

9-2013

LSH 151L.04: Introduction to the Humanities - The Bible, Greeks and Romans

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Tu Th 9:30 - 11:00 am
& by appointment

LS 151L: Introduction to the Humanities

Fall Semester 2013

Section 4 (71539): Tu Th 8:10 - 9:30 am (GBB L04), Th 11:10-12:00 (ULH)

Welcome to LS 151, Introduction to the Humanities. In this course we will read and discuss classic writings from the ancient world. We will explore how ancient authors understood and responded to enduring human themes and problems such as: knowledge and ignorance; humanity and divinity; virtue and justice; fate and human destiny; life and death; friendship and love; individual and society; weakness and power; sex and gender; war and peace; happiness and suffering; good and evil; myth and history; exile and home; truth and change.

The goals for the course include the development of critical reading skills, through close readings of challenging texts (with a focus on their historical and literary contexts), and the development of writing skills, through an evaluated process of composition and revision.

Textbooks

Required unless noted. Purchase only the indicated translations (available at the UM Bookstore):

The Epic of Gilgamesh (translation by George; Penguin, 2003)

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

Homer, The Odyssey (translation by Fagles; Penguin, 1996)

Sophocles I (Oedipus Cycle) (translation by Grene; Chicago, 1991)

Plato, Five Dialogues (translation by Grube; Hackett, 2002)

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

**Greek Lyric (translation by Miller; Hackett, 1996) (this is an optional purchase)*

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: 10%
3. Presentations and written responses: 5%
3. Essays: 30% (2 x 15%)
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. Be prepared to discuss them. Always *bring the assigned text to class with you*.
3. **Quizzes:** Two quizzes will be given (#1 on **September 24**, #2 on **November 5**) on class readings, class discussions, and plenary lectures. These brief quizzes are designed to test whether you have been reading the assignments, attending plenary lectures, and paying attention to class discussions.
4. Brief **presentations** and **written responses** (1-2 pp typed, double-spaced) to assigned class readings and plenary lectures will be required from students from time to time.
5. **Essays:** There will be two essay assignments in this class:
 - i. An essay of ca. 5 pages will be due in class on **October 24**.
 - A typed **outline** for essay #1 will be due in class on **October 8**.
 - ii. A revision and expansion (ca. 7 pages) of the first essay will be due in class on **December 3**.
 - A typed **outline** for essay #2 will be due in class on **November 14**.

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 w/1-inch margins, page-numbered, and stapled, with the student's name on page 1.
6. **Exams:**
 - i. A **midterm** exam will be given in class on **Tuesday October 15**.
 - ii. A **final** exam will be given in class on **Wednesday December 11, 10:10 am – 12:10 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 one cut, 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, 1.5% of your final grade). *More than 7 absences will result in failure for the course*. If you miss a class meeting, *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; regular attendance will ensure that you are informed of any changes.

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

(Week 1)

Tu 8/27 Introductions

Th 8/29 Mesopotamia: The Epic of Gilgamesh
 Reading: Gilgamesh, Tablets I-V (pp. 1-47)

Th 8/29: *Plenary Lecture 1: Introduction to the Humanities—Justman, LS*

(Week 2)

Tu 9/3 Mesopotamia: The Epic of Gilgamesh
 Reading: Gilgamesh, tablets VI-XI (pp. 48-99)

Th 9/5 The Hebrew Bible: Creation
 Reading: Genesis 1-11

Th 9/5: *Plenary Lecture 2: The Bible in the University; Intro. to the Pentateuch—Levtow, LS*

(Week 3)

Tu 9/10 The Hebrew Bible: Exodus
 Reading: Exodus 1-15:21 (focus on Exodus chapters 3, 14, 15); Psalm 114

Th 9/12 The Hebrew Bible: Law and Covenant
 Reading: Exodus 19-24, 32-34; Deuteronomy 4:44–5:33; Matthew 5:17-20

Th 9/12: *Plenary Lecture 3: Prophets and Prophecy—Levtow, LS*

(Week 4)

Tu 9/17 The Hebrew Bible: Prophecy
 Reading: Amos 1–5, 7, 9:11–15; Hosea 1–4, 6, 11; Isaiah 1, 6, 40, 43:14–21;
 Ezekiel 1-4, 37:1-14

Th 9/19 The Hebrew Bible: Wisdom
 Reading: Proverbs 1, 8, 10; Ecclesiastes; Job 1-7, 38-42

Th 9/19: *Plenary Lecture 4: Wisdom—Hanson, LS*

(Week 5)

Tu 9/24 ***Quiz #1: Epic of Gilgamesh and the Hebrew Bible***
Essay writing workshop (in class after quiz)

§ II. Archaic Greece: Homer and Greek Lyric

Th 9/26 Epic: Homer & Early Greece
Reading: *Odyssey*, Bks. 1-3 (*book presentations*)

