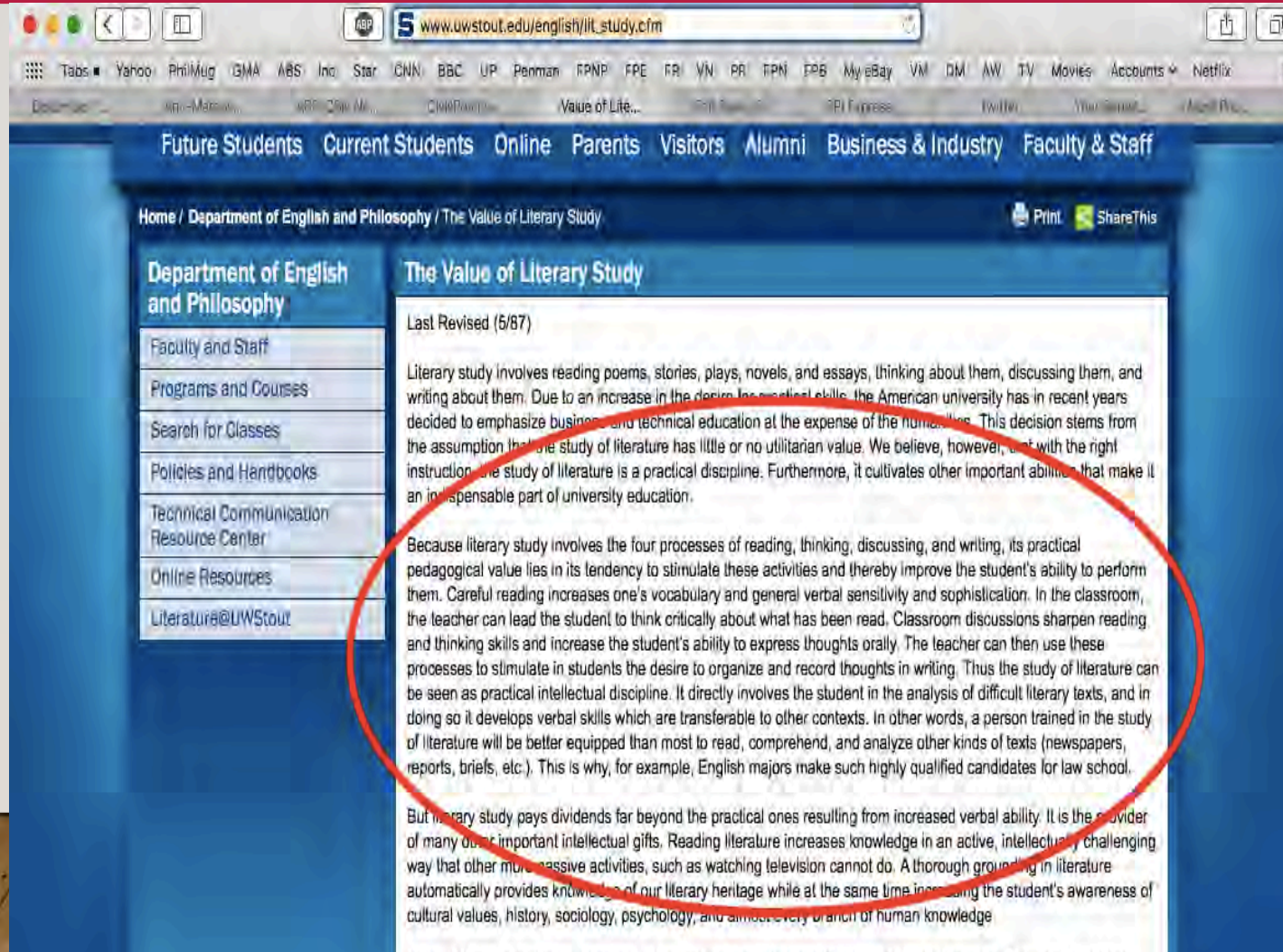


OUR WAKING DREAM: WHY WE NEED LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

DR. JOSEY. DALISAY JR., UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES



WHAT THEY USUALLY SAY...



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.uwstout.edu/english/lit_study.cfm. The page is titled "The Value of Literary Study" and is part of the Department of English and Philosophy website. A red circle highlights the main text of the page, which discusses the practical value of literary study.

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The Value of Literary Study

Last Revised (5/87)

Literary study involves reading poems, stories, plays, novels, and essays, thinking about them, discussing them, and writing about them. Due to an increase in the desire for practical skills, the American university has in recent years decided to emphasize business and technical education at the expense of the humanities. This decision stems from the assumption that the study of literature has little or no utilitarian value. We believe, however, that with the right instruction the study of literature is a practical discipline. Furthermore, it cultivates other important abilities that make it an indispensable part of university education.

