

**COR 101-003 Fall 2014**  
**NARRATIVES OF THE SELF**  
**Seema Shrikhande, Ph.D.**  
**MWF 10:30-11:30**  
**R 117**

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**Office Hours**  
**T:** 10:30 – 1:00; 3:00-5:30 pm  
**W:** 4:00-5:30 and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course we study a number of texts that deal with the question of identity and self-knowledge. The process of coming to understand who we are can be thought of as a journey. This might be a physical journey filled with dangers and challenges such as the one Odysseus embarks on or a spiritual one such as the one in the *The Diary of St. Perpetua*.

As we read these texts written in different times and cultures we consider the forces that contribute to the creation of the self. What role do factors such as religion, class, race, duty, expectations play in shaping the characters? Is the public self separate from the private? Are individuals capable of really knowing themselves? Have notions of self changed over time? We examine the way different authors narrate these stories. Through your reading and analysis of these narratives, you will come to see how the issues we have considered have played a role in shaping your own narrative of the self.

This is the first semester of a two-semester Core sequence entitled Narratives of the Self. The sequence is required for all first-year students. It is then followed in the second year by a study of the self in community. The third and fourth year Core courses build on the intellectual experiences of the first two years.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to:

- improve your ability to read carefully and critically.
- develop the ability to write clearly and concisely
- develop the ability to write a well-reasoned and supported argumentative essay.

**TEXTS**

*The Epic of Gilgamesh* Trn. N Sandars, Penguin Classics

Plato *The Apology, The Crito*, Penguin Classics

Homer, *The Odyssey* Trns Fagles

William Shakespeare *Henry V* Folger Shakespeare library

Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, Trns Brown-Grant, Penguin Classics

*The Diary of St. Perpetua* access online

Thomas Chatterton Williams, *Losing my Cool*

It is very important that you use the editions specified.

GA Shakespeare *Hamlet* performance Oct 15, Oct 16 or Oct 19.

## EVALUATION

Your grade in this course will be based on 5 papers.

Paper 1	15%	3 pages
Paper 2	15%	4-5 pages
Paper 3	20%	4-5 pages
Paper 4	20%	5-6 pages
Paper 5	20%	5-6 pages
Participation	10%	
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Total	100%	

You may do a rewrite for one of the first two papers if you wish and receive the average of the two grades. Paper revisions will be accepted till the November 24. However, revising a paper earlier will be to your advantage since you will develop skills that you will use throughout the semester.

**Papers are due at the beginning of the class the day they are due and uploaded to Turnitin on Moodle by 5pm the same day.** Late papers will be penalized and your grade will drop one- third of a letter (eg A to A-) for every day that it is late. Papers that are more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

The participation grade will be based on your contribution to class discussion and satisfactory completion of in-class assignments. Occasional quizzes will also count toward the participation grade.

## COURSE POLICIES

### Attendance

Typically, class attendance affects performance positively. After **five absences your grade will drop by 3 points for each subsequent absence.** Absences **in excess of 8** may result in a grade of FA. Please note, I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences.

Late arrivals or early departures from class may be counted as absences. In the case of an emergency or illness, please leave a phone message on my voicemail or send me an email informing me of it.

### Class etiquette

Cell phones and other electronic devices should not be used during class and should be turned off or set to vibrate. Text messaging or surfing the web is not an appropriate activity during class time. Violation of this policy will result in your participation grade being reduced by 50% the first time and by 100% after that.

Personal conversations are disruptive and to both your classmates and to your professor, so any observations, insights or questions you might have should be shared with the entire class.

### Honor Code

Persons who come to Oglethorpe University for work and study join a community that is committed to high standards of academic honesty. The Honor Code contains the responsibilities we accept by becoming members of the community and the procedures we will follow should our commitment to honesty be questioned.

The students, faculty and staff of Oglethorpe University expect each other to act with integrity in the academic endeavor they share. Members of the faculty expect that students complete work honestly and act toward them in ways consistent with that expectation. Students are expected to behave honorably in their academic work and are expected to insist on honest behavior from their peers.

Oglethorpe University welcomes all who accept our principles of honest behavior. We believe that this code will enrich our years at the University and allow us to practice living in earnest the honorable, self-governed lives required of society's respected leaders.

The following definition of cheating is taken from Sec 2.6 of the Honor Code.

Cheating is the umbrella under which all academic malfeasance falls. Cheating is any willful activity impacting or connected to the academic enterprise and involving the use of deceit or fraud in order to attempt to secure an unfair advantage for oneself or others or to attempt to cause an unfair disadvantage to others. Cheating undermines our community's confidence in the honorable state to which we aspire.