Th 9/26: Plenary Lecture 5: Intro. to Greek Civilization—Semanoff, MCLL

(Week 6)

Tu 10/1 Epic: Homer & Early Greece
Reading: *Odyssey*, Bks. 4-6 (*book presentations*)

Th 10/3 Epic: Homer & Early Greece
Reading: *Odyssey*, Bks. 7-9 (*book presentations*)

Th 10/3: Plenary Lecture 6: Hero and Anti-hero in Homer—Justman, Liberal Studies

(Week 7)

Tu 10/8 ***Essay #1 outline due in class***
Epic: Homer & Early Greece
Reading: *Odyssey*, Bks. 10-12 (*book presentations*)

Th 10/10 Lyric: Archaic Greek Poetry
Reading: Archilochus, Sappho [*e-reserve*]
Review (for midterm)

Th 10/10: Plenary Lecture 7: Sappho and Greek Lyric—Vanita, LS

(Week 8)

Tu 10/15 ***Midterm Exam***

§ III. Classical Athens: Tragedy and Philosophy

Th 10/17 Tragedy: Classical Greek Drama
Reading: Sophocles, Oedipus Rex

Th 10/17: Plenary Lecture 8: Tragedy—Justman, LS

(Week 9)

Tu 10/22 Tragedy: Classical Greek Drama
Reading: Sophocles, Oedipus Rex

Th 10/24 **Essay #1 due in class**
Philosophy: Plato and Socratic Dialogue
Reading: Plato, The Meno

Th 10/24: Plenary Lecture: 9: Plato and Greek Philosophy—Muench, Philosophy

(Week 10)

Tu 10/29 Philosophy: Plato and Socratic Dialogue
Reading: Plato, Republic, Book VII (the cave, the divided line) [*e-reserve*]

Th 10/31 Philosophy: Plato and Socratic Dialogue
Reading: Plato, Republic, Book VII (the cave, the divided line) [*e-reserve*]

Th 10/31: Plenary Lecture 10: Gospels and New Testament—Levtow, LS

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

(Week 11)

Tu 11/5 **Quiz #2: Sophocles, Plato**
The New Testament: Gospels
Reading: Reading: The Gospel of Mark, Chs. 1-8

Th 11/7
The New Testament: Gospels
Reading: The Gospel of Mark, Chs. 9-16

Th 11/7: Plenary Lecture 11: Paul and His Contexts—Hanson, LS

(Week 12)

Tu 11/12 The New Testament: Paul
 Reading: 1 Corinthians; Acts 18:1-3

Th 11/14 ****Essay #2 outline due in class****
 The New Testament: Paul
 Reading: Galatians; Acts 9:1-31

Th 11/14: No Plenary Lecture

§ V. Late Antiquity and Christendom: Augustine

(Week 13)

Tu 11/19 Early Christian Philosophy: Augustine
 Reading: Confessions, Bks. I-II

Th 11/21 Early Christian Philosophy: Augustine
 Reading: Confessions, Bks. III-V

Th 11/21: Plenary Lecture 12: Early Christian Art—Dietrich, LS

(Week 14)

Tu 11/26, Th 11/28 **no classes (academic conference; Thanksgiving)**

Th 11/29: No Plenary Lecture (Thanksgiving)

(Week 15)

Tu 12/3 ****Essay #2 due in class****
 Early Christian Philosophy: Augustine
 Reading: Confessions, Bks. VI-VII

Th 12/5 Early Christian Philosophy: Augustine
 Reading: Confessions, Bks. VIII-IX

Th 12/5: Plenary Lecture 13: Augustine's Confessions—Dietrich, LS

****Final Exam: Wednesday December 11, 10:10 am – 12:10 pm****

LS 151 Plenary Lectures: 2013

These lectures are given on **Thursdays 11:10-12:00** in the **Underground Lecture Hall**. They are not repeated. Attendance is mandatory as the lecture series counts for the 4th credit of LS 151.

Aug. 29: Introduction to the Humanities—Justman, LS

Sept. 5: The Bible in the University: Introduction to the Pentateuch—Levtow, LS

Sept. 12: Prophets and Prophecy—Levtow, LS

Sept. 19: Wisdom—Hanson, LS

Sept. 26: Introduction to Greek Civilization—Semanoff, MCLL

Oct. 3: Hero and Anti-Hero in Homer—Justman, LS

Oct. 10: Sappho and Lyric—Vanita, LS

Oct. 17: Tragedy—Justman, LS

Oct. 24: Plato and Greek Philosophy—Muench, Philosophy

Oct. 31: Gospels and New Testament—Levtow, LS

Nov. 7: Paul and His Context—Hanson, LS

Nov. 14: No lecture

Nov. 21: Early Christian Art—Dietrich, LS

Nov. 28: Thanksgiving

Dec. 5: Augustine's *Confessions*—Dietrich, LS