

Worth up to 20 Points—due in the HW 1 dropbox by **11:59pm on Mon, Jan 28**

After reading the introduction from Thomsen's *Mapping World Literature* pdf posted on eLearn, use the information in the reading to produce an MLA-formatted document (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> for more information on MLA and examples) that answers the following questions. Make sure to construct well developed paragraph responses to each question. To me, this means that I want to see

- your personal opinions/ideas/experiences
- specific evidence that backs up and explains your opinions/ideas/experiences
- detailed examples that help illustrate your opinions/ideas/experiences
- clear connections between yourselves and what you read
- the recognition that there have been (and will continue to be) many different cultures, literatures, and ways of seeing the world other than your own
- strong writing skills that show your effective communication abilities

All this really means is that you will be graded not only on WHAT you say, but HOW WELL you go about saying it. Brief, underdeveloped responses that merely offer a couple of unconnected ideas will NOT receive many of the 20 available points. As far as I am concerned, you don't have to be an English major to be able to express your own ideas, beliefs, and interpretations. Most students seem to be far more intelligent than they have been able to express in their reading and writing so far, but I believe that they can be turned into much better readers and writers if they are given the right kinds of guidance and support.

While this class is certainly about learning about literature from around the world, it is also about learning how to articulate your own understandings of various kinds of literary texts through your own writing. So, DO NOT just jump on the Web and find someone else's ideas and stick them in your document; trust yourself and be honest.

- 1) What does Thomsen say about "globalization" in the first paragraph? Do you agree with her? Explain why or why not.
- 2) According to Thomsen, when was the term "world literature" first introduced? Who introduced it? *NOTE: This is likely the one homework question that will be difficult for you to develop a full paragraph about. That's fine.*
- 3) Why do you think Thomsen states that "the concept of world literature is notoriously difficult to define?" List at least five reasons why you think defining the term "world literature" is such a challenge (the instructor will give some guidance in class).
- 4) Complete the following quote from Thomsen: "However, the important thing is that, no matter which definition one prefers, the literature of the world will always be _____." Explain what you think Thomsen means by this.
- 5) Based on your understanding of Thomsen's overall point(s), what are at least three ways that you think we can explore "world literature" in this class that will help us all reach a deeper understanding of it?