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LS 151L.08: Introduction to the Humanities (Honors)

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Office hours:
TTh 4:00 – 5:30 pm
& by appointment

LS 151: Introduction to the Humanities

Fall Semester 2008

Section 8 (Honors): TTh 2:10-3:30 pm (DHC 118), Th 11:10-12:00 (ULH)

Welcome to LS 151, Introduction to the Humanities. In this course we will read and discuss a selection of texts from the ancient world. We will devote special attention to classics of the Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Christian traditions. These literary masterpieces are beautiful and challenging. Together we will explore how their authors encountered and responded to enduring human themes and problems including: humanity and deity; knowledge and ignorance; virtue and justice; fate and human destiny; life and death; friendship and love; sex and gender; individual and society; weakness and power; war and peace; happiness and suffering; good and evil; myth and history; exile and return; truth and change.

Goals of the course include the development of critical reading skills, through a focus on historical and literary contexts, and the development of writing skills, through a process that will allow me to measure your improvement.

Textbooks

All required. Please purchase the indicated translations (available at the UM Bookstore):

The Epic of Gilgamesh (Trans. George; Penguin, 2003)

The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV translation) (Oxford, 2001)

Homer, The Odyssey (Trans. Fagles; Penguin, 1996)

Greek Lyric (Trans. Miller; Hackett, 1996)

Sophocles I (Oedipus Cycle) (Trans. Grene; Chicago, 1991)

Plato, Five Dialogues (Trans. Grube; Hackett, 2002)

St. Augustine, The Confessions (Trans. Boulding; Vintage, 1997)

E-reserve: e-reserve documents may be accessed through the Mansfield Library Course Reserves website (<http://eres.lib.umt.edu/eres/>) using the course password "LS151"

Grading:

1. Attendance and class participation: 15%
2. Quizzes and written responses: 10%
3. Essays: 35% total (essay #1: 5%; essays #2, 3, 4: 10 % each)
4. Midterm exam: 20%
5. Final exam: 20%

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance: Required for all class meetings and for all weekly plenary lectures.
2. Readings: Complete all readings before the class on which they are assigned, and be prepared to participate in our discussion about them. Always bring the assigned text to class with you.
3. Quizzes: Several brief quizzes will be given on course readings, class discussions, and plenary lectures. These quizzes are designed to test whether you have been reading the assignments and attending class. They will focus on the assigned texts and on information communicated in course lectures and discussions.
4. Brief (1-2 pp) written responses to plenary lectures and assigned class readings will be required from students on a rotating basis.
5. Essays: There are four essay assignments for this class:
 - i. An essay of 3-5 pages will be due in class on Tuesday September 16.
 - ii. A revision and expansion of this essay (5-7 pages) will be due in class on Thursday October 9.
 - iii. An essay of 3-5 pages will be due in class on Thursday November 6.
 - iv. A revision and expansion (5-7 pages) of this essay will be due in class on Tuesday December 2.

These essays will focus on selected assigned readings and will be based on a set of topics distributed and discussed in class. The essays must (a) address selected texts/topics (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence and (d) adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax. They must be typed, double-spaced, page-numbered, and stapled.
6. Exams:
 - i. A midterm exam will be given in class on Thursday, October 16.
 - ii. A final exam will be given on Wednesday, December 10, 3:20-5:20 PM.

Course Policies:

- 1) There will be no make-up quizzes or exams unless the student has made arrangements at least a week ahead of time. Except in the case of a documented emergency, late papers will result in a decrease of one letter grade per day.
- 2) Students are allowed two cuts, no penalties or questions asked. Each additional cut (including early departures from the classroom) will reduce the attendance and participation grade by 10% (that is, 1% of your final grade). If you must miss a class meeting due to an emergency, *it is then your responsibility to obtain from a classmate any class notes and other assignment and scheduling information discussed during your absence.*
- 3) Plagiarism – the presentation of others' work as your own – is an offense punishable by course failure and/or expulsion. All work submitted in this class must be your own, and all references to ideas from books, articles, or other sources must be cited correctly. If you do not know how to properly reference your work, or you are in doubt whether or not you should cite material, refer to the University guidelines, or make an appointment to see the instructor to discuss the problem. Anyone found guilty of plagiarism, cheating, forgery, falsification or any other form of academic dishonesty will fail this course and the incident will be reported to the Dean.

Class Schedule:

*Note: Our schedule may change as our course develops (dates, assignments, etc.); regular attendance will ensure that you are informed of any changes.

