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LS 152L.01: Introduction to the Humanities

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Introduction to the Humanities

LS 152L;Sec.1
Spring, 2006
MWF 10:10-11:00
General Lecture: Th 11:10-12/ULH 101
or Th 7:10-8/SS 352
LA 205

Paul A. Dietrich
Office: LA 101A
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Hours: MWF 11-12:00
& by appt.

"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 disclosure 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

Course Syllabus

I. *Individual and Cosmos in the Late Middle Ages* (14c)

Week of:

1/23 Introduction. Dante's **Divine Comedy**

Inferno - The Hell Descent and Damnation

Plenary Lecture 1/26 - Introduction/Medieval Art and Culture - Dietrich

1/30 **Purgatorio** - The Ascent of the Mountain and Purification

Paradiso - The Love that Moves the Sun and Beatitude

Plenary 2/2 - Dante and His Times - Drake

II. *The Early Italian Renaissance and the Wonder of the Human* (15c)

2/6 Christian Humanism and Renaissance Platonism in

Pico della Mirandola's "On the Dignity of Man"

Plenary 2/9 - Italian Renaissance Art - Chacon

2/10 Last day to add/drop by Cyberbear

III. *Faith and Freedom - Catholic Reform and the Protestant Reformation* (16c)

2/13 The Philosophy of Christ in Erasmus

and Martin Luther's "On Christian Liberty"

Plenary 2/16 - Renaissance Humanism (Pico, Erasmus, More) - Dietrich

2/20 Washington/Lincoln Holiday - no class

2/22 Satire, Social Criticism, and Reform in More's **Utopia**

Plenary 2/23 - Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation - Farr

IV. *The Exploration of the Self in the Northern Renaissance* (16c/17c)

2/27 Montaigne's 'Book of Myself' and Shakespeare's **Hamlet**

Plenary 3/2 - Shakespeare's Hamlet - Hunt

3/6 An Anatomy of Melancholy?: Action, Character and Criticism

3/6 Drop/add deadline

V. *The Scientific Revolution and the Birth of Modern Philosophy* (17c)

Plenary 3/9 - Descartes and Modern Philosophy - Sherman

3/13 Science and Method in Descartes' **Discourse on Method**

Plenary 3/16 - The Art of the Baroque - Hedquist

3/17 Midterm Exam

VI. *The Poetry and Art of Meditation in the Age of the Baroque* (17c)

3/20 The Erotic and the Sacred in Donne, Herbert, Crashaw, Vaughan, and Marvell

Plenary 3/23 - Classical Music (Baroque to Romantic) - Glass

3/27-31 Spring Break

VII. *The Age of the Enlightenment* (18c)

4/3 Reason and Satire (Pope, Kant, Swift and Voltaire's **Candide**)

Plenary 4/6 - The Enlightenment - Borgmann

VIII. *Romanticism* (18c/19c)

4/10 Nature and the Redemptive Imagination in Wordsworth, Blake, et al.

Plenary 4/13 - Romanticism - Vanita

IX. *The Rise of Realism* (19c)

4/17,24 Suffering, Folly and Wisdom in Dostoevsky's **The Idiot**

Plenary 4/20 - The Russian Novel: Tolstoy and Dostoevsky - Justman

X. *The Age of Revolution and the Modern World* (19c)

Plenary 4/27 - Modern Political Thought - Drake

5/1 From the Declaration of Independence & James Madison's "Federalist Papers #10" to Karl Marx to Hannah Arendt's "On the Nature of Totalitarianism"

Required Reading

Dante, **The Portable Dante**, Viking (Musa trans.)

More, **Utopia**, Penguin Classics

Shakespeare, **Hamlet**, Signet Edition

Descartes, **Discourse on Method**, Library of Liberal Arts

Negri, Paul, ed., **Metaphysical Poetry: An Anthology**, Dover

Voltaire, **Candide**, Penguin Classics

Applebaum, Stanley, ed., **Romantic Poetry: An Anthology**, Dover

Dostoevsky, **The Idiot**, Vintage

(LS 152 ERES facpac - <http://eres.lib.umt.edu> - password "Erasmus")

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation are crucial in a class such as ours. (10 % of grade.) It is not possible to engage in a deep conversation with these books and with each other if you miss class. Therefore, three absences (or persistent tardiness) will lower your grade one letter grade. Six absences will result in failure of the course.
2. There will be occasional, brief in-class written responses to the plenary lectures during the Friday class following the lecture. (10%) No make-ups.
3. You are expected to complete the assigned reading in a timely fashion. Weekly quizzes may be needed to encourage you in this regard.
4. Thematic essays (4-5 pages) in response to two of the major readings (e.g., Dante, More or Shakespeare; Voltaire or Dostoevsky) will be due at the end of Spring break and at the end of the term, respectively. Topics to be discussed. (20% each.) No late papers. Evidence of plagiarism will result in failure of the course. (Special materials on writing will be forthcoming.)
5. There will be a midterm exam on Friday, March 17 and a final exam on Thursday, May 11, 10-12. (20% each.)

For those who elect the P/NP option, the equivalent of a "C" is necessary for a "Pass".

"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*

**LS 152L Plenary Lectures
Spring 2006**

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 26 | Introduction/ Medieval Art & Culture | Dietrich, LS |
| Feb. 2 | Dante and His Times | Drake, History |
| Feb. 9 | Italian Renaissance Art | Chacon, Art |
| Feb. 16 | Renaissance Humanism (Pico, Erasmus, More) | Dietrich, LS |
| Feb. 23 | Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation | Farr, History |
| Mar. 2 | Shakespeare and "Hamlet" | Hunt, English |
| Mar. 9 | Descartes and Modern Philosophy | Sherman, Philosophy |
| Mar. 16 | The Art of the Baroque | Hedquist, Fine Arts |
| Mar. 23 | Bach, Beethoven & the Boys: "Classical" Music | Glass, Music |
| April 6 | The Enlightenment | Borgmann, Philosophy |
| April 13 | Romanticism | Vanita, LS |
| April 20 | The Russian Novel: Tolstoy & Dostoevsky | Justman, LS |
| April 27 | Modern Political Thought | 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

Table of Contents for LS 152

1. Christine de Pizan: Background and excerpts of her own words
2. Pico Della Mirandola, "Oration on the Dignity of Man"
3. Desiderius Erasmus, "Paraclesis" and selections from *Praise of Folly*
4. Martin Luther from "Freedom of a Christian" ("On Christian Liberty")
5. Michel de Montaigne, from "Essais" plus full texts of "Education of Children" and "On Repentance"
6. John Donne: "To His Mistress Going to Bed" and "The Flea"
"Apparition" and "Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"
"Extasie" and Selected Sonnets and "Good Friday, 1613"
Meditation XVII
7. George Herbert: "Elixir" and "Love" and "Pulley" and "Prayer"
8. Richard Crashaw, "The Weeper"
9. Henry Vaughan, "The Night"
10. Andrew Marvell, "To his Coy Mistress"
11. Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"
12. Alexander Pope: "Essay on Man"
13. Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"
14. Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
15. James Madison, "Federalist Papers, no. 10"
16. William Wordsworth, prose Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*
17. Mary Wollstonecraft, "Vindication of the Rights of Woman"
18. Karl Marx: "Theses on Feuerbach," "Contribution to Political Economy," and
Communist Manifesto
19. Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?"
20. Hannah Arendt, "On the Nature of Totalitarianism: An Essay in Understanding"