LS 151L.02: Introduction to the Humanities

Daniel T. Spencer

University of Montana, daniel.spencer@umontana.edu

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/3229
INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES
Liberal Studies 151, Fall, 2002
MWF 10:10-11:00 am
Jeanette Rankin Hall 205

Dr. Dan Spencer
LA 159, ext. 5314
Office Hours: MWF 11:10 am – 12:00 pm;
or by appointment
e-mail: dspencer@selway.umt.edu

COURSE STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

This course has several goals. Most broadly it is designed to introduce the student to the study of
the humanities as an important component of a liberal arts education through a focus on selective
classical and biblical texts that have shaped Western civilization. We will explore the formation and
transformation of some western world views and themes, and reflect on how they have shaped and
influenced society and culture today. The emphases of the course are engaging in close readings of
the primary texts, discussing and writing about those texts.

“A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. A classic is
something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of
background noise, but at the same time this background noise is something we
cannot do without. (Conversely) A classic is something that persists as a
background noise even when the most incompatible momentary concerns are in
control of the situation.”

• Italo Calvino

“Classics are certain texts, events, images, rituals, symbols and persons (in which
we acknowledge) a disclosure of a reality we cannot but name truth... some
disclosures of reality in a moment of ‘recognition’ which surprises, provokes,
challenges, shocks, and eventually transforms us; an experience that upsets
conventional opinions and expands the sense of the possible; indeed a realized
experience of that which is essential, that which endures – the presence of classics in
every culture is undeniable. Their memory haunts us. Their actual effects in our
lives endure and await ever new appropriations, constantly new interpretations.”

• David Tracy

REQUIRED TEXTS

Metzger, et all. The New Oxford Annotated Bible
Homer, The Odyssey (trans. Fitzgerald)
Sappho (trans. Barnard)
Sophocles, The Oedipus Cycle (Harvest / Harcourt Brace)
Euripides, Three Plays of Euripides (Norton)
Plato, Five Dialogues (trans. Grube)
St. Augustine, The Confessions (trans. Warner)

REQUIREMENTS

• Regular class attendance and participation that demonstrates a grasp of the reading assignments
• Regular short written responses to the readings and plenary lectures
• Two essays on a theme from the texts
• Written final exam
## ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Recommended readings are in brackets: [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Laying out themes and structure of the course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9/5   | Th  |         | Lecture: *Introduction to the Course / Genesis*  
Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies | |
| 9/6   | F   | 2       | The Hebrew Bible: Primeval History | *Genesis*: Introduction (3-10), Ch. 1-11 |
| 9/9   | M   | 3       | Abraham and Sarah: Beginning the Covenant | *Genesis* 12-13, 15-22 |
|       |     |         | Begin Weekly Response Papers | |
| 9/11  | W   | 4       | Law (Torah) and Covenant: Moses | *Exodus*: Introduction (82-84), Ch. 1-4, 16, 19-24, 32 [5-15, 17-18] |
| 9/12  | Th  |         | Lecture: *Law and the Prophets*  
Jean Larson, Campus Ministry | |
| 9/13  | F   | 5       | The Prophets: Amos and God’s Judgment | *Amos*: Introduction (969-973, 1302-03), Ch. 1-9 |
| 9/16  | M   | 6       | The Prophets: Isaiah and God’s Promise | *Isaiah*: Introduction (974-77), Ch. 1-6, 9-12, 40-44.8, 49-53, 55, 61  
(First Weekly Response Paper Due) |
| 9/18  | W   | 7       | Wisdom: The Psalms and Song of Solomon | *Psalms*: Introduction (721-25, 775-77), *Psalm* 1, 5, 8,13, 19, 22, 23, 121, 137  
Song of Solomon: Introduction (959-60), Ch. 1-8 |
| 9/19  | Th  |         | Lecture: *Job and Wisdom*  
James Scott, Foreign Languages | |
| 9/20  | F   | 8       | Job: God’s Wager and Meaning in Suffering? | *Job*: Introduction (726-27), Ch. 1-14  
Discuss paper topics for Essay #1 |
| 9/25  | W   | 10      | The Trial: Job Confronts God | *Job* 29-42 |
|       |     |         | II. Homer: *The Odyssey* | |
| 9/26  | Th  |         | Lecture: *Introduction to Greek Civilization*  
Hayden Ausland, FLL | |
9/27  F  11  Homer: *The Odyssey*. Introduction  
Books 1-2

