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LS 152L.05: Introduction to the Humanities

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LS 152.04 and 152.05
Introduction to the Humanities
MWF 12:10-1:00 or 1:10-2:00
Plenary Lecture R 11:10-12:00 ULH
and 7:10-8:00 SS352

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Texts: Dante, *The Portable Dante* (Penguin: Musa Translation)
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)
Dostoevsky, *The Idiot*
Readings on ERES (Electronic Reserve)

Course Description: LS 152 is an introduction to the Western Humanities through an investigation of selected texts from the late medieval to the modern period. In this course, we will explore the formation of Western Culture while developing critical approaches for analyzing literature. The objective of the course is to give you an understanding and critical appreciation of seminal texts of Western Civilization through class discussion and written assignments. This objective will be judged by your ability to identify and analyze important issues and themes in these texts and, when appropriate, to explore significant similarities and differences.

Classroom Etiquette: No food will be allowed in class. Students should arrive on time. All cell phones must be turned off. Students may use laptop computers to take notes. Students should not access the internet while in class.

Attendance: This is a discussion course and attendance is required. After two unexcused absences, your participation grade will be lowered one notch for each absence (A to A-). An excess of 8 unexcused absences will result in an F in the course. A failure to prepare and participate may also be grounds for being counted absent. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Three tardies will equal one absence. There will be NO make-up exams or late submission of homework for unexcused absences. If you are sick or have some other emergency, please contact me. Failure to attend the first two classes will result in the student being dropped.

Methods: The Monday, Wednesday, Friday class is not a lecture course. It is a reading, discussion, and writing course. Your active participation is essential and counts as part of your

grade. I will present certain biographical, historical, and cultural information to provide you with a context for your readings, discussions, and writings. I will propose my own interpretations of the texts we read, but you are not expected to accept these interpretations blindly. Each reader brings his or her own experiences to a literary text. If you disagree with my reading of a text, you should feel free to say so.

You will hear many different opinions and ideas during this course, some of which you may disagree with. I expect each student to respect the opinions and beliefs of his or her classmates and for the level of discourse in class to remain civil and academic.

Readings: In addition to the books listed above which you must buy, there are also a number of required readings on electronic reserve through the Mansfield Library. To access the ERES readings: Go to <http://eres.lib.umt.edu/>. Click on Electronic Reserves and Course Materials. Under Instructor, find and select "Hubble, Elizabeth." Click on the course name **and section** (LS 152.04 or 152.05). Enter the password "Hubble". The readings are in PDF format.

Plenary Lecture: The fourth credit of this class is the Thursday Plenary Lecture. Lectures are given at 11:10-12:00 in ULH and repeated at 7:10-8:00pm in SS352. Attendance at one of the two lecture times is **mandatory**. Not only will information from the plenary lectures be included on quizzes and exams, but you will be expected to incorporate information from the lectures into your response papers.

Plenary Lecture Dates and Topics:

1/25	Introduction/Medieval Art & Culture	Dietrich
2/1	Dante and His Times	Drake
2/8	Italian Renaissance Art	Chacon
2/15	Renaissance Humanism	Dietrich
2/22	Luther and the Reformation	Eglin
3/1	Shakespeare and <i>Hamlet</i>	Hunt
3/8	Descartes and Modern Philosophy	Sherman
3/15	The Art of the Baroque	Hedquist
3/22	Bach, Beethoven & the Boys	Glass
4/5	The Enlightenment	Eglin
4/12	Romanticism	Vanita
4/19	The 19 th Century Novel	Glendening
4/26	Modern Political Thought	Drake

Grading:

Preparation and Participation (inc. quizzes):	20%
Major Essay (5% Rough Draft):	25%
Response Papers (6):	20%
Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	20%

Grading Scale:

93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
59% and below	F

Preparation and Participation: Coming to class prepared, i.e. having read all material, attended the plenary lecture and ready to participate in discussions, is essential and counts for a large percentage of your final grade. Participation does not merely mean responding when called upon but showing a willingness to raise your hand and enter discussions. Classroom work will include both general discussions and small group discussions. Quizzes may be given at the beginning of class as necessary. I will provide you with an ongoing participation grade when I return your response papers.

Major Essay: You will write one 5-6 page essay this semester in which you consider a theme, key term, or other topic from the texts we read in this course. Essays must conform to the basic standards of proper composition. They should be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Essays must be carefully organized with proper paragraphing, correct sentence structure, and appropriate punctuation. You will be graded not just on content but also on organization, rhetorical skills, strength of argument including supporting evidence, and adherence to the convention of standard, written English.

I will provide you with a handout with tips on writing compositions. Essay topics will be distributed one month before the essay is due.

