Spring 2-1-2005

LS 152L.04: Introduction to the Humanities

Daniel T. Spencer

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INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES II
Liberal Studies 152, Spring, 2005
Section 4: TR 8:10-9:30 am; LA 205
CRN: 32260

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COURSE STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

This course has several goals. Most broadly it is designed to introduce the student to the study of the humanities as an important component of a liberal arts education through a focus on selective texts from the Medieval to the Modern periods that have shaped Western civilization. We will explore the formation and transformation of some western world views and themes, and reflect on how they have shaped and influenced society and culture today. The emphases of the course are engaging in close readings of the primary texts, discussing and writing about those texts.

"A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. A classic is something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of background noise, but at the same time this background noise is something we cannot do without. (Conversely) A classic is something that persists as a background noise even when the most incompatible momentary concerns are in control of the situation."

• Italo Calvino

"Classics are certain texts, events, images, rituals, symbols and persons (in which we acknowledge) a disclosure of a reality we cannot but name truth... some disclosures of reality in a moment of 'recognition' which surprises, provokes, challenges, shocks, and eventually transforms us; an experience that upsets conventional opinions and expands the sense of the possible; indeed a realized experience of that which is essential, that which endures – the presence of classics in every culture is undeniable. Their memory haunts us. Their actual effects in our lives endure and await ever new appropriations, constantly new interpretations."

• David Tracy

REQUIRED TEXTS

Dante, The Portable Dante (Penguin: Musa trans.)
More, Utopia (Penguin)
Descartes, Discourse on Method (Library of Liberal Arts)
Shakespeare, Hamlet (Signet)
Voltaire, Candide (Penguin)
Blake, Blake's Selected Poems (Dover Thrift Edition)
Wordsworth, Favorite Poems (Dover Thrift Edition)
ERES readings on Electronic Reserve and Traditional Reserve in Mansfield Library

REQUIREMENTS

• Regular class attendance and participation that demonstrates a grasp of the reading assignments
• Regular attendance at the weekly plenary lecture
• Regular short written essays in response to the readings and plenary lectures
• Essay on a topic of your choice in response to the texts
• Written midterm and final exams
## ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Day</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>ERES = Electronic Reserve Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/25 Tu 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Laying out themes and structure of the course Introduction to the Medieval World of Europe</td>
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### I. Individual and Cosmos in the Late Middle Ages (14th century)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1/27 Th 2</th>
<th>Dante’s <em>Divine Comedy: Inferno</em></th>
<th>Cantos I-V, X-XI, XIII-XVI</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plenary Lecture:</strong> Paul Dietrich: <em>Introduction; Medieval Art and Culture</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/1 Tu 3</td>
<td>Dante’s <em>Divine Comedy: Inferno</em></td>
<td>Cantos XVIII-XIX, XXI-XXII, XXVI, XXVIII, XXXII-XXXIV</td>
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<td><strong>First Response Paper due</strong></td>
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| 2/3 Th 4 | Dante’s *Divine Comedy: Purgatorio and Paradiso* | *Purgatorio* Cantos I-II, IX-X, XXVII, XXX-XXXIII  
*Paradiso* Cantos I, XXIX-XXXIII |
| **Plenary Lecture:** Richard Drake: *Dante and His Times* |

### II. Early Renaissance, Reform and Reformation (15th/16th centuries)

| *2/8 Tu 5 | Christine de Pisan: Selections from “The Book of the City of Ladies”  
Pico: “Oration on the Dignity of Man” | ERES #1  
ERES #2 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 2/10 Th 6 | Erasmus: Selections from “Paraclesis”  
Martin Luther: “The Freedom of a Christian” | ERES #3  
ERES #4 |
| **Plenary Lecture:** Rafael Chacón: *Italian Renaissance Art & Culture* |
| 2/15 Tu 7 | Thomas More: *Utopia* | Book I |
| 2/17 Th | Thomas More: *Utopia* | Book II |
| **Plenary Lecture:** Paul Dietrich: *Renaissance Humanism* |