Because literary study involves the four processes of reading, thinking, discussing, and writing, its practical pedagogical value lies in its tendency to stimulate these activities and thereby improve the student's ability to perform them. Careful reading increases one's vocabulary and general verbal sensitivity and sophistication. In the classroom, the teacher can lead the student to think critically about what has been read. Classroom discussions sharpen reading and thinking skills and increase the student's ability to express thoughts orally. The teacher can then use these processes to stimulate in students the desire to organize and record thoughts in writing. Thus the study of literature can be seen as practical intellectual discipline. It directly involves the student in the analysis of difficult literary texts, and in doing so it develops verbal skills which are transferable to other contexts. In other words, a person trained in the study of literature will be better equipped than most to read, comprehend, and analyze other kinds of texts (newspapers, reports, briefs, etc.). This is why, for example, English majors make such highly qualified candidates for law school.

But literary study pays dividends far beyond the practical ones resulting from increased verbal ability. It is the provider of many other important intellectual gifts. Reading literature increases knowledge in an active, intellectually challenging way that other more passive activities, such as watching television cannot do. A thorough grounding in literature automatically provides knowledge of our literary heritage while at the same time increasing the student's awareness of cultural values, history, sociology, psychology, and almost every branch of human knowledge.

TEACHERS NEED JOBS!



LITERATURE MAKES US HUMAN.



“WCYRFQ LGHHNG!”



TRANSMISSION AND PRESERVATION



OUR WAKING DREAM



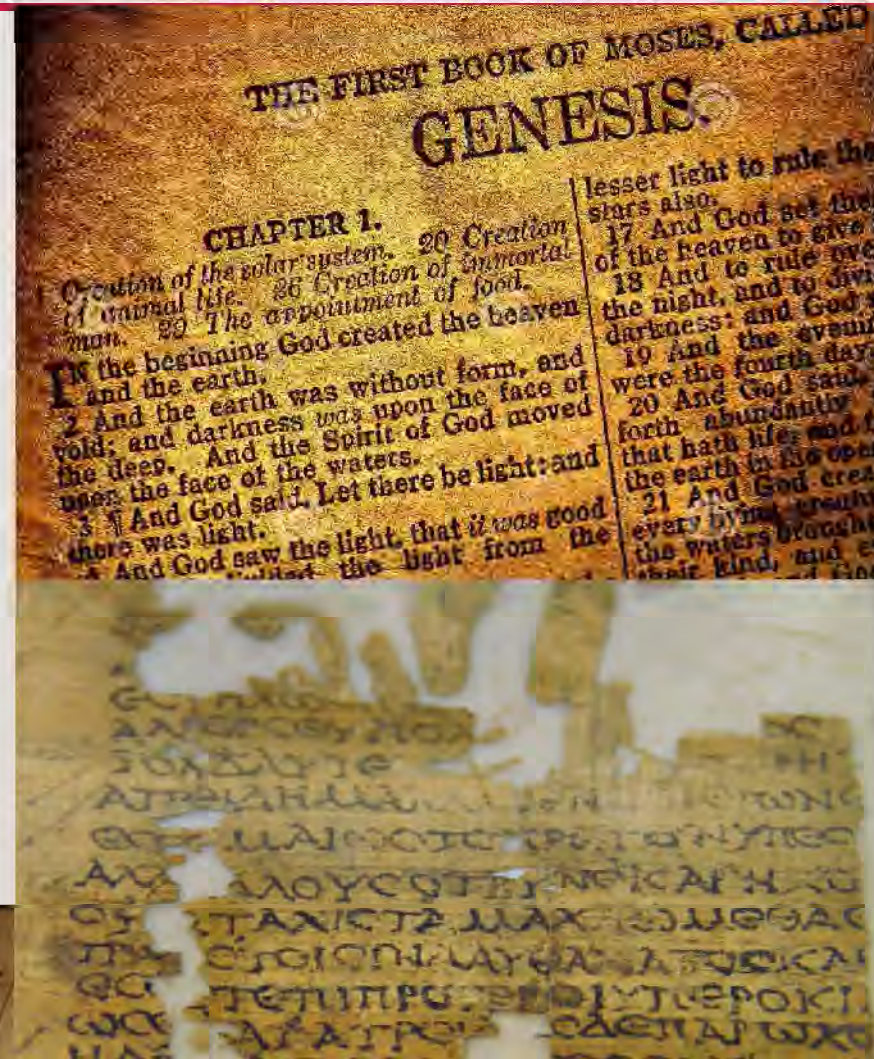
“COGITO” BY AUGUSTO DE CAMPOS



THE MIRROR OF PERSEUS



DISCERNMENT AND JUDGMENT



HEROES (REAL ONES)



FRIEND/UNFRIEND



HAVE WE PRODUCED SLACKERS AND TROLLS?



WORDS HAVE MEANING, POWER, CONSEQUENCES



WORDS CAN HURT, WORDS CAN KILL



WORDS CAN HEAL, WORDS CAN SAVE



WORDS MAKE LAW, WORDS MAKE WAR



WORDS MAKE MONEY



WORDS MAKE PEACE, WORDS MAKE NATIONS



OUR SONGS, OUR PRAYERS



OUR SECRETS, OUR LEGACY



LIGHTING UP THE SKY

*Even
After
All this time
The Sun never says
To the Earth
“You owe me.”
Look
What happens
With a love like that.
It lights up
The whole
Sky.*

(Hafez)