LS 151L.06: Introduction to the Humanities

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INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES
Liberal Studies 151 – 06, Fall, 2007
Tu-Th 12:40-2:00 pm
McGill 237
CRN: 73041

Dr. Mark Hanson
LA 152, ext. 6844
Office Hours: Tu-Th 9:30 – 11:00 p.m.;
Wed 3:00 – 4:00, and by appointment
e-mail: mark.hanson@umontana.edu

COURSE STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

This 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 classical and biblical texts that have shaped Western civilization. We will explore the formation and transformation of major components of Western worldviews 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
* Homer, The Odyssey (trans. Fagles; Penguin edition.)
* Sophocles, Sophocles I / Three Tragedies, second edition (trans. Grene; Univ. Chicago press)
* Euripides, Three Plays of Euripides (trans. Roche; Norton publ.)
* Plato, Five Dialogues (trans. Grube; Hackett press)

REQUIREMENTS (detailed descriptions below)
• Regular class attendance and participation that demonstrates a grasp of the reading assignments
• Mandatory attendance at the weekly plenary lectures (Thursday, 11:10 – Noon, in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) and repeated at 7:10-8:00 p.m. in SS (Social Sciences) 352
• Two short written responses to the readings or plenary lectures
• One longer essay on a theme from the texts with an option to revise
• Written final exam
## ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>The Hebrew Bible: Primeval History</td>
<td>Genesis: Introduction (pp. 3-10), Ch. 1-4, 6-9, 11</td>
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| 8/30  | Lecture 1: *Introduction to the Humanities*  
Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies | |
| 9/4   | Abraham and Sarah: Beginning the Covenant | Genesis 11:27- ch 13, chs 15-22 |
| 9/6   | Law (Torah) and Covenant: Moses | Exodus: Introduction (pp. 82-84), Ch. 1-4, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16 |
| 9/6   | Lecture 2: *The Bible in the University; Intro to the Pentateuch*  
Nathaniel Levtow, Liberal Studies | |
| 9/11  | Law (Torah) and Covenant: Moses (cont.) | Exodus: Ch. 19-20, 24, 32 – 34 |
| 9/13  | The Prophets: Amos and God’s Judgment | Amos: Introduction (pp. 969-973, 1302-03), Ch. 1-9 |
| 9/13  | Lecture 3: *Prophets and Prophecy*  
Nathaniel Levtow, Liberal Studies | |
| 9/20  | Job’s Friends: Reasons for Suffering?  
The Trial: Job Confronts God | Job Ch. 22-27 (skim), 29-31, 38-42 |
| 9/20  | Lecture 4: *Wisdom Literature & the Writings*  
Tom Lee, Liberal Studies | |
| 9/25  | Homer: *The Odyssey* | Books 1-5 (pp. 77-167) |
| 9/27  | *The Odyssey*  
1st Essay Due | Books 6-12 (pp. 168-285) |
| 9/27  | Lecture 5: *Intro. to Greek Civilization* | |
Matthew Semanoff, Modern and Classical Languages and Literature

10/2  The Odyssey  Books 13-18 (pp. 286-389)

10/4  The Odyssey  Books 19-24 (pp. 390-485)

10/4  Lecture 6: Hero and Anti-Hero in Homer  Stewart Justman, Liberal Studies

III. The Later Greek Writers

10/9  Greek Lyric  Sappho, Pindar  ERES
     2nd Essay Due

10/11 Sophocles: Oedipus the King I  Grene and Lattimore: 11-49

10/11 Lecture 7: Gender and Sexuality in Greek Lyric  Beth Hubble, Liberal Studies

10/16 Sophocles: Oedipus the King II  Grene and Lattimore: 49-76

10/18 Sophocles: Antigone  Grene and Lattimore: 161-212

10/18 Lecture 8: The Broken Urn: Greek Tragedy  Stewart Justman, Liberal Studies

10/23 Euripides: The Bacchae I  Roche: 78-96

10/25 Euripides: The Bacchae II  Roche: 97-126

10/25 Lecture 9: Plato and Greek Philosophy  Paul Muench, Philosophy

IV. Greek Philosophy: Plato’s Dialogues

10/30 Plato: Euthyphro  Grube: Intro ix-x, 1-20

11/1  Plato: Apology  Grube: 21-44

11/1 Lecture 10: The New Testament Background  Nathaniel Levitow, Liberal Studies