All work that you turn in should carry the pledge:

"I pledge that I have acted honorably. (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Work that does not have the pledge will not be graded.

The honor code is in force for every student who is enrolled (either full- or part-time) in any of the academic programs of Oglethorpe University at any given time. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the provisions established in this code. The honor council has sole jurisdiction in matters of suspected academic dishonesty. Alternative ways of dealing with cases of suspected academic fraud are prohibited. In cases of alleged academic dishonesty on the part of students, the honor council is the final arbiter.

### **Moodle and Email**

Students should familiarize themselves with Moodle and check the course page regularly since it will be used extensively to post homework assignments, supplementary readings and course updates. Each student should maintain an active, functioning e-mail account that is capable of receiving group e-mails. Your OU email account will be used to communicate important information to you about the course and your assignments

**Students with Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations will be made on an individual basis only when the student and/or the Learning Disabilities Coordinator provide proper documentation. If you are a student with a disability or disability related issue and feel that you may need a reasonable accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of the course that are listed in this syllabus, you are encouraged to contact Mark Gross in the Academic Success Center at 404.364.8869

### Withdrawals and Incompletes

The standard university policies on withdrawals as outlined in the most current edition of the Bulletin, apply to this course. The last day to withdraw with a 'W' is Oct 20.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

*This is tentative. Changes may be necessary as the semester progresses.*

Date			Reading/Activity
Week 1	M Aug 18	Course Introduction	
	W Aug 20	<i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	Ch. 1
	F Aug 22	<i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	pp.70-96
Week 2	M Aug 25	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	pp.97-119
	W Aug 27	Paper prompts discussion	
	F Aug 29	Intro to <i>The Odyssey</i>	Bk 1-2
Week 3	M Sept 1	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>	
	W Sept 3	Writing workshop	<b>Bring paper 1 draft to class</b>
	<b>F Sept 5</b>	<i>The Odyssey</i> Bks 3-4	<b>Paper 1 due</b>
Week 4	M Sept 8	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Bks 5-7
	W Sept 10	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Bks 8-10
	F Sept 12	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Bks 11-13
Week 5	M Sept 15	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Bks 14-16
	W Sept 17	Paper Conferences	meet in my office
	F Sept 19	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Bks 17-19
Week 6	M Sept 22	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Bks 20-22
	W Sept 24	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Bks 23-24
	F Sept 26	Writing workshop	<b>Bring paper 2 draft to class</b>
Week 7	<b>M Sept 29</b>	<i>Henry V</i> Introduction	<b>Paper 2 due</b>
	W Oct 1	<i>Henry IV Pt.1</i>	Excerpts (handout)
	F Oct 3	<i>Henry IV Pt 2</i>	Excerpts (handout)
Week 8	M Oct 6	<i>Henry V</i>	Act 1
	W Oct 8	<i>Henry V</i>	Act 2
	F Oct 10	<i>Henry V</i>	Act 3
Week 9	<b>M Oct 13</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	
	W Oct 15	<i>Henry V</i>	Act 4
	F Oct 17	<i>Henry V</i>	Act 5

Date	Reading/Activity		
Week 10	M Oct 20 W Oct 22 <b>F Oct 24</b>	<i>Henry V</i> performance discussion Writing workshop Apology Introduction	<b>Bring paper 3 draft to class</b> <b>Paper 3 due</b>
Week 11	Oct 27 Oct 29 Oct 31	<i>Apology</i> <i>Apology</i> <i>Apology</i>	pp. 41-46 pp.47-58 pp. 59-70
Week 12	M Nov 3 W Nov 5 F Nov 7	<i>Crito</i> <i>Crito</i> <i>Crito</i>	
Week 13	M Nov 10 W Nov 12 F Nov 14	Writing Workshop <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i> : Introduction <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i>	
Week 14	M Nov 17 W Nov 19 F Nov 21	<i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i> <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i> <i>The Passion of St. Perpetua</i>	
Week 15	M Nov 24 <b>W Nov 26</b> <b>F Nov 28</b>	<i>The Passion of St. Perpetua</i> <b>Thanksgiving Break</b> <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Paper 4 due</b>
Week 16	M Dec 1 W Dec 3 F Dec 5	<i>Losing my cool</i> <i>Losing my cool</i> <i>Losing my cool</i>	
Week 17	Dec 8 <b>Dec 11</b>	Course wrap up <b>Paper 5 due 10 am.</b>	