor prior to class and sit near the door. In addition, private discussions with the instructor should occur during office hours.

Due to the recent proliferation of inappropriate use of laptops, students may not use laptops in class without prior instructor approval.

Coursework: Your grade will consist of participation, in-class assignments, exams, and one paper. Should quizzes be given, they will be combined with the grade for in-class assignments. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. Late assignments will not be accepted. Late essays will receive appropriate deductions as per below.

Academic Integrity (The “P” word): Please turn in work that is solely your own. Appropriate credit must be given to the work of other authors used; this includes the proper use of paraphrasing and quoting as well as citation within and at the end of the paper. If you are unsure about what this means, please come and speak with me. Plagiarism has serious consequences and will result in *failure of the assignment*; other possible consequences include *failure of the course, and/or expulsion from the college*. It is not an option -- no rewrites will be allowed.

Formatting of Essays: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, and have 1" margins. The font and its size should be normal, generally Courier or Times New Roman 10 or 12 if you are using a word processor. Please staple your essays. Don't bother with plastic or cardboard covers. At the top of the first page, single-spaced, include a descriptive title for your paper in addition to tagging information (your name/the date/essay #). MLA style should be used for endnotes and works cited page. *Any papers turned in to the HRS office should have my name on it as well as your own. Do NOT slip papers under my door.*

Participation: This class depends upon the full engagement of students with the material and the class itself. Students should participate in discussions on a regular and informed basis. *Simply being in attendance does not qualify as participating in the class*. You CAN receive a failing participation grade even if you attend every class. 15% is a large chunk of your grade: resolve to participate in the class! Disruptive behavior works against you in your participation grade. This is a classroom that emphasizes mutual respect.

Attendance: Absences affect your ability to participate and turn in assignments. There will be assignments completed and/or assigned during class as well as other opportunities for participation. Late assignments will not be accepted; this includes assignments written in class. If you miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to get notes from a classmate and any assignments that you missed. Peers should be your first resource for getting missed information – be sure to make the acquaintance of at least one person in the class. Quizzes also may not be made up.

Grading:

Midterm 20% Essay 35%
Final 20% Assignments/Quizzes 10%
Participation 15% (see above)

Due Dates:

Paper: The paper is due *at the beginning of class*; papers turned in after the beginning of class are subject to a 5 point deduction for tardiness. Late papers will be penalized 5 points for every day thereafter (including weekends -- 10 points). If you have problems completing an assignment, please talk to me BEFORE it is due.

Tests: Tests are scheduled as indicated on the class calendar. Make-ups are not permitted unless a compelling and verifiable emergency interferes – *this does not include family vacations*. Make-ups are given at the convenience of the test giver, generally the testing center. Quizzes and assignments may not be made up.

Assignments: Work assigned for completion outside of class must be turned in at the beginning of the class in which it is due.

Schedule of Readings (may change at discretion of instructor)

NB: unless otherwise stated, videos will be watched in class on day scheduled.

1/30 Introduction to course; Campbell and the heroic monomyth

2/01-06 *The Princess Bride*

2/8-13 Malory, *Le Morte d'Arthur*

2/15 (I will not be in class on this date due to conference participation)

2/20-22 Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

2/27-3/6 Shelley, *Frankenstein*

3/8-13 The American Romantics: Hawthorne, Poe, and others

3/15-20 Bram Stoker's *Dracula*

3/22 midterm

3/27-29 Spring Break

4/3-4/5 Coppola on Stoker

4/10 *Buffy versus Dracula*

4/12 TBA

4/17-19 Butler, *Fledgling*

4/24-26 Sexton, *Transformations*

5/1-3 Donaldson, *Lord Foul's Bane*

5/8-10 Surrealist Art and *Edward Scissorhands*

5/15-17 Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*