

Instructor: Angelina Del Balzo (she/her)
Email: angelina@bilkent.edu.tr
Office Location: G Building, B18-1
(basement level)
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:30;
Thursdays 10:30am-12:30pm, and by
appointment

Class Time: Tuesdays 1:40pm-3:30pm,
Thursdays 3:40pm-4:30pm, alternate section
Thursdays 4:40pm-5:30pm
Class Location: G-135

Humanities 111: Cultures, Civilizations, and Ideas Ancient and Classical Civilizations

The function of the university is not simply to teach bread-winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a center of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.

- W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

Course Description and Objectives

This course is the first in a two-semester sequence that considers the meaning of culture: what it is, how it functions, and how we participate in it. Here, we will read some of the foundational texts that have been used to define “Western civilization,” including some of the earliest extant writing, while simultaneously interrogating the assumptions in that definition. We will also read contemporary texts that have drawn inspiration from and have built on this literary tradition while critiquing the concept of a singular, coherent Western civilization. In doing so we will ask questions such as: How do these texts define a culture? A civilization? Who or what may these definitions exclude? In what ways do contemporary ideas about human nature, the supernatural, knowledge, war, etc., correspond to or deviate from these ideologies? We will grapple with these questions and others while developing skills in critical reading, analytical writing, and oral discussion.

Class Code of Conduct

My intention is to create a classroom environment that encourages everyone’s learning, and I expect that we will treat each other with respect and collegiality. Disagreement is productive and welcome, but criticism must be framed constructively and aimed at ideas, not people. In this classroom, we use person-centered language that prioritizes the preferences of the person being referred to. If we are discussing something in class and you feel the need to step outside during a class discussion, you may always do so without academic penalty. You will be responsible for getting the material from a classmate or seeing me individually to discuss the situation.

Required Texts

The Epic of Gilgamesh, trans. Andrew George (Penguin, 1999)
Homer, *Iliad*, trans. Robert Fagles (Penguin, 1991)
Plato, *Republic*, trans. G.M.A. Grube (Hackett, 1992)
Sophocles, *Three Theban Plays*, trans. Robert Fagles (Penguin, 1984)

All other texts available on electronic reserve.

Course Requirements

Participation and Attendance (10%): This course will be in a seminar rather than lecture format, which means that students are expected to contribute to the class discussion rather than just sit silently and take notes. To do so, students are expected to regularly attend class, having done all the reading, and contribute to discussion. The success of the course lies in part with the effort and participation of students. Discussion is a low-stakes space for asking questions and testing out ideas with your peers, so any contribution is valuable. If you have a question, odds are that others have the same one so please ask!. **You cannot participate without bringing a hard (printed) copy of the assigned text(s) to class.**

Short Assignments (30%): Each short assignment is worth 6 points, for a total of 30 points. A prompt and rubric for the assignments will be given out before the deadline.

Course Project (30%): Create an online gallery on Moodle for either *Gilgamesh* or the *Iliad*, with appropriate citations and captions and an introduction, that creates a narrative about the text.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will be two in-class essays based on two of five provided prompts, referencing *Omeros*, the *Republic*, Sappho, *Antigone*, and/or *Home Fire*.

Grading Scale

93-100%	A	Outstanding
90-92%	A-	
87-89%	B+	Very Good
83-86%	B	
80-82%	B-	Good
77-79%	C+	
73-76%	C	Pass
70-72%	C-	
67-69%	D+	
60-66%	D	Lowest Grade for Credit
60% or lower	F	Fail

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. The grade **FZ** will appear on the transcript of those who miss more than 20% of our scheduled meetings (9 hours of class time or three weeks of class). Note: missing portions of class counts toward the hourly total. If consistent and timely attendance may be a problem, please contact me as soon as possible.

Communication: The best way to discuss your work or the course is to come to my office hours, which are **Mondays 1:30pm-3:30pm and Thursdays, 10:30am-12:30pm and other times by**

appointment. You can make an appointment to come to my office hours via the Excel spreadsheet on Moodle. Drop-ins are also welcome, but priority goes to those who have signed up online. I will respond to emails within a day during the week, but I will not answer email on the weekends. **I will not respond to emails regarding assignments sent 24 hours before or 24 hours after the deadline.**

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of ideas or words of another without citation, either intentionally or not. Anything that is not your own idea and/or in your own words must be quoted and cited appropriately. Any instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but at a minimum plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment in question. Disciplinary consequences may include failing the course and possible expulsion from the university. For more information, see <https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/www/lisans-ve-on-lisans-egitim-ogretim-yonetmeligi/#madde4.9>.

