VOICES OF THE ELDERS

Also listed as World Literature: Ancient-Classical-Medieval

Tuesdays 5:00-7:45  Fretwell 410  Spr 09

Boyd Davis  boydhdavis@yahoo.com
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Texts:
Norton Anthology of World Literature, 2nd Edn, Package 1 A, B: Beginnings to 1650
Ovid's Metamorphoses, trans. Rolfe Humphries
Our online discussion will be on NiceNet http://www.nicenet.org
CENTRA: we will use this online interactive package several times: you will need speakers and
microphone if coming online from home, or a headset, which can be borrowed from the library.

Policies:
Attendance (crucial: lose 3 points for each unexcused absence above 1); Plagiarism
( unacceptable); Multiculturalism (assumed).

Grade key:
40% NiceNet exchange: prompted reflections keyed to a selection from the readings
list or from transcripts of narratives by elders. 2 a week: 1 reflection and 1 answer to another
student's reflection. Each should be roughly 300 words. www.nicenet.org
20% 2 in-class quizzes [45 minutes, IDs]
10% 'take-home' midterm essay: comparison of some aspect of one of the classical
Greek/Roman heroes of epic or drama with your choice of another aspect: 5 pp UG, 7 pp G.
10% Collaborative presentation: Pairs of students develop ways to lead class discussion
as dialogue-without-lecture. Graduate students take leadership role, partnering with UG.
20% Major paper due: Annotated bibliography of articles on an unassigned text, including
Son-Jara (on reserve), and an introductory overview using your chosen literary critical
perspective, or approaches from comparative folklore or myth. Undergraduates: 6 sources;
Graduate students: 12

Goals:
Familiarity with major works of ancient, classical & early medieval worlds; their intersections
with comparative mythology, folklore and religion; their themes, various emphases, and modern
interpretations, using more than one way of reading from texts which both record their own
worlds and shape the next. Includes an emphasis on voices of the elders and the notion of the
transmission of wisdom and discussions of ways to work with readers in the schools and

Calendar

Speakers
Jan 13  Overview; Popular Heros; Voices of Elders as theme; online components; Genesis
Jan 20  Nicenet STARTS; Gilgamesh COLLABORATIVE PRESENTATIONS BEGIN
ZOLKOWSKI [Ray]
Jan 27  CENTRA Ovid, Bks I-3; compare http://www.sacred-
texts.com/cla/hesiod/theogony.htm up to line 929; LUCIA
Feb 3*  Ovid, Bks 4-6, 12 Quiz HILDEBRAND [Puhvel, CompMyth]
Feb 10  The Odyssey; Iliad and Aeneid excerpts FOLEY [Puhvel] [Parry-Lord]
Feb 17  The Odyssey; Agamemnon SIEGEL [Schwimmer/Double Twist]
Feb 24  CENTRA Eumenides WEINER
Mar 3*  Take-home Quiz Due Classic Chinese poetry; Confucius; Bk 2 Han Shan, Li Po
DAMROSCH [Stith Thompson]
Mar 17  CENTRA Bk 1 Ramayana, Jataka, Bhagavad-Gita DESAI
Readings List
These are on electronic reserve; the journals are held by Atkins library so you can also access them via the journal itself. Here's how: log in to the library using your Novell log in and password. Under Find Information, click Books, Catalog, Videos. Pull down the category window to Journals and type the journal name. Click Enter, click on the link for the journal, and locate the volume number you need.


Foley, John Miles. 2007. “Reading” Homer through oral tradition. College Literature 34: 1-28


John, Judith. I have been dying to tell you: Early advice books for children. The Lion & the Unicorn 29: 52-64.


New South Voices (narratives from older speakers) http://newsouthvoices.uncc.edu
