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### LS 151L.06: Introduction to the Humanities

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Fall 2008

LS 151, Introduction to Western Humanities

**Dr. Ruth Vanita**

Section 6. Tuesday, Thursday, 12.40 – 2.00 p.m.

Room: McGill Hall 237. 4 credits

Office: Liberal Arts 146-A. Office Phone: 243-4894. Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30, Thursday 2-3, and by appointment.

Texts (all required)

Homer, The Odyssey, translated Robert Fitzgerald (NY: Vintage, 1990)

Sappho, translated Mary Barnard (Berkeley: U of Cal. Press, 1958)

Plato, The Symposium (Dover Thrift Edition)

Sophocles, Antigone (Dover Thrift Edition)

Euripides Medea (Dover Thrift Edition)

The Bible (Authorized King James' Version with Apocrypha) ed. Robert Carroll and Stephen Prickett (Oxford World's Classics)

Ovid, Metamorphoses (Oxford World's Classics)

St Augustine, The Confessions

Goals

- to introduce you to some major trends of thought and some major texts within the humanities, in the ancient Western world, and also to the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions that have shaped 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 unexplained absences from class will result in a zero for attendance and participation; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence;
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and actively participate in discussion;
- (d) bring a typed discussion question/comment (not a factual question) on the prescribed text, to every class, use it in discussion, and hand it in to me, at the beginning of class;
- (e) write a short paper (3-4 pages double-spaced typed);
- (f) edit and rewrite the paper, expanding it (5-8 pages double-spaced typed) to include one more text; after discussing it with me;
- (g) hand in abstracts of both papers, on specified dates, in class, and discuss the abstracts with me during office hours. The abstract must have a title, and must state your thesis and summarize your argument;
- (e) take all quizzes, complete all assignments, and take the final exam.

Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class.

Topics for papers must be selected from a list given by me.

Explanations for absences and for missed quizzes must be provided, preferably in advance of or not later than one week after the absence, and should be accompanied by a medical certificate or other documentary evidence. Quizzes can be made up by appointment with me, within the same week, but not later.

### Grades

The short paper will be worth 15%, the rewritten paper 15%, class attendance and participation (this includes handing in typed questions/comments) 20%, quizzes 25%, the final exam 25%. Papers must (a) address the topic (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) and adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax.

**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).**

Quizzes will be given at the start of class. Therefore, you need to be on time to take the quiz. Quizzes may contain both multiple-choice type questions and short answer questions and are designed to test (a) whether you have read the prescribed texts and (b) whether you remember basic facts about the author and the text, as well as information communicated in class lectures and plenary lectures.

Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, abstracts and short papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade. The final paper must be on time; late papers will not be accepted.

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, please notify me in the first week of class.

### Other information

On Tuesdays I have an ASCRC meeting at 2 p.m., so I cannot entertain questions after class, but on Thursdays I have office hours at 2 p.m., which is a good time to talk. Feel free to ask factual questions at appropriate times during class, or during my office hours, or just before class.

A Suggestion: You have several days off this semester. It would be wise to use this time to read ahead, as this class requires quite a lot of careful reading.

### Plenary Lecture Schedule

- Aug. 28: Introduction to the Humanities—Stewart Justman, LS
- Sept. 4: The Bible in the University: Introduction to the Pentateuch—Nat Levtow, LS
- Sept. 11: Prophets and Prophecy—Nat Levtow, LS
- Sept. 18: Wisdom—Mark Hanson, LS
- Sept. 25: Introduction to Greek Civilization—Matthew Semanoff, MCLL
- Oct. 2: Hero and Antihero in Homer—Stewart Justman, LS
- Oct. 9: Sappho and the Western Literary Tradition—Ruth Vanita, LS
- Oct. 16: The Broken Urn: Greek Tragedy—Stewart Justman, LS
- Oct. 23: Plato and Greek Philosophy—Richard Walton, Philosophy
- Oct. 30: New Testament Background—Nat Levtow, LS
- Nov. 6: The Gospels—Tom Lee, LS
- Nov. 13: The Letters of Paul—Mark Hanson, LS
- Nov. 20: Augustine's *Confessions*—Paul Dietrich, LS
- Nov. 27: Thanksgiving
- Dec. 4: Roman and Early Christian Art—Paul Dietrich, LS

