

1-2014

LSH 152L.05: Introduction to the Humanities - Medieval to Modern

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Spring 2014

LS 152L, Introduction to Western Humanities

Section 05. Tuesday, Thursday, 12.40-2.00 p.m.

Room: LA338. 4 credits

Dr. Vanita

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Mailbox: in Liberal Arts 101.

Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30, Thursday 2.00-3.00, and by appointment

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Texts (all required)

1. *The Divine Comedy (The Inferno, The Purgatorio, and The Paradiso)* (Paperback) by Dante Alighieri, translated John Ciardi
2. Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* (Signet Classics)
3. Descartes, *Discourse on Method* translated Laurence J. Lafleur
4. *Romantic Poetry* ed. Appelbaum (Dover Thrift)
5. *Great Russian Short Stories* ed. Paul Negri (Dover Thrift)
6. Extract from Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables* (photocopy will be handed out in class)
7. Hannah Arendt, "On the Nature of Totalitarianism" On E-reserve (password is Erasmus). This essay must be printed out and brought to class.

Goals

- to introduce you to some major trends of thought and some major texts in the modern Western world.
- to develop your writing skills, and improve your writing by a process that will allow me to measure your improvement.
- This class fulfills the General Ed Literature requirement and the lower-division writing requirement; it is also part of the required introductory sequence for the LS major

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes and plenary lectures regularly (see plenary lecture schedule at the end of this syllabus). Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than three absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and class participation, and five or more absences will result in a zero; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in person and accepted by me.
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in discussion
- (c) bring a **typed** question/comment on the text to every class, use it in discussion and give it to me at the end of class. Handwritten questions will not receive credit.

Attendance may be given on the basis of these questions, therefore if you are ever unable to hand in a question, it is your responsibility to tell me this and to have yourself marked present.

- (d) write two short papers (3-4 pages each, double-spaced, typed)
- (e) edit and rewrite the paper with the lowest grade
- (f) take the mid-term and final exams, take all quizzes, and complete all assignments
- (g) **Check UM email regularly**, especially the day before class. I send out notifications and changes by email. UM policy forbids me to write to you on any email address other than the UM one. The best way to communicate with me is by email.
- (h) submit one graded assignment to the Writing Program Assistant, by a process to be communicated to you later

Grades

The first paper will be worth 5%, the second paper and the revised paper 10% each, class attendance and participation 10%, typed questions and comments 10%, quizzes 20%, the mid-term exam 15%, the final exam 20%.

Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic given by me (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax. Papers must be handed to me on the due date, in class. Except in the case of proven emergency communicated to me in writing and accepted by me, papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade.

Quizzes, tests and exams may contain both multiple-choice type questions and essay-type questions and are designed to test (a) knowledge of the prescribed texts (b) assimilation of information communicated in class and plenary lectures (c) writing skills (d) analytical skills.

Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class; they may be given according to schedule or unexpectedly.

Quizzes can be made up by contacting me within the week, but not later.

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).

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, you need to notify me in the first week of class.

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes, make up any quizzes, and obtain any hand-outs given in class during your absence.

- January 28 Introduction, explanation of syllabus, & writing exercise
- January 30 Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos I, II
- February 4 Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos III, IV, V
- February 6 Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos XIII, XV, XXVIII
- February 11 No class. I am speaking at Stanford University.
- February 13 Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos, XXXII, XXXIII, XXXIV **Quiz on Dante and plenary lectures**
- February 18 Dante, *Purgatorio*, Cantos I, XVIII, XXIII, XXVI, XXVII, XXX, XXXI
- February 20 Dante, *Paradiso*, Cantos I, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII. **Quiz on Dante and plenary lectures**
- February 25 *Merchant of Venice*, Act I, scene 1.
- February 27 *Merchant of Venice*, Act I, scenes 2 and 3. **Paper due in class**
- March 4 *Merchant of Venice*, Act II
- March 6 *Merchant of Venice*, Act III, scenes 1-2.
- March 11 *Merchant of Venice*, Act III, scenes 3-5. **Quiz on Merchant, Acts I-III**
- March 13 *Merchant of Venice*, Act IV
- March 18 *Merchant of Venice*, Act V.
- March 20 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts 1, 2, 3. **Quiz on Merchant, Acts IV and V.**
- March 25 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts 4, 5, 6.
- March 27 **Mid-term exam**
- March 29 Extracts from *Les Miserables*, pages 1-16. **Quiz on Descartes.**

March 31-April 4	Spring Break	
April 8	Extracts from <i>Les Miserables</i> , pages 17-28.	Paper due in class
April 10	Film, <i>Les Miserables</i>	
April 15	Film, <i>Les Miserables</i>	
April 17	Romantic Poetry	
April 22	Romantic Poetry	
April 24	Romantic Poetry	Quiz on <i>Les Miserables</i>, Romantic Poetry, and plenary lectures
April 29	“How much land does a man need?”	
May 1	Hannah Arendt, “On the Nature of Totalitarianism” (Eres)	Quiz on Tolstoy
May 6	Hannah Arendt, “On the Nature of Totalitarianism”	Revised paper due in class
May 8	Hannah Arendt, “On the Nature of Totalitarianism”	
May 14	1.10-3.10 p.m.	Final Exam

Plenary Lectures

Thursdays, 11.00-12.00, Urey Underground Lecture Hall

Jan. 30:	Medieval and Modern. Justman, LS
Feb. 6:	Dante’s <i>Commedia</i> . Dietrich, LS
Feb. 13:	Renaissance Humanism. Dietrich, LS
Feb. 20:	The Reformation. Dietrich, LS
Feb. 27:	<i>Return of Martin Guerre</i> in part; captioned
Mar. 6:	Intro to Shakespeare. Linda Woodbridge, Professor Emerita, Penn State University.
Mar. 13:	Shakespeare video (VT 11687)

- Mar. 20: The Scientific Revolution. Marsha Frey, Kansas State University.
- Mar. 27: The Enlightenment. Greene, History
- Apr. 10: The French Revolution. Linda Frey, History
- Apr. 17: Romanticism. Vanita, LS
- Apr. 24: Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. Justman, LS
- May 1: The Russian Revolution. Greene, History
- May 8: The Totalitarian Specter. Mayer, History