
WRITING & CRITICISM in Fall 2018 (EN2020M)

Course Code	EN2020M	Professor(s)	Nils Frederick Schott
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-111
Class Schedule	TF: 13:45-15:05 in A-2	Office Hours	Tuesdays, period 6 (16:55–18:15) and by appointment
Credits	4	Email	nschott@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	TBA

Course Description

Revenge is hard to resist. But because the desire for revenge is also one of the most destructive, and all the more so when vengeance is pursued by those in positions of power, preventing its ravages has spurred the development of legal procedures for righting wrongs since archaic times. In this course, we will read a number of classic literary depictions of revenge, and we will be particularly interested in how authors and protagonists juxtapose vengeance and justice. We will consider the satisfactions, usually fleeting, revenge procures and the suffering, usually lasting, it inflicts on all involved. We will discuss the lengths to which people will go to get vengeance, passing off their thirst for revenge as a quest for justice, manipulating the desires of others, and destroying everyone who opposes them. Our readings will also give us a chance to reflect on power, be it the aristocratic power used and abused in Homer's *Iliad*, Sophocles's *Antigone*, and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, or the power of money shrewdly deployed in Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo* and Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*.

Course Learning Outcomes

To learn to read even better, through consolidation and development of critical reading skills
to analyze stylistic and generic differences
to recognize historical and cultural contexts
as part of the general-education program, to evaluate major texts of world literature
to craft an independent, well-informed critical argument
to write essays, both under time pressure and with research content, as well as to present arguments orally

General Education

Course Outline

Sep 11	Introduction
Sep 14, 18, 21, 25	Homer, <i>Iliad</i>
Sep 28	In-class essay 1
Oct 2 and 5, and 9	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>
Oct 12,16, 19, 23	Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i>
Oct 26	In-class essay 2
	<i>No class October 30</i>
Nov 6, 9, 13, 16, and 20	Dumas, <i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> , selections
Nov 23	In-class essay 3
Nov 27, 30, Dec 4 and 7	Dürrenmatt, <i>The Visit</i>
Dec 11	Conclusion
	<i>Final paper due December 15, 18:00</i>
	Final exam, location TBA
Dec 18, 15:30	

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
THREE THEBAN PLAYS.(FAGLES)	SOPHOCLES	Penguin	9780140444254	Yes
ILIAD, THE	HOMER (RIEU)	Penguin	9780140447941	Yes
Count of Monte Cristo, The	Dumas, Alexandre	OUP	9780199219650	Yes
THE VISIT	DURRENMATT	GROVE PRESS	9780802144263	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

See also "Class Format, Requirements, and Assignments" below

Grading Policy

There is a set of criteria to be fulfilled for each assignment. These criteria will be laid out on the assignment sheets; in the case of the participation requirement, they will be discussed in detail during the first class meeting. Grades will be assigned according to these definitions:

A-work creates an impression of excellence in all the listed criteria.

B-work creates an impression of excellence in most of the listed criteria, and competence in the

others.

C-work creates an impression of competence in most of the listed criteria.

D- or *F-work* is deficient in one or more of the listed criteria.

Class preparation and participation (reading, questions, presentation, contributions to discussion)	30%
Three in-class essays and one optional revision	20%
Research Paper (incl. preceding exercises)	30%
Final Exam	20%

For each day an assignment is late, one-third of a letter grade will be deducted (for example, from A to A-).

Other

CLASS FORMAT, REQUIREMENTS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Class sessions are based on intensive discussions of the assigned readings. In these sessions, which also include lecture elements and writing exercises, student presentations play a central role. You will also complete several kinds of written assignments and receive regular feedback from the instructor.

Class participation and careful completion of reading and written assignments are essential to the successful completion of this course. **Attendance**, including arriving to class on time, is mandatory. Lateness and unexcused absences will be counted against your participation grade, as will lack of appropriate preparation for class (see also AUP policy below). Four unexcused absences will be sanctioned by a failing grade in the course.

Phones and other electronic devices must be turned off. Do not eat in class. If you need to use the restroom, do so either before or after class.

All academic rules and regulations apply, especially those concerning **academic honesty**.

You are responsible for completing the assigned **reading** in advance and for bringing texts to class.

Student presentations are to go beyond the usual summary of a text that everybody else has already read as well. In addition to making the best effort at understanding the text, presenters are expected to articulate topics for class discussion and to conduct these discussions.

Written assignments include short accounts of the readings in response to questions from the instructor. These **reading sheets** serve both as your notes in the class discussion and as a way to monitor your engagement with and comprehension of the texts. They are mandatory but not

graded individually.

You will complete **three in-class writing assignments**, responding to a question you will have selected among several choices. These are scheduled for September 28, October 26, and November 23. You also have the option of rewriting one of these essays.

A **final paper** of about 3000 words (on a topic chosen individually, in consultation with the instructor) will allow you to explore themes of the course that are of particular interest to you.