**Lectures are given from 11:00-12:00 in the Underground Lecture Hall. Attendance is mandatory, as the lecture series accounts for the fourth credit of LS 151. The lectures provide important background information that will not be repeated in class.**

### Reading Schedule

**This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any changes.**

- August 26 Explanation of syllabus, and introduction to the course and to the Bible. Short in-class writing assignment.
- August 28 Read Genesis, chapters 1-5, pages 321-326 (notes in OUP edition) and "The Ancient Hebrews: A Timeline"

(photocopy).

- September 2 Read Genesis, chapters 6-19, and pages 326-29.
- September 4 Read Genesis chapters 20-34. **Quiz on Genesis and plenary lectures.**
- September 9 No class. I am on medical leave.
- September 11 Read "Tanakh and Old Testament" (photocopy); Leviticus chapters 16-21; pages 332-33 and 369-71 notes; 1 Samuel chapter 15; Hosea chapters 1; 2; 13, 14.
- September 16 Read pages 384-85; 392-93 notes; Book of Susannah; Judith, Ecclesiasticus chapter 24.  
**Quiz on Bible texts read so far (excluding Genesis), and plenary lectures.**
- September 18 No class. I am on medical leave.
- September 23 Read "The Greek Gods" (photocopy); Metamorphoses, "Narcissus," 61-66; "Pyramus and Thisbe," 76-79; "Hermaphroditus," 83-85; "The Rape of Proserpine" and "Arethusa," 109-118.
- September 25 Read Metamorphoses, "Icarus," 176-78; "Philemon and Baucis," 190-93; Book XI; 249-52. **Hand in titled abstract of short paper, in class.**
- September 30 Read Metamorphoses, "Tereus, Procne and Philomela," 134-42 "Venus and Adonis" and "Atalanta," 241-48; "Midas," 252-55; "The Apotheosis of Julius Caesar, 374-79. **Quiz on Metamorphoses, and plenary lectures. Discuss abstract with me, during office hours.**
- October 2 Read "Odyssey: Background and Summary"; "Ancient Greece: A Timeline," (photocopies); and The Odyssey, Book IX
- October 7 Read The Odyssey, Books X, XI. **Short paper due, in class**
- October 9 Read The Odyssey, XII and XIII.
- October 14 Books XIV, XIX, XXI, XXII. **Quiz on The Odyssey and plenary lectures.**
- October 16 Read Sappho, 1-39. Focus on 38 and 39.
- October 21 Read Sappho, 40-end. Focus on 41 and 42.
- October 23 Read Antigone, 1-24.

- October 28 Read Antigone, 25 to end.
- October 30 Read Medea, 1-27. **Hand in titled abstract of long paper, in class.**
- November 4 No class: Election Day
- November 6 Read Medea, 28 to end. **Quiz on Antigone and Medea, and plenary lectures. Discuss abstract with me, during office hours**
- November 11 No class: Veterans' Day
- November 13 Read Symposium, page 1- middle of page 22.
- November 18 Read Symposium, middle of page 22 to end.
- November 20 Read "The Early Church: A Timeline" (photocopy), and Luke, 1-10. **Hand in long paper, in class.**
- November 25 Read Luke 18-24, Romans 1-11. **Quiz on Luke**
- November 27 No class: Thanksgiving
- December 2 Read The Confessions, Book I; Book II; Book III: chapters 1, 2, 8, 11, 12; Book IV; Book V: chapters 8 and 9.
- December 4 Read The Confessions, Book VI: chapters 2, 12, 13, 14, 15; Book VII: chapters 12-17; Book VIII: chapters 6-8, 11-12; Book IX, chapters 8-13.
- December 8, 10.10-12.10 Final Exam