Spring 2-1-2005

LS 152L.03: Introduction to the Humanities

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LS 152.03: Introduction to Humanities

Class: TR 9:40-11:00
JRH 203
Plenary Lectures: R 11:10-12:00

Course Description: This course is an introduction to Western Humanities through the study of some of the most significant literature from the late medieval to the modern period. Its objective is to give you an understanding and critical appreciation of the texts through class discussion and written assignments. This objective will be judged by your ability to determine and analyze important issues/themes in these texts and, when appropriate, to explore significant similarities and differences. This objective will be realized only through your full participation.

I. Texts: *Portable Dante*, (Viking)
   *Utopia*, (Penguin)
   *Hamlet*, (Signet)
   *Discourse on Method*, (Bobbs-Merrill)
   *Candide*, (Penguin)
   *Notes from Underground*, (Bantam)
   *Fly Away Peter*, (Vintage)
   Electronic Reserve (ERES)

II. Reading Assignments:
1/25 Introduction to Course (none)
1/27 *Inferno* (Dante), Intro. pp.ix-xvi; xxx-xxxvi; Cantos I-V.
2/1 *Inferno*, Cantos X, XIII-XVI, XXXII-XXXIV.
2/3 *Purgatory*, Cantos I, II, IX, XXX.
2/8 *Paradise*, Cantos I, III, VII, XXX, XXXIII.
2/10 “Oration on the Dignity of Man,” ERES
2/15 “Selections from the Essays,” Montaigne, ERES
2/22 *Utopia*, Book Two, pp. 69-99..
3/1 *Hamlet*, Acts I & II.
3/3 *Hamlet*, Acts III & IV.
3/8 *Hamlet*, Act V.
3/10 *Discourse on Method*, Intro. and Parts One & Two.
3/17 Mid-Term Exam
3/21-25 SPRING BREAK
3/29 *Candide*, Intro. and Chapters I-XVIII.
3/31 *Candide*, Chapters XIX-XXX.
4/7 “The Communist Manifesto,” Marx, ERES
4/12 “Vindication of the Rights of Woman,” and “Ain’t I a Woman,” ERES
III. Written Assignments:
1. Quizzes on the Plenary Lectures on the Tuesdays following the Thursday Lectures.
2. A thematic essay (4-5 printed pages) on a topic from texts we have studied through March 8th, due March 10th. Topics to be discussed.
4. A revision of the essay, along with the original, due April 7th.
5. Final Comprehensive Exam: Monday, May 9th, 8-10 AM.

IV. Grading:
Grades will be based on the five written assignments above and your attendance and participation, according to the following percentages:
- Quizzes- 15%
- Essay & Revision- 40%
- Mid-term- 15%
- Final exam- 20%
- Attendance & participation- 10%
More than two absences and/or repeated tardiness may lower your grade.

This class will use the +/- grading system.

Last day to drop classes by Cyberbear: Feb. 11; last day to drop without refund: March 7th.