§ I. Ancient Israel and the Ancient Near East: Gilgamesh and the Hebrew Bible

(Week 1)

Tu 8/26 Introductions

Th 8/28 The Epic of Gilgamesh, tablets I-V (pp. 1-47)

Th 8/28: *Plenary Lecture 1: Introduction to the Humanities—Stewart Justman, LS*

(Week 2)

Tu 9/2 The Epic of Gilgamesh, tablets VI-XI (pp. 48-99); Genesis 1-11

Th 9/4 Genesis 1-11 (read it again), 12-35

Th 9/4: *Plenary Lecture 2: The Bible in the University; Intro. to the Pentateuch—Nathaniel Levtow, LS*

(Week 3)

Tu 9/9 Exodus 1-20

Th 9/11 Deuteronomy 4-12; 2 Sam 7; 2 Kgs 17-25

Th 9/11: *Plenary Lecture 3: Prophets and Prophecy—Nathaniel Levtow, LS*

(Week 4)

Tu 9/16 ***Essay #1 due***
Amos, Hosea

Th 9/18 Isaiah 40-55; Ezek 1-4, 37:1-14

Th 9/18: *Plenary Lecture 4: Wisdom—Mark Hanson, LS*

(Week 5)

Tu 9/23 Job (focus on 1-7, 38-42)

Th 9/25 ***Quiz on Gilgamesh and Hebrew Bible***
Song of Songs (= Song of Solomon); Ecclesiastes

Th 9/25: Plenary Lecture 5: Intro. to Greek Civilization—Matthew Semanoff, MCLL

§ II. Archaic Greece: Homer and Greek Lyric

(Week 6)

Tu 9/30 Homer, The Odyssey, Bks. 1-8

Th 10/2 Homer, The Odyssey, Bks. 9-12

Th 10/2: Plenary Lecture 6: Hero and Antihero in Homer—Stewart Justman, Liberal Studies

(Week 7)

Tu 10/7 Homer, The Odyssey, Bks. 13-20

Th 10/9 ***Essay #2 due***
Homer, The Odyssey, Bks. 21-24

Th 10/9: Plenary Lecture 7: Sappho—Ruth Vanita, LS

(Week 8)

Tu 10/14 Greek Lyric: Archilochus, Sappho

Th 10/16 ***Midterm Exam***

Th 10/16: Plenary Lecture 8: The Broken Urn: Greek Tragedy—Stewart Justman, LS

§ III. Classical Athens: Sophocles and Plato

(Week 9)

Tu 10/21 Sophocles, Oedipus Rex

Th 10/23 Plato, Meno

Th 10/23: Plenary Lecture: 9: Plato and Greek Philosophy—Richard Walton, Philosophy

(Week 10)

Tu 10/28 Plato, Republic (selections)

Th 10/30 ***Quiz on Sophocles, Plato***
Plato, Republic (selections)

Th 10/30: Plenary Lecture 10: The New Testament Background—Nathaniel Levtow, LS

§ IV. The Hellenistic World, Rome, and the New Testament

(Week 11)

Tu 11/4 ***Election Day, no class***

Th 11/6 ***Essay #3 due***
The Gospel of Mark

Th 11/6: Plenary Lecture 11: The Gospels—Tom Lee, LS

(Week 12)

Tu 11/11 ***Veteran's Day, no class***

Th 11/13 1 Corinthians; Galatians

Th 11/13: Plenary Lecture: 12: The Letters of Paul—Mark Hanson, LS

§ V. Late Antiquity and Christendom: Augustine

(Week 13)

Tu 11/18 Augustine, Confessions, Bks. I-IV

Th 11/20 Augustine, Confessions, Bks. V-VII

Th 11/20 *Plenary Lecture 13: Augustine's Confessions—Paul Dietrich, LS*

(Week 14)

T 11/25, Th 11/27 **no classes (academic conference; Thanksgiving)**

(Week 15)

Tu 12/2 **Essay #4 due**
Augustine, Confessions, Bks. VIII-IX

Th 12/4 Augustine, Confessions, Bks. X-XIII

Th 12/4: Plenary Lecture 14: Roman and Early Christian Art—Paul Dietrich, LS

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 10, 3:20-5:20 PM

LS 151 Plenary Lectures: Fall 2008

Aug. 28: Introduction to the Humanities—Stewart Justman, LS

Sept. 4: The Bible in the University; Introduction to the Pentateuch—Nathaniel Levtow, LS

Sept. 11: Prophets and Prophecy—Nathaniel 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—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—Nathaniel 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 11:10-12:00 in the Underground Lecture Hall. They are not repeated in the evening. Attendance is mandatory, as the lecture series accounts for the fourth credit of LS 151.