Spring 2-1-2006

**LS 152L.02: Introduction to the Humanities**

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INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES II
Liberal Studies 152_02, Spring, 2006
Section 4: TR 8:10-9:30 am; LA 205
CRN: 32045

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Office Hours: M-W 3-4:30 pm; Tu 10-12 or by appointment
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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

Shakespeare, Hamlet (Signet) ISBN: 0-451-52692-9
Voltaire, Candide (Penguin) ISBN:0-14-044004-6
Blake, Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience (Dover Thrift Edition) ISBN: 0-486-27051-3
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

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<thead>
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<th>Class</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>ERES = Electronic Reserve Readings</td>
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<td><strong>Introduction:</strong> Laying out themes and structure of the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Tu 1</td>
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<td>Introduction to the Medieval World of Europe</td>
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<td><strong>I. Individual and Cosmos in the Late Middle Ages (14th century)</strong></td>
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<td>1/26</td>
<td>Th 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dante’s <em>Divine Comedy: Inferno</em></td>
<td>Cantos I-V, X-XI, XIII-XVI</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary Lecture:</strong> Paul Dietrich: <em>Introduction; Medieval Art and Culture</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>Tu 3</td>
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<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>First Response Paper due</td>
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<td>Th 4</td>
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<td>Dante’s <em>Divine Comedy: Purgatorio</em></td>
<td><em>Purgatorio</em> Cantos I-IV, VI, IX-XII, XXVII-XXXIII</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary Lecture:</strong> Richard Drake: <em>Dante and His Times</em></td>
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<td><strong>II. Early Renaissance, Reform and Reformation (15th/16th centuries)</strong></td>
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<td>*2/7</td>
<td>Tu 5</td>
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<td>Dante’s <em>Divine Comedy: Paradiso</em></td>
<td><em>Paradiso</em> Cantos I-V, VII, X-XII XIX-XXI, XXIII-XXVI, XXIX-XXXIII</td>
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<td>2/9</td>
<td>Th 6</td>
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<td>Christine de Pisan: Selections from &quot;The Book of the City of Ladies&quot;</td>
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<td>Pico: “Oration on the Dignity of Man”</td>
<td>ERES</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary Lecture:</strong> Rafael Chacón: <em>Italian Renaissance Art &amp; Culture</em></td>
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<td>2/14</td>
<td>Tu 7</td>
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<td>Erasmus: Selections from &quot;Paraclesis&quot;</td>
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<td>Martin Luther: “The Freedom of a Christian”</td>
<td>ERES</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
<td>Th 8</td>
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<td>Thomas More: <em>Utopia</em></td>
<td>Book I (pp. 7-47)</td>
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<td><strong>Plenary Lecture:</strong> Paul Dietrich: <em>Renaissance Humanism</em></td>
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<td><strong>III. Exploration of Self in the Northern Renaissance (16th/17th centuries)</strong></td>
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<td>2/21</td>
<td>Tu 9</td>
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<td>Thomas More: <em>Utopia</em></td>
<td>Book II (pp. 49-113)</td>
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<td>“Of Giving the Lie”, “Of Cannibals”, “On Experience”</td>
<td>ERES</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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<td>2/28</td>
<td>Tu 11</td>
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<td>Shakespeare: <em>Hamlet</em></td>
<td>Intro, Acts I-II (pp. 3-60)</td>
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</table>
Hand out Major Essay questions

IV. The Scientific Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment (17th/18th centuries)

3/2 Th 12 Shakespeare: *Hamlet* Acts III-IV (pp. 61-118)

Plenary Lecture: John Hunt: *Shakespeare and Hamlet*

Hand out and guide sheet for Midterm exam

3/7 Tu 13 Shakespeare: *Hamlet* Act V (pp. 119-144)

3/9 Th 14 Descartes: *Discourse on Method* Parts One and Two-Six (you may skim pp. 7-11, 26-35, 44-45, 48-50)

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

3/14 Tu 15 Immanuel Kant: “What is Enlightenment?” ERES
Mary Wollstonecraft: “Vindication of the Rights of Women” ERES

Major Essay due in class

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

3/16 Th 16 Voltaire, *Candide* Chapters I-XVIII (19-84)

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

3/21 Tu 17 Voltaire, *Candide* Chapters XIX-XXX (84-144)

3/23 Th 18 Midterm Exam

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

March 27 – 31 Spring Break – No Class


Wordsworth: “Lines” (21-25); “My Heart Leaps Up” (34); “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (43-44); “The World is Too Much with Us; Late and Soon” (53)

4/6 Th 20 Marx Readings ERES

Plenary Lecture: Albert Borgmann: *The Enlightenment*

4/11 Tu 21 *Crime and Punishment* Part I: pp. 1-86

4/13 Th 22 *Crime and Punishment* Part II: pp. 87-193

Plenary Lecture: Ruth Vanita: *Romanticism and Romantic Literature*
**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 January 31) write a critical response paper to either the plenary presentation that week, or one of the assigned readings from that week. Over the course of the semester you must write a minimum of four plenary response papers and four response papers to the readings, for a total of ten weekly response papers.

1. Four 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 25 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 and your writing ability. Due no later than the following week (Tuesday or Thursday) in class.

2. Four Plenary Response Papers: Write a typed, two-three page critical response to four 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 25 points. Due no later than the following week (Tuesday or Thursday) in class.

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 14th (in class). (Note: you do not need to turn in a response paper this week, though you may do so if you choose. You also will have the option to revise and resubmit this essay, should 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 prior to the exam. Thursday, March 23rd.

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. A guide sheet and list of potential essay questions will be handed out in class prior to the exam.

ERES: To access the ERES readings:

a. Go into http://eres.lib.umt.edu/
b. Click on Electronic Reserves and Course Materials
c. Under Instructor, find and select SPENCER, Daniel
d. Click on the course name (LS 152).
e. Enter the password, "Erasmus"
f. The readings are entered in the order of their appearance in the Syllabus. The readings are in PDF format.
If you don't like using ERES, there are also hard copies of all the readings on Reserve in the Library where you can read them or make copies.

### LS 152L Plenary Lectures

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Introduction/ Medieval Art &amp; Culture</td>
<td>Paul Dietrich, LS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Dante and His Times</td>
<td>Richard Drake, History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>Italian Renaissance Art</td>
<td>Rafael Chacon, Art</td>
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<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Renaissance Humanism (Pico, Erasmus, More)</td>
<td>Paul Dietrich, LS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation</td>
<td>William Farr, History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>Shakespeare and “Hamlet”</td>
<td>John Hunt, English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Descartes and Modern Philosophy</td>
<td>David Sherman, Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>The Art of the Baroque</td>
<td>Valerie Hedquist, Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>Classical Music: Baroque to Romantic</td>
<td>Fern Glass, Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>The Enlightenment</td>
<td>Albert Borgmann, Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Romanticism</td>
<td>Ruth Vanita, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>The Russian Novel: Tolstoy &amp; Dostoevsky</td>
<td>Stewart Justman, LS</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Modern Political Thought</td>
<td>Richard Drake, History</td>
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Lectures are given at 11:10 am - 12:00 pm 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

- **2/10:** Last day to drop and add courses by Cyberbear. Last day to receive a full refund for classes dropped. Last day to pay fees or finalize registration otherwise registration is cancelled.
- **3/7:** Class may be added or dropped; or grade options changed only by petition.
- **4/28:** Last day to withdraw from courses for Spring 2006.
- **5/13:** 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.