### III. Exploration of Self in the Northern Renaissance (16th/17th centuries)

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<td><strong>Hand out Major Essay questions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/24 Th 9</td>
<td>Shakespeare: <em>Hamlet</em></td>
<td>Intro, Acts I-II (pp. 3-60)</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary Lecture:</strong> William Farr: <em>Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1 Tu 10</td>
<td>Shakespeare: <em>Hamlet</em></td>
<td>Acts III-V (pp. 61-144)</td>
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IV. The Scientific Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment (17th/18th centuries)

3/3 Th 11 Descartes: *Discourse on Method* Parts One and Two-Six
(you may skim pp. 7-11, 26-35, 44-45, 48-50)

Plenary Lecture: John Hunt: *Shakespeare and Hamlet*

*Hand out and guide sheet for Midterm exam*

3/8 Tu 12 Immanuel Kant: “What is Enlightenment?” ERES #13
Mary Wollstonecraft: “Vindication of the Rights of Women” ERES #17

Major Essay due in class

3/10 Th 13 Voltaire, *Candide* Chapters I-XVIII (19-84)

Plenary Lecture: David Sherman: *Descartes and Modern Philosophy*

3/15 Tu 14 Voltaire, *Candide* Chapters XIX-XXX (84-144)

3/17 Th 15 Midterm Exam

Plenary Lecture: Valerie Hedquist: *The Art of the Baroque Period*

March 21 – 25 Spring Break – No Class

V. Revolution, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism (18-20th centuries)

Wordsworth pp.

3/31 Th 17 Marx Readings ERES #18

Plenary Lecture: Fern Glass-Boyd: *Bach, Beethoven, and the Boys: What We Mean by "Classical" Music*

4/5 Tu 18 Crime and Punishment Part I: pp. 1-86

4/7 Th 19 Crime and Punishment Part II: pp. 87-193

Plenary Lecture: Albert Borgmann: *The Enlightenment*

4/12 Tu 20 Crime and Punishment Part III: pp. 195-278

4/14 Th 21 No Class

Plenary Lecture: Bob Pack: *Romanticism and Romantic Literature*

4/19 Tu 22 Crime and Punishment Part IV: pp. 279-358


Plenary Lecture: Stewart Justman: *The Russian Novel: Tolstoy and Dostoevsky*
4/26   Tu 24  Crime and Punishment  
4/28   Th 25  Sigmund Freud: Civilization and Its Discontents  
      Plenary Lecture: Richard Drake: Modern Political History  
5/3    Tu 26  Sigmund Freud: Civilization and Its Discontents  
5/5    Th 27  Final Class / Wrap-up

Final Exam Period: Thursday, May 12, 8:00-10:00 am

GRADING POLICY

1. Five Weekly Response Papers to the Readings: 20%
2. Five Plenary Response Papers: 20%
3. Major essay: 20%
4. Midterm exam: 20%
5. Final exam: 20%

Note Re Papers: Papers are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. Unless you have made a prior agreement with me, I will take off one grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day an assignment is late. Papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be returned ungraded for correction and marked down a full grade. Written work will be evaluated in terms of the strength and accuracy of your exposition of the texts, your depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, clarity of writing, and ability to address issues raised in the text and in class on the topic at hand. Grades given reflect the following criteria of judgment:

F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
C: Satisfactory; meet minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
B: Good to Very Good: thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style
A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style; demonstrate creativity and mature analytical skills in going beyond the primary requirements of the assignment

Note: Grades will be recorded using pluses and minuses.

Attendance: Regular attendance and participation in the class and at the weekly plenary lecture is expected. More than three (3) absences will result in losing any benefit of the doubt on your final grade. More than five (5) absences will result in one grade reduction. More than seven (7) absences will result in a failing course grade. Late arrivals in class will count as an absence. (Note: If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as illness or other conflicting commitments, you still must speak with the instructor).

