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### LS 151L.01: Introduction to the Humanities

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LS 151L  
Introduction to the Humanities  
Section 1 MWF 9:10-10:00, LA 105  
Section 3 MWF 10:10-11:00, LA 105  
Plenary Lecture R 11:10-12:00 ULH

Professor Elizabeth Hubble  
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Office Hours: MW 11:10-1:00, F 11:10-12:00, and by app't  
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**Texts:**           *New Oxford Annotated Bible*  
Homer, *Odyssey* (Fagles Translation)  
*Three Plays of Euripides* (Roche Translation)  
*Sophocles I* (Greene Translation)  
*Greek Lyric* (Miller Translation)  
Plato, *Five Dialogues* (Grube Translation)  
Virgil, *Aeneid* (Penguin Classics)  
Saint Augustine, *The Confessions* (Boulding Translation)  
Additional Readings on ERES

**Course Description:** LS 151 is an introduction to the Western Humanities through an investigation of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, classical Greek civilization, the New Testament and early Christian literature. The goal is to explore Western Culture through its Jewish, Greek, Roman and Christian heritages while developing critical approaches for analyzing literature. Topics will include: conception of the self, family, community, and cosmos; the role of myth, symbols, and rituals; the human condition; interpretations of the heroic; conceptions of good and evil; the role of gender, class, and ethnicity; the nature of the good life; conceptions of creation, time, and temporality; the language of love and desire; ideas of virtue, wisdom, piety, justice, and law; the individual and the state.

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

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.

**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 2 unexcused absences, your participation grade will be lowered one notch for each subsequent absence (A to A-). An excess of 6 absences may 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. Two 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.

**Plenary Lecture:** The fourth credit of this class is the Thursday Plenary Lecture. Attendance at the lecture is mandatory—Thursday 11:10-12:00, ULH. You are required to submit response papers based on the lectures and information from them will be included on quizzes and exams.

**Grading:**

Preparation and Participation (inc. quizzes and reading questions):	15%
Composition (5% for Rough Draft)	25%
Response Papers:	20%
Midterm Exam:	20%
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 and 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. For each class session you must prepare 2 questions from the readings for that session for a total of 6 per week. You must turn in your questions with each response paper. Questions may be handwritten. Your questions will direct our class discussions and you will regularly be required to share them with the class. Classroom work will include both general discussions and small group discussions. Quizzes on lectures and readings may be given at the beginning of class as needed.

**Compositions:** You will write one formal composition this semester of 5-7 pages. A few weeks prior to the due date you will be required to submit a rough draft of your composition (minimum of 3.5 pages). Essays must conform to the basic standards of proper composition. They should be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Compositions 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. Composition topics will be distributed one month before the composition 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](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 composition you will write this semester, you will also be expected to write two-page responses to the plenary lectures and readings every other week. There is no specific format for your response papers. The sole requirement is that they be well-organized and show some engagement and reflection on the material presented by the lecturers and make links with the readings for class. Your responses papers must be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font, 1-inch margins. You must turn in a hard copy of your response papers. No electronic papers will be accepted.

**Exams:** You will take two exams this semester. The exams will consist of short essays and identifications from 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 Readings and Assignments (subject to change)

August 25	Introduction to Course	
August 27	<i>Genesis</i> 1-11	
August 29	<i>Genesis</i> 12-35	
September 1	Labor Day	
September 3	<i>Exodus</i> (esp. 1-34)	First Response Paper Due
September 5	<i>Deuteronomy</i>	
September 8	<i>Isaiah</i> 1-5, 45-66	
September 10	<i>Amos, Jonah</i>	
September 12	<i>Job</i> 1-19	
September 15	<i>Job</i> 20-42	Response Paper
September 17	<i>Song of Solomon, Ruth</i>	
September 19	<i>Esther, Judith</i> in the Apocrypha	
September 22	<i>Odyssey</i> 1-4	Distribution of Composition Topics
September 24	<i>Odyssey</i> 5-8	
September 26	<i>Odyssey</i> 9-12	
September 29	<i>Odyssey</i> 13-16	Response Paper
October 1	<i>Odyssey</i> 17-20	
October 3	<i>Odyssey</i> 21-24	
October 6	Greek Lyric: Archilochus, Alcaeus, Anacreon	
October 8	Sappho, Solon, Stesichorus, Xenophanes	
October 10	Mid-Term Exam	
October 13	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i>	
October 15	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>	
October 17	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>	
October 20	Euripides, <i>The Bacchae</i>	Response Paper
October 22	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> and <i>Apology</i>	
October 24	Plato, <i>Crito</i> and <i>Phaedo</i>	
October 27	Writing Workshop	Composition Rough Draft Due in Class
October 29	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Books 1-4	
October 31	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Books 5-8	
November 3	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> , Books 9-12	
November 5	The New Testament—Gospels: <i>Mark</i>	
November 7	<i>Matthew</i>	

November 10 *Matthew and Luke*

November 12 *Luke*

November 14 *John*

No Response Paper  
Composition Due

November 17 Gospel Catch-up

November 19 *Acts of the Apostles*,

November 21 *Romans*, Books 1-2

Response Paper

November 24 *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians*

November 26 Thanksgiving

November 28 Thanksgiving

December 1 St. Augustine, *Confessions*, Preface, Chron., Books 1-4

December 3 St. Augustine, Books 5-7

December 5 St. Augustine, Books 8-10/Review

Response Paper

December 10 Final Exam 8-10am (Wednesday) for 9:10 section

December 11 Final Exam 8-10am (Thursday) for 10:10 section