11/6 No Class: Election Day

V. The Christian New Testament
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Introduction to the New Testament: Gospels</td>
<td>Matthew 1-4; Mark 1; Luke 1-4:13; John 1-2; plus Introduction to each Gospel</td>
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<td>11/8</td>
<td><strong>Longer Essay Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 11: The Gospels</strong></td>
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<td>Tom Lee, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td>Jesus on the Road to Jerusalem</td>
<td>Luke 9:51 – Ch. 18</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 12: The Letters of Paul (Romans)</strong></td>
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<td>Mark Hanson, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>11/22</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Holiday</strong></td>
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<td>1 Corinthians 12-14</td>
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<td><strong>VI. Christian Autobiography and Reflection: Augustine</strong></td>
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<td>11/29</td>
<td>Augustine: The Confessions</td>
<td>Preface (xiii-xxvi), Books 1-2, 3: chs. 1-7</td>
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<td>11/29</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 13: Augustine’s Confessions</strong></td>
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<td>Phillip Fandozzi, English</td>
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<td><strong>Longer Essay Revision Due (optional)</strong></td>
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<td>12/4</td>
<td>Augustine: The Confessions</td>
<td>Bk 4, all; 5, ch. 10, 13-14; Bk 6, chs. 4-6, 8, 15; Bk 7: 1-5, 9, 12-13, 17, 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Augustine: The Confessions and Wrap-up</td>
<td>Bk 8, chs. 5, 11-12; Bk 9, chs. 1, 12</td>
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<td>Bk 10: 1-8, 17, 24-31, 35, 40, 43</td>
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<td>12/6</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 14: Roman and Early Christian Art</strong></td>
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<td>Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies</td>
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**Final Exam Period:** December 12, 12:10 – 12:10 p.m.
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

1. Two Response Papers to the Readings: 20 percent (10 percent each; 30 pts. each)
2. Longer Essay: 30 percent (90 pts.)
3. Participation: 10 percent (30 pts.)
4. Final exam: 40 percent (120 pts.)

1. Two Critical Response Essays: Each three-page essay is a critical response to a selection from the readings. After reading the text, write (1) three to four paragraphs that summarize and explain the main points of the reading and (2) three to four paragraphs giving your thoughtful response and discussion of the reading. The main objective is for you to identify and wrestle with a tough question or theme that the reading raises for you and attempt to offer your perspective on that issue. I will distribute a grade criteria sheet in class prior to the due dates. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, with one to one-and-one-half-inch margins. Use page numbers, and give references to page numbers from the primary text and full citations to all outside sources. Print on both sides of the page if possible. E-mailed papers are generally not accepted except by permission of the instructor.

2. Longer Essay: This six-page essay is an opportunity for you to consider a theme, key term, or other consideration(s) from the texts we read up to the due date for the paper. Use the text to support a well-constructed argument for the theme. We will discuss paper topics in class prior to the due date. You also will have the option to revise and resubmit this essay. Essays penalized for being late will have to include significant revisions to be resubmitted.

3. Final Exam: The final will be comprehensive and will ask you to integrate your learning from across the semester. The last week of class I will hand out a study guide. You must write your exam during the Final Exam Period: December 12, 10:10 – 12:10 p.m. Failure to do so without instructor’s permission will result in a failing grade for the exam.

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 and Participation: Regular attendance and participation in the class is expected and central to learning. 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 level reduction (e.g., A to A-). More than seven (7) absences will result in a full grade level reduction (e.g., A to B), and ten (10) or more absences will result in a failing course grade (F). Late arrivals in class may count as an absence. (Note: If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as...
illness, disability or other conflicting commitments, you still must speak with the instructor. Documentation may be required.) Lack of regular, active participation will also result in a grade level reduction.

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/NP Grade option: A minimum grade average of C- (70) is required for a P grade in the P/NP Grade option.

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 Hanson, Mark
d. Click on the course name: LS 151.
e. Enter the password, “humanities”