

Instructor: Dr. Angelina Del Balzo  
Email: angelina@bilkent.edu.tr

Office Location: G Building, B18-1  
(basement level)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
1:30-3:30pm and by appointment

### **Section 18**

Class Times: Wednesdays 9:40-10:30am  
and Fridays 10:40am-12:30 pm; spare hour  
Wednesdays 8:40-9:30am  
Class Location: G-229

### **Section 33**

Class Times: Tuesdays 3:40-4:30pm and  
Fridays 1:40-3:30pm; spare hour Tuesdays  
4:40-5:30pm  
Class Location: G-154

## **Humanities 112: Cultures, Civilizations, and Ideas Modernity and Tradition**

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 second 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 texts from the European Middle Ages to the contemporary moment. We will consider the role of narrative and text in building and defining civilizations, and how individuals engage with their culture's stories. We will also look at the tensions between reason and emotion in the creation of our modern world. In doing so we will ask questions such as: How do these texts engage with history and/or literary tradition? How does fiction affect cultural narratives? What is the relationship between reason and emotion? Who is capable of reason and who is not? Who is beyond the reach of sympathy? We will grapple with these questions and others while developing skills in critical reading, analytical writing, and oral discussion.

### **Required Texts**

Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies* (available in bookstore)

Course Reader (available from the H building copy center)

\*Do not purchase the copy of *Frankenstein* in the bookstore\*

### **Course Requirements**

*Participation (10%)*: This course will be in a seminar rather than lecture format, which means that students are expected to actively participate in the class. To do so, students are expected to regularly attend class, having done all the reading, and **contribute to discussion**. You cannot participate if you are not present. **You cannot participate without bringing a hard (printed) copy of the assigned text(s) to class**. 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!

*Short Assignments (30%):* Each in-class writing assignment is worth 10 points. Students will write short answers to 1-2 discussion questions, citing specific places in the text. Since they are scheduled in advance (i.e. not pop quizzes), all assignments will be counted towards the final grade.

*Course Project (30%):* Students will adapt either *City of Ladies* or *Othello* to another medium, accompanied by a short reflection, for 100 points. A more detailed rubric will follow.

*Final Exam (30%):* The final exam will be timed essays based on provided prompts, referencing any text in the course, for 100 points. A more detailed rubric will follow.

### Grading Scale

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

As a colleague of mine says, grades assess only how well you performed on a particular assignment at a particular time while dealing with other courses and all the other slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

I am always happy to discuss your work and ways to improve in office hours. You may request a formal regrade of any assignment, but please be aware that your grade **may go up or down**.

### 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 (8.4 hours of class time), regardless of reason. Note: missing portions of class counts toward the hourly total. Absences of **8% or more** (3.4 hours) of class time will affect the participation grade. Exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances. The hour totals include the entire semester. **The 20% is the absolute maximum you can miss and still pass the class.** Life is unexpected and you never know when you may need to miss class. Barring extenuating circumstances, no exceptions will be made.

*Communication:* The best way to discuss your work or the course is to come to my office hours, which are **Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm and other times by appointment**. 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 the deadline or 24 hours after assignments are returned.** Office hours are the best time to make up missed in-class assignments or to talk one-on-one about course material.

*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. Other 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 may be used for dictionaries during class but will not be allowed for the final exam. Readings must be brought in **hard copy**. **Cell phones should be silenced.**

### **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. 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 me during office hours.

### **Course Schedule**

#### Week 1: 3 Feb. – 7 Feb.

Section 1: Course introduction

Section 2: Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies* (1405), Part I pg. 5-28

#### Week 2: 10 Feb. – 14 Feb.

Section 1: *City of Ladies*, Part I pg. 33-46, 55-73, 78-87

Section 2: *City of Ladies*, Part II pg. 91-103, 107-112, 130-134, 139-144

#### **Assignment #1 in class**

#### Week 3: 17 Feb. – 21 Feb.

Section 1: *City of Ladies*, Part II pg. 147-149, 150-152, 163-175, 184-197

Section 2: *City of Ladies*, Part III pg. 201-211, 215-223, 235-240 (end)

#### Week 4: 24 Feb. – 28 Feb.

Section 1: William Shakespeare, *Othello* (1604), Act I

Section 2: *Othello*, Act II

#### **Assignment#2 in class**

#### Week 5: 2 Mar. – 6 Mar.

Section 1: *Othello*, Act III

Section 2: *Othello*, Act IV

Week 6: 9 Mar. – 13 Mar.

Section 1: \*SPARE HOUR\* *Othello*, Act V

Section 2: Finish *Othello* discussion

**Course Project due in class**

Week 7: 16 Mar. – 20 Mar.

Section 1: NO CLASS

Section 2: NO CLASS

Week 8: 23 Mar. – 27 Mar.

Section 1: \*SPARE HOUR\* *Othello* supplementary texts (in course reader)

Section 2: James Baldwin, “Why I stopped hating Shakespeare” (1964)

**Assignment #3 in class**

Week 9: 30 Mar. – 3 Apr.

Section 1: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818), Vol. 1, pg. 5-30

Section 2: *Frankenstein*, Vol. 1, pg. 30-60

Week 10: 6 Apr. – 10 Apr.

Section 1: *Frankenstein*, Vol. 2, pg. 61-80; *Paradise Lost* excerpts

Section 2: *Frankenstein*, Vol. 2, pg. 80-105

**Assignment #4 in class**

Week 11: 13 Apr. – 17 Apr.

Section 1: *Frankenstein*, Vol. 3, pg.107-133

Section 2: *Frankenstein*, Vol. 3, pg. 133-161 (end); *Frankenstein* supplementary texts

Week 12: 20 Apr. – 24 Apr.

Section 1: Ahmed Saadawi, *Frankenstein in Baghdad* (2014), pg. 1-52

Section 2: *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, pg. 53-89

**Assignment #5 in class**

Week 13: 27 Apr. – 1 May

Section 1: *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, pg. 90-141

Section 2: *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, pg. 142-195

Week 14: 4 May – 8 May

Section 1: \*SPARE HOUR\* *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, pg. 196-244

Section 2: *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, pg. 245-281 (end)

Week 15: 11 May – 15 May

Section 1: \*SPARE HOUR\* Course review and conclusion

Section 2: NO CLASS

**Final Exam: Date and Time TBA**

I reserve the right to amend these policies and/or the course schedule. Any changes to the reading and/or assignment schedule will be emailed to students and posted to Moodle.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **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](mailto:pdgm@bilkent.edu.tr)