Fall 9-1-2005

LS 151L.06: Introduction to the Humanities

Ruth Vanita
University of Montana - Missoula, ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

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LS 151, Introduction to Western Humanities

Dr. Ruth Vanita

Section 6. Tuesday, Thursday, 12.40 – 2.00 p.m.
Room: McGill Hall 237. 4 credits
Office: Liberal Arts 146-A. Office Phone: 243-4894. Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12, Thursday 2-3, and by appointment.

Texts (all required)

Sappho, translated Mary Barnard (Berkeley: U of Cal. Press, 1958)
Plato, The Symposium (Dover Thrift Edition)
Sophocles, Antigone (Dover Thrift Edition)
Euripides Medea (Dover Thrift Edition)
The Bible (Authorized King James’ Version with Apocrypha) ed. Robert Carroll and Stephen Prickett (Oxford World’s Classics)
Ovid, Metamorphoses (Oxford World’s Classics)
St Augustine, The Confessions

Goals
- to introduce you to some major trends of thought and some major texts within the humanities, in the ancient Western world, and also to the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions that have shaped the modern Western world
- to develop writing skills, and improve your writing by a process that will allow me to measure your improvement.

Requirements
Students are required to
(a) attend classes and plenary lectures regularly. More than two unexplained absences from class will result in a zero for attendance and participation; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence;
(b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and actively participate in discussion;
(d) bring a typed discussion question/comment on the prescribed text, to every class, use it in discussion, and hand it in to me, at the end of class;
(e) write a short paper (3-4 pages double-spaced typed);
(f) edit and rewrite the paper, expanding it (5-8 pages double-spaced typed) to include one more text;
(g) hand in titled abstracts of both papers, in advance, and discuss the abstracts with me during office hours. The abstract must state your thesis and summarize your argument.
(e) take the mid-term examination, and all quizzes, and complete all assignments.
Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class. Topics for papers must be selected from a list given by me. Explanations for absences and for missed quizzes should be provided preferably in advance of or not later than one week after the absence, and should be accompanied by a medical certificate or other documentary evidence. Quizzes can be made up by appointment with me, within the week, but not later.

**Grades**
The short paper will be worth 20%, the rewritten paper 20%, class attendance and participation (this includes handing in typed questions/comments) 20%, quizzes 20%, the mid-term exam 20%. Papers must (a) address the topic (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) and adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax.

Quizzes will contain both multiple-choice type questions and short answer questions and are designed to test whether you have read the prescribed texts and remember the basic facts about the author and the text, as well as information communicated in class lectures.

Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, abstracts and short papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade. The final paper must be on time; late papers will not be accepted. I will be leaving the country soon after, for an international conference.

If you take this course to fulfill General Education requirements or for the Liberal Studies major, you must earn a C minus to pass; D is a failing grade. Liberal Studies majors cannot take this class Pass/Not Pass However, if you are not a Liberal Studies major and do take this class Pass/Not Pass, you need to earn at least a C minus to pass since D is not a passing grade for Pass/Not Pass students.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

**Plenary Lecture Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>Paul Dietrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Law and the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>Tom Lee</td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td>The Prophets &amp; the Prophetic Imagination</td>
<td>Dan Spencer</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible – Job and Wisdom</td>
<td>Jim Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Homer and Greek Civilization</td>
<td>Hayden Ausland</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Hero and Antihero in Homer’s Odyssey</td>
<td>Stewart Justman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Greek Lyric</td>
<td>Hayden Ausland</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Greek <em>Tragedy</em> and the Politics of Drama</td>
<td>Matt Semanoff</td>
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<td>October 27</td>
<td>Plato and Greek Philosophy</td>
<td>Richard Walton</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Hellenistic and Roman History</td>
<td>Barbara Weinlich</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
<td>The New Testament – the Gospels</td>
<td>Megan Williams</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
<td>The New Testament – the Letters of Paul</td>
<td>Paul Dietrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Augustine’s Confessions</td>
<td>Phil Fandozzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Roman and Early Christian Art</td>
<td>Megan Williams</td>
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Lectures are given at 11:10 –12:00 in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) and repeated at 7:10-8:00 p.m. in SS (Social Sciences) 352.

**Reading Schedule**

*This schedule is tentative. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with any changes.*

August 30        | Explanation of syllabus, and introduction to the course and to the Bible |
September 1      | Read Genesis, 1-5, and “The Ancient Hebrews: A Timeline” (photocopy).      |
September 6      | Read Genesis, 6-19.                                                        |
September 8      | Read Genesis 20-34. **Quiz on Genesis and plenary lectures.**               |
September 13     | Read “Tanakh and Old Testament” (photocopy), Leviticus 16-21, and History of Susanna. |
September 15     | Read Judith, Song of Songs 7 and 8; and Ecclesiasticus 24. **Quiz on Bible texts read so far (excluding Genesis), and plenary lectures.** |
September 20     | Read “Odyssey: Background and Summary,” “The Greek Gods,” “Ancient Greece: A Timeline,” (photocopies), and *The Odyssey*, Book IX |
September 22     | Read *The Odyssey*, Books X and XI.                                        |
September 27     | Read *The Odyssey*, Books XII and XIII.                                    |
September 29  Read *The Odyssey*, Books XIV, XIX, XXI, XXII. Quiz on *The Odyssey* and plenary lectures.


October 6  Read Sappho, 40-end. Focus on 41 and 42. Discuss abstract with me, during office hours.

October 11  Read *Antigone*, 1-24

October 13  Read *Antigone*, 25 to end. Short paper due, in class

October 18  Read *Medea*, 1-27

October 20  Read *Medea*, 28 to end. Quiz on *Antigone* and *Medea*, and plenary lectures

October 25  Read *Symposium*, pages 1- middle of page 22

October 27  Read *Symposium* middle of page 22 to end

November 1  Mid-term exam


November 8  Read *Metamorphoses*, “Icarus,” 176-78; “Philemon and Baucis,” 190-93; Book X; 249-52.


November 22  No class. I will be away, at a conference.

November 29  Romans 1-11; *The Confessions*, Book I; Book II; Book III: chapters 1, 2, 11, 12; Book IV.
December 1  The Confessions, Book V: chapters 8 and 9; Book VI: chapters 2, 12, 13, 14, 15; Book VII: chapters 12-17; Book VIII: chapters 6-8, 11-12.

December 6  The Confessions, Book IX, chapters 8-13. Quiz on Confessions and plenary lectures

December 8  Conclusion. Hand in long paper, in class.