# *An Introduction to Western Literature I*

**Instructor**: **N. Papadimitriou**
**Course number**: **ΛΟ0901**
**Course type**: **Elective course (E)**
**Course level**:
**Teaching language: Greek and/or English
Term:** **Winter semester**
**ECTS**: **2.00**
**Teaching credits**: **2.00**

***Short description****:*

History of Western literature from Shakespeare to Tolstoy, to Proust, to Borges. Major schools and principal oeuvres. Analysis of original works, comparison of (their) different translations. In Greek and/or English.

***Objectives – intended learning outcome****:*

To help students understand the evolution of literature, from Shakespeare το 21st century authors. Also to help language and literary terms understanding.

***Syllabus****:*

**Week 1**: The books and schools of the Ages. The Western Canon, authors and major literary works. An Introduction*.*

**Week 2**: Authors and Translators : *To be, or not to be*? Writing, translating and literary understanding.

**Week 3**: The Aristocratic Age. Shakespeare, Center of the Canon (*he’s been so many people, he wore them all like poisoned vests…*). Cervantes: The Play of the World.

**Week 4**: Montaigne and Molière: The Canonical Elusiveness of the Truth.

**Week 5**: The Democratic Age. Dicken’s *Bleak House*, the *Canonical Novel*. *War and Peace*, Tolstoy and Heroism.

**Week 6:** Walt Whitman as Center of the American Canon.

**Week 7**: The Chaotic Age. Freud : A *Shakespearean* Reading.

**Week 8**: Marcel Proust and The Garden of Childhood. Literature and Music: *À la recherche du temps perdu*.

**Week 9**: “*Time present and time past / Are both perhaps present in time future / And time future contained in time past* (...)”. (T. S. Eliot, *Four Quartets)*.

**Week 10**: Jorge-Louis Borges and The Library-Universe.

**Week 11**: Shakespeare… Proust… Joyce… Beckett: *Where do the actors go after the show?*

**Week 12**: Elegiac Conclusion… *The Walking Dead,* *A Song of Ice and Fire*.

**Week 13:** Working on different projects based on above, preparing final essay.

***Recommended reading - Bibliography****:*

Bloom, H. (1994), The Western Canon: The Books and the School of the Ages, Riverhead Trade.

Bloom, H. (2001), How to Read and Why, Touchstone/Simon & Schuster.

Delcroix, M. - Hallyn, F. (1987), Introduction aux Etudes Littéraires, Méthodes du Texte, Duculot.

Scholes, R. (1985), Textual Power: Literary Theory and the Teaching of English, Yale.

**Instructional and learning methods**:

Films, music, literature.

* John Dowland (1563-1626). Lacrimae.
* Laurence Olivier, *Henry V* (1944).
* *The Bleak House*, (Andrew Davis, Gillian Anderson). TV/BBC Films, 2005.
* Claude Debussy, Sonata for violin and piano (1916-1917)
* John Coltrane, *A Love Supreme* (1965). Jazz quartet.
* The Doors, *When the music’s over…* (1967).
* George R.R. Martin, *A Song of Ice and Fire*, Harper 2012. Μυθιστόρημα.
* *Game of Thrones* (Seasons 1-5). TV/HBO 2012-2015.
* *The Walking Dead* (Seasons 1-7). Fox International-AMC 2015.

**Assessment/grading method(s)**:

Written essays and oral presentations. Final written project.