LS 152L.81: Introduction to the Humanities

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Spring 2006

LS 152L. Introduction to Western Humanities (Honors)

Section 80. Tuesday, Thursday, 12.40 - 2.00 p.m.
Room: DHC117. 4 credits

Dr. Vanita


Office Hours: Tues. 8.30-9.30; Wed. 10-11, and by appointment
Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

Texts (all required)
1. The Portable Dante
2. Shakespeare, Hamlet
3. Descartes, Discourse on Method
4. David Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding
5. Coleridge, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
6. John Keats, Lyric Poems
7. Jane Austen, Emma
8. Great Russian Short Stories

Goals
- to introduce you to some major trends of thought and major texts within the humanities, in 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 absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in a zero for attendance and class participation, and more than four absences may also result in lowering your other grades; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in person and accepted by me.
(b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and actively participate in discussion;
(c) write a short paper on each major text (2-3 pages double-spaced typed);
(d) edit and rewrite one of these short papers
(e) take the mid-term and final exams, take all quizzes, and complete all assignments.

Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class. Quizzes can be made up within the week, but not later.
Grades

Papers will be worth 20%, quizzes 25%, class attendance and participation 10%, the midterm exam 20% and the final exam 25%.

Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic given by me (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax. Papers must be handed to me on the due date, in class. Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade.

Quizzes, tests and exams may contain both multiple-choice type questions and essay-type questions and are designed to test (a) knowledge of the prescribed texts (b) assimilation of information communicated in lectures (c) writing skills (d) analytical skills.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties such as expulsion from the University (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

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, you need to notify me in the first week of class.

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes, and to obtain any hand-outs given in class during your absence.

January 24  Introduction
January 26  Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos I to VI, XIV, XV, XXXIV.
January 31  Dante, *Purgatorio*, Cantos I, XVIII, XXIII, XXVI, XXVII.
February 2  *Paradiso*, Cantos I, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII.
February 7  *Hamlet*, Act I. **Quiz on Dante and plenary lectures**
February 9  Hamlet, Act II  Paper on Dante due.
February 14  Hamlet, Act III.  Quiz on Hamlet, Acts I-III
February 16  Hamlet, Act IV.
February 21  Hamlet, Act V.  Quiz on Hamlet, Acts IV and V.
February 28  Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts 4, 5, 6.
March 2  An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding.  Quiz on Descartes.
March 7  No class. I will be away, speaking at the University of Maryland.
March 9  An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding.
March 14  An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding.  Quiz on Hume.
March 16  Rime of the Ancient Mariner  Paper on Descartes or Hume due
March 21  Rime of the Ancient Mariner
March 23  Mid-term examination
March 27-31  Spring Break
April 4  Emma.  Paper on Coleridge due
April 6  Emma
April 11  Emma,
April 13  Emma,
April 18  Emma  Revised paper due
April 20  John Keats, “When I have fears that I may cease to be,” “On first reading Chapman’s Homer,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn.”
April 25  John Keats, “Ode to Autumn,” “St. Agnes’ Eve.”  Paper on Emma due
April 27  Russian Short Stories.

May 4    Review and conclusion

May 8, 8–10 a.m. **Final examination**

**Plenary Lecture Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Introduction/ Medieval Art &amp; Culture</td>
<td>Dietrich, LS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Dante and His Times</td>
<td>Drake, History</td>
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<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>Italian Renaissance Art</td>
<td>Chacon, Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Renaissance Humanism (Pico, Erasmus, More)</td>
<td>Dietrich, LS</td>
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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation</td>
<td>Farr, History</td>
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<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>Shakespeare and “Hamlet”</td>
<td>Hunt, English</td>
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<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Descartes and Modern Philosophy</td>
<td>Sherman, Philosophy</td>
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<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>The Art of the Baroque</td>
<td>Hedquist, Fine Arts</td>
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<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>Bach, Beethoven &amp; the Boys: “Classical” Music</td>
<td>Glass, Music</td>
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<td>April 6</td>
<td>The Enlightenment</td>
<td>Borgmann, Philosophy</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Romanticism</td>
<td>Vanita, LS</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>The Russian Novel: Tolstoy &amp; Dostoevsky</td>
<td>Justman, LS</td>
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<td>April 27</td>
<td>Modern Political Thought</td>
<td>Drake, History</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 pm in SS (Social Sciences) 352*