

1-2013

LS 152L.08: Introduction to the Humanities

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Spring 2013

LS 152L, Introduction to Western Humanities (Honors)

Section 8 Tuesday, Thursday, 12.40-2.00 p.m.
Room: LA338 4 credits

Dr. Vanita

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12, Thursday 8.30-9.30, 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. Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (Dover Thrift)
5. George Eliot, *Silas Marner* (Mass Market Paperback)
6. Photocopied materials
7. Texts on ERES (the password is Erasmus)

Please ensure that you have the correct translation. No other translation is to be used. Your grade will suffer if you quote other translations. Other sections use other translations, and sometimes they get mixed up on the shelves in the bookstore. If any text is not available, order it from Amazon.

Goals and Learning Outcomes

- 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, the lower-division writing requirement and an Honors College requirement; it is the second half of the required introductory sequence for the LS major

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes regularly. More than three absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and class participation, and more than four absences will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence.

- Explanations (preferably in advance of the absence) must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in writing and accepted by me.
- (b) Attend Thursday plenary lectures regularly as these constitute the fourth credit (see lecture schedule on page 5 of this syllabus).
 - (c) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class (ERES texts must be printed out and brought to class), and participate in discussion;
 - (d) hand in a thoughtful **typed** question or comment at the end of every class on the text that is to be discussed in class that day. Handwritten questions will not receive credit. Attendance may sometimes be given on the basis of these questions. **If you are ever unable to hand in a question, it is your responsibility to tell me this and to have yourself marked present.**
 - (e) write three short papers
 - (f) edit and rewrite whichever of the papers gets the lowest grade. These revisions must follow guidelines provided by me. **You must meet me individually during office hours to discuss your paper before you revise it. Not meeting me will adversely affect your grade.**
 - (g) take the mid-term and final exams, all tests and quizzes, and complete all assignments. 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 within the week (not more than twice in the semester), but not later. To make up a quiz, contact me in person or on email to make an appointment.
 - (h) **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.

Grades

The first three papers will be worth 5% each, and the revised paper 10% (total 25%), class attendance and participation 10%, typed questions and comments 10%, quizzes 20%, the mid-term exam 15%, the final exam 20%.

Opportunity for 2 points extra credit: Attend the president's lecture by Leela Gandhi (on M.K. Gandhi) on March 4 or the lecture by Seth Lerer on April 29 (on humanism and modern life), and write a one-page summary to be handed to me in the class immediately following the lecture.

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 demonstrated to my satisfaction, 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.

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. Readings indicated for a certain class are to be read in advance of that class, e.g. come to class on January 31, having read Cantos I, II, III, IV, V of Dante's *Inferno*.

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| January 29 | Introduction, explanation of syllabus, & writing exercise | |
| January 31 | Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos I, II, III, IV, V | |
| February 5 | Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos, XIII, XIV, XV, XIX, XXVI, XXVIII, | |
| February 7 | Dante, <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos XXXII, XXXIII, XXXIV; <i>Purgatorio</i> , Cantos I, X, XVII, XVIII, XXIII. | |
| February 12 | Dante, <i>Purgatorio</i> , Cantos XXVI, XXVII, XXX, XXXI | |
| February 14 | <i>Paradiso</i> , Canto I, XX, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII Quiz on Dante and plenary lectures | |
| February 19 | Shakespeare, "That time of year thou mayst behold in me" | Paper due in class |
| February 21 | <i>Merchant of Venice</i> Act I | |

- February 26 *Merchant of Venice*, Act II
- February 28 *Merchant of Venice*, Act III
- March 5 *Merchant of Venice*, Act IV **Quiz on Merchant, Acts I-III**
- March 7 *Merchant of Venice*, Act V
- March 12 *Merchant of Venice* movie **Quiz on Merchant, Acts IV and V**
- March 14 Movie continues
- March 19 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts 1, 2, 3 **Paper due in class**
- March 21 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts 4, 5, 6
- March 26 Review **Quiz on Descartes.**
- March 28 **Mid-term exam**
- Spring Break April 1-5
- April 9 *Silas Marner*, chapters 1-7.
- April 11 *Silas Marner*, 8-12
- April 16 *Silas Marner*, 13-end. **Quiz on Silas Marner, 1-12**
- April 18 S.T. Coleridge, *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* **Quiz on Silas Marner, 13-end**
- April 23 Continue *Rime* **Paper due in class**
- April 25 Percy Shelley, “Ode to the West Wind”; John Keats, “Ode to Autumn”
- April 30 Leo Tolstoy, “How much land does a man need?”; G. M. Hopkins, “Spring and Fall”
- May 2 W. B. Yeats, “The Wild Swans at Coole”; Thomas Hardy, “The Darkling Thrush”
- May 7 Hannah Arendt, “On the Nature of Totalitarianism” (Eres)
- May 9 Hannah Arendt, “On the Nature of Totalitarianism”; Mary Oliver, “In Blackwater Woods” **Revised paper due in class**

Wednesday, May 15 8.00-10.00 a.m. **Final Exam**

Plenary Lecture Schedule

Lectures are given on Thursdays at 11:10-12:00 in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) Attendance is mandatory, as these lectures account for the fourth credit of LS 152.

- Jan 31: Medieval and Modern. Stewart Justman, Liberal Studies
- Feb 7: Dante's *Commedia*. Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies
- Feb 14: Renaissance Humanism. Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies
- Feb 21: The Reformation. John Eglin, History
- Feb 28: *Return of Martin Guerre* in part (VT 00769): captioned
- Mar 7: Shakespeare video (VT 11687)
- Mar 14: Introduction to Shakespeare. Linda Woodbridge, Professor Emerita, Penn State University
- Mar 21: Beethoven, Bach, and the Boys. Fern Glass, Music
- Mar 28: The Enlightenment. Robert Greene, History
- Apr 11: The French Revolution. Linda Frey, History
- Apr 18: Romanticism. Ruth Vanita,
- Apr 25: Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. Stewart Justman, Liberal Studies
- May 2: Russian Revolution. Robert Greene, History
- May 9: The Totalitarian Specter. Michael Mayer, History