You may wish to visit the following website for information about formatting your essay:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_mla.html

An essay is not an occasion to show how well you can quote, paraphrase or summarize an author, but how well you can think as an explorer of the work and ideas of your author. Any utilization of the words or work of others (including ideas) in an essay, oral presentation, or exam must be given full reference credit. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. If you have questions about proper citation and/or plagiarism, please see me.

Response Papers: In addition to the formal essay you will write this semester, you will also be expected to submit 6 responses to the reading and plenary lectures. Your response papers are 1-page, typed responses to the plenary lectures and related reading. Margins must be 1 inch on the left, right, and bottom, and 2 inches on the top. Your name and other identifying information should be in the top margin. Papers of less than one full page will not be accepted.

Because this is a discussion course, you should spend a considerable amount of time reflecting on the readings and lectures. Writing down and organizing your thoughts in a response paper is an effective way to prepare for class. The response paper is intended to help you better understand the reading and its relation to the plenary lectures. Your response papers should not be a summary of the texts and lectures, but should record reflections on them. For example, you may choose a short citation or discrete part of the lecture and write a reaction to it. You may also compare and contrast passages from different works and lectures that have similar themes. You may pose questions about particularly provocative or difficult readings or lectures. There is no right way to write your response papers, and there are no assigned topics. The sole requirement is that your response papers show internal organization and indicate that you have spent time thinking about the readings and lectures. See the schedule for due dates.

Exams: You will take two exams this semester. The exams will consist of short essays on the material studied. The final exam will cover themes studied during the whole semester but will concentrate on the readings and lectures since the mid-term.

Schedule of Assignments (subject to change)

January 22	Introduction to Course	
January 24	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos I-VI	
January 26	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos X-XIX	
January 29	Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos XXI-XXII, XXXII-XXXIV	Response 1
January 31	Dante, <i>Purgatoria</i> , Cantos I-II, IX-X, XXVII, XXX-XXXIII	
February 2	Dante, <i>Paradiso</i> , Cantos I, III, VII, XXIX-XXXIII	
February 5	Christine de Pizan, Excerpts from "City of Ladies," ERES	
February 7	Christine de Pizan, Excerpts from "Deeds of Arms and Chivalry," ERES; and Pico, "On the Dignity of Man," ERES	
February 9	Pico, "On the Dignity of Man," ERES; and Erasmus, "Paraclesis," ERES	
February 12	Erasmus, "Praise of Folly," ERES	Distribution of Essay Topics/Response 2
February 14	More, <i>Utopia</i> , Book 1	
February 16	More, <i>Utopia</i> , Book 2, 69-99	
February 19	Vacation	
February 21	More, <i>Utopia</i> , Book 2, 99-132	
February 23	Rabelais, ERES	
February 26	Martin Luther, "Freedom of a Christian," ERES	Response 3
February 28	Montaigne, "To the Reader," "On the Power of Imagination," "On Affectionate Relationships," ERES	
March 2	Montaigne, "On the Cannibals," "On Thumbs," "On the Education of Children," ERES	
March 5	Midterm Exam	
March 7	Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> , Acts 1 & 2	
March 9	Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> , Acts 3 & 4	
March 12	Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 5	
March 14	Writing Workshop	Rough Draft Due
March 16	Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts 1 & 2	
March 19	Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts 3 & 4	
March 21	Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts 5 & 6	
March 23	Kant, "What is Enlightenment," ERES	Major Essay Due
March 26-March 30	Spring Break	

April 2	Wollstonecraft, "Vindication of the Rights of Women," ERES	
April 4	Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> , Chapters 1-10	Response 4
April 6	Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> , Chapters 11-20	
April 9	Voltaire, <i>Candide</i> , Chapters 21-30	
April 11	Early American Writings, "Declaration of Independence," and "Federalist #10" ERES	
April 13	Romantic Poets: Blake & Wordsworth (selection of poems)	
April 16	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , Part 1, pp5-66	Response 5
April 18	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , Part 1, pp66-145	
April 20	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , Part 1&2, pp145-236	
April 23	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , Part 2, pp236-321	
April 25	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , Part 3, pp325-424	
April 27	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , Part 3&4, pp424-523	
April 30	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , Part 4, pp523-615	Response 6
May 2	Marx, "Alienated Labour," "Contribution to Political Economy," "Theses on Feuerbach," ERES; Arendt, "On the Nature of Totalitarianism," ERES	
May 4	Review	
May 10	10:10-12:10 Final Exam (For section meeting MWF 12:10-1)	
May 9	3:20-5:20 Final Exam (For section meeting MWF 1:10-2)	