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: All work submitted is expected to be the student's own. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course, and may result in further academic punishment. If you have any doubts about definitions of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please review the relevant sections of the University Catalog (p. 22).
DESCRIPTION OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Response Papers: Once a week (beginning the week of February 2) write a critical response paper to either the plenary presentation from the previous week, or one of the assigned readings from the previous week. Over the course of the semester you must write a minimum of five plenary response papers and five response papers to the readings, for a total of ten weekly response papers.

1. Five Weekly Response Papers to the Readings: choose one of the assigned readings that week for a short, typed two-three page critical response. After reading the text, write (1) three or four paragraphs that summarize and explain the main points of the reading, (2) two or three paragraphs giving your thoughtful response and discussion of the reading, noting any questions you have in light of your reading of the article. The papers will be graded on a scale of 0 to 20 points. The cumulative score of these responses is a significant element in determining your final grade; they indicate to me the consistency and quality of your participation in the course. Due no later than the following week (Tuesday or Thursday) in class. (Late papers will be marked down).

2. Five Plenary Response Papers: Write a typed, two-three page critical response to five of the plenary lectures. Each response should include a summary of the main themes and significant supporting points, as well as your thoughtful response to the issues raised and how they relate to other themes of the course. These papers also will be graded on a scale of 0 to 20 points. Due no later than the following week (Tuesday or Thursday) in class. (Late papers will be marked down).

3. Major Essay: A 5-6 page typed essay in which you consider a theme, key term, or other consideration(s) from the texts we read from the first part of the course. Use the text to support a well-constructed argument for the theme which you decide to pursue. We will discuss paper topics in class at least one week prior to the due date of Tuesday, March 8th (in class). (Note: you do not need to turn in a response paper this week, though you may do so if you choose.)

4. Midterm Exam: will cover material from both the plenary lectures and assigned readings. Mixed format: multiple choice, short answer essay, longer essay questions. A guide sheet and list of potential essay questions will be handed out in class one week prior to the exam. Thursday, March 17th.

5. Final Exam: The final will cover material from the second part of the semester and will ask you to integrate your learning from across the semester. Same format as the midterm exam.

LS 152L Plenary Lectures
Spring 2005

Jan. 27    Introduction/ Medieval Art & Culture    Paul Dietrich, LS
Feb. 3     Dante and His Times                      Richard Drake, History
Feb. 10    Italian Renaissance Art                 Rafael Chacon, Art
Feb. 17    Renaissance Humanism (Pico, Erasmus, More)    Paul Dietrich, LS
Feb. 24    Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation    William Farr, History
Mar. 3     Shakespeare and "Hamlet"     John Hunt, English
Mar. 10    Descartes and Modern Philosophy  David Sherman, Philosophy
Mar. 17    The Art of the Baroque    Valerie Hedquist, Fine Arts
Mar. 31    Classical Music: Baroque to Romantic   Fern Glass, Music
April 7    The Enlightenment    Albert Borgmann, Philosophy
April 14   Romanticism    Robert Pack, DHC
April 21   The Russian Novel: Tolstoy & Dostoevsky    Stewart Justman, LS
April 28   Modern Political Thought    Richard Drake, History

Lectures are given at 11:10-12:00 in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) and repeated at 7:10-8:00 pm in SS (Social Sciences) 352. You must attend one of these weekly lectures.

Important University Policies, Dates and Deadlines

2/11: Last day to drop and add courses by Cyberbear. Last day to receive a full refund for classes dropped. Courses dropped after this date will bear a W on the transcript.

3/7: Last day to drop courses with instructor and advisor signatures and a drop/add form. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after March 7.

4/18: Registration by Cyberbear for Autumn 2005 begins.

4/29: Last day to withdraw from courses for Spring 2005.

5/6: Last day for drop/grade option petitions for Spring 2005.

5/14: Commencement.

Credit/No Credit Grade option: A minimum grade average of D- (60) is required for a CR grade in the CR/NC Grade option.

Incomplete Grade: Please see the criteria that must be met for an Incomplete on p. 21 of the University Catalog. No exceptions will be made for these criteria.