Technology: Laptops and e-readers are allowed for note-taking purposes but should not get in the way of active engagement with the class. Please be aware of how your technology usage affects those around you. Cell phones should be silenced and put away.

I reserve the right to amend these policies.

Research and Writing Resources

Bilkent University Writing Centre (BilWrite) <http://bilwrite.bilkent.edu.tr/>
BilWrite is a free service provided by the Faculty Academic English (FAE) Program. The service is open to all Bilkent undergraduate and graduate students who would like to receive help and feedback on their writing assignments.

Faculty of Humanities and Letters Librarian: Elsa Bitri, elsabitri@bilkent.edu.tr

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <https://owl.purdue.edu/>
This is a great online resource for writing and citation in all fields, and includes a section on creative writing.

Schedule

The reading schedule is subject to change. Any alterations in the schedule will be announced in class and via email.

Week 1

Mon. 23 Sept.: Intro readings in class

Thurs. 26 Sept.: *Epic of Gilgamesh* Standard Edition, Tablets I-III

Week 2

Tues. 1 Oct.: *Gilgamesh*, Tablets IV-XIII

Assignment #1 due

Thurs. 3 Oct.: *Gilgamesh*, Tablets IX-XII

Week 3

Tues. 8 Oct.: Homer, the *Iliad*, Books 1 and 3

Assignment#2 due

Thurs. 10 Oct.: *Iliad*, Book 6

Week 4

Tues. 15 Oct.: *Iliad*, Book 16

Thurs. 17 Oct.: *Iliad*, Book 18

Week 5

Tues. 22 Oct.: *Iliad*, Book 22

Thurs. 24 Oct.: *Iliad*, Book 24

Week 6

Tues. 29 Oct.: **No class**

Thurs. 31 Oct.: Finish *Iliad* discussion, Derek Walcott, *Omeros* [selections]

Week 7

Tues. 5 Nov.: Sappho [selections]

Thurs. 7 Nov.: Sappho [selections]

Course project due

Week 8

Tues. 12 Nov.: Plato, *Republic*, Book I

Assignment #3

Thurs. 14 Nov.: *Republic*, Book II

Week 9

Tues. 19 Nov.: *Republic*, Books VI and VII pg.180-191, Book X

Thurs. 21 Nov.: Finish *Republic* discussion

Week 10

Tues. 26 Nov.: Sophocles, *Antigone*, pg. 59-77

Thurs. 28 Nov.: *Antigone*, pg. 78-92

Week 11

Tues. 2 Dec.: *Antigone*, pg. 93-117

Thurs. 5 Dec.: *Antigone*, pg. 118-128

Week 12

Mon. 9 Dec.: *Antigone* discussion

Assignment #4 due

Thurs. 12 Dec.: Finish *Antigone* discussion

Week 13

Mon. 16 Dec.: Kamila Shamsie, *Home Fire*, “Isma,” pg. 1-55
Thurs. 19 Dec.: *Home Fire*, “Eamonn,” pg. 56-114

Week 14

Mon. 23 Dec.: *Home Fire*, “Parvaiz,” pg. 115-183
Thurs. 26 Dec.: *Home Fire*, “Aneeka,” pg. 184-222

Assignment #5

Week 15

Mon. 30 Dec.: *Home Fire*, “Karamat,” pg. 223-end; course conclusion

Finals Period

Date and Time TBA: **Final exam**

Campus Resources

Center for Students with Special Needs

If you have a visible or invisible disability that will require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible in addition to contacting Disability Services.

Contact: Burcu Kılıçoğlu, Tel: 290 2483, 290 1550

Information Request Form: <http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/admin-unit/dos/ssm/form.html>

Information on Physical Facilities: <http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/admin-unit/dos/ssm/duzenleme.html>

Psychological Counseling and Development Center

The goals of Psychological Counseling and Development Center are to provide a range of services related to the challenges of student life as well as personal transition and growth. PCDC Center offers counseling, consultation and referral services free of charge to students enrolled at Bilkent University. The Center is staffed by licensed psychologists in clinical psychology.

Location: Main Campus Housing Block 20. No: 5-6

Tel: (312) 290 17 85 - 86

Email: pdgm@bilkent.edu.tr

Pembe Hayat/Pink Life LGBT Solidarity Association

Social Worker Şennur Ören, sosyalhizmet@pembehayat.org

Basic Needs Security

Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students Kamer Rodoplu (DeanofStudents@bilkent.edu.tr) for support.

Also, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so.