9/30  M  12  *The Odyssey*  
1st Essay Due  
Books 3-4

10/2  W  13  *The Odyssey*  
Books 5-7

10/3  Th  Lecture: *Hero and Anti-Hero in Homer*  
Stewart Justman, English

10/4  F  14  *The Odyssey*  
Books 8-10

10/7  M  15  *The Odyssey*  
Books 11-13

10/9  W  16  *The Odyssey*  
Books 14-16

10/10  Th  Lecture: *Greek Lyric*  
Linda Gillison, FLL

10/11  F  17  *The Odyssey*  
Books 17-19

III. The Later Greek Writers

10/14  M  18  Sappho  
Forward, Parts 1-3

10/16  W  19  Sappho  
Parts 4-6

10/17  Th  Lecture: *Greek Drama*  
Rina Quartarone, FLL

10/18  F  20  Sophocles: Introduction, *Oedipus Rex*  
*Oedipus Rex*, 1-33

2nd Essay Due: Option A

10/21  M  21  *Oedipus Rex*  
*Oedipus Rex*, 34-81

10/23  W  22  Euripedes: *The Bacchae*  
Introduction (vii-xii), 78-96

10/24  Th  Lecture: *Plato and Greek Philosophy*  
Hayden Ausland, FLL

10/25  F  23  *The Bacchae*  
97-126

IV. Greek Philosophy: Plato’s Dialogues

10/28  M  24  Plato: Introduction, *Euthyphro*  
5 Dialogues of Plato, 5-22

10/30  W  25  Plato: *Apology*  
23-44

10/31  Th  Lecture: *Ancient Theology and Science*  
Rina Quartarone, FLL

- 3 -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Plato: <em>Meno</em></td>
<td>59-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Plato: <em>Phaedo</em></td>
<td>93-126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> <em>Roman History Overview</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Gillison, FLL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Plato: <em>Phaedo</em></td>
<td>126-155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Veterans Day: No Class</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Introduction to the New Testament: Gospels</td>
<td>Matthew 1-4; Mark 1; Luke 1-4:13; John 1-2; plus Introduction to each Gospel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2nd Essay Due:</strong> Option B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> <em>The Gospels</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tom Lee, FLL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. The Christian New Testament

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Jesus on the Road to Jerusalem</td>
<td>Luke 9:51 – Ch. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> <em>The Letters of Paul: Romans</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bruce Bigley, English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Paul: Justification by Faith</td>
<td>Romans 1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Paul: God’s Promise to Israel</td>
<td>Romans 9-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Paul: Moral Exhortations</td>
<td>Romans 12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Corinthians 12-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Christian Autobiography and Reflection: Augustine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong> <em>Augustine’s Confessions</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>38</td>
<td><em>The Confessions</em></td>
<td>Bk 3, chs. 1-7; Bk 4, all; Bk 5, ch. 10; Bk 6, chs. 5, 6, 8, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>39</td>
<td><em>The Confessions</em></td>
<td>Bk 7, chs. 5, 12, 17; Bk 8, chs. 5, 12; Bk 9, chs. 1, 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12/11 W 40 The Confessions
Bk 10, chs. 1-8, 17, 28, 30, 31, 35, 40, 43;
Bk 11, chs. 1-14, 31; [Bk 12]; Bk 13, chs. 1-11, 21-24, 33-38

10/31 Th Lecture: Roman and Early Christian Art
Margaret Mudd, Art History

12/13 F 41 Wrap-up

Final Exam Period: Mon, Dec 16, 8:00-10:00 am

GRADING POLICY

1. Weekly Response Papers to the Readings: 20%
2. Ten Plenary Response Papers: 20%
3. Paper #1: 15%
4. Paper #2: 25%
5. Final exam: 20%

Note Re Papers: Papers are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. Unless you have made a prior agreement with me, I will take off one grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day an assignment is late. Papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be returned ungraded for correction. Written work will be evaluated in terms of your depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, clarity of writing, and ability to address issues raised in the text and in class on the topic at hand. Grades given reflect the following criteria of judgment:

F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
C: Satisfactory; meet minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
B: Good to Very Good: thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style
A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style; demonstrate creativity and mature analytical skills in going beyond the primary requirements of the assignment

Attendance: Regular attendance and participation in the class is expected. More than three (3) absences will result in losing any benefit of the doubt on your final grade. More than six (6) absences will result in one grade reduction. More than nine (9) absences will result in a failing course grade. Late arrivals in class will count as an absence. (Note: If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as illness or other conflicting commitments, you still must speak with the instructor).

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: All work submitted is expected to be the student's own. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course, and may result in further academic punishment. If you have any doubts about definitions of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please review the relevant sections of the University Catalog (p. 22).

DESCRIPTION OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. Weekly Response Papers to the Readings: Once a week (beginning the week of Sept. 9) choose one of the assigned readings that week for a short, typed one-page critical response. After reading the text, write (1) two or three paragraphs that summarize the main points of the reading, (2) two or
three paragraphs giving your thoughtful response and discussion of the reading, noting any questions you have in light of your reading of the article. The papers will be graded on a scale of 0 to 10 points. The cumulative score of these responses is a significant element in determining your final grade; they indicate to me the consistency and quality of your participation in the course. Due no later than the following Monday in class.

2. Plenary Response Papers: Write a typed, 1-2 page critical response to 10 of the plenary lectures. Each response should include a summary of the main themes and significant supporting points, as well as your thoughtful response to the issues raised and how they relate to other themes of the course. These papers also will be graded on a scale of 0 to 10 points. Due no later than the following Monday in class. No late responses will be accepted.

3. Essay #1: A 4-5 page typed essay in which you consider a theme, key term, or other consideration(s) from the texts we read from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). Use the text to support a well-constructed argument for the theme which you decide to pursue. Note: The theme(s) you select for this essay with be the theme you pursue in later readings in the course and in your second essay, so be sure to choose one which is meaningful and important to you. We will discuss paper topics in class at least a week prior to the due date of Monday, Sept. 30th (in class).

4. Essay #2: This essay will be composite process. Your second paper (8-9 pages) will completely revise your first essay and seamlessly extend its thesis by developing a focal point from a second text from the Greek writers. You may choose the latter text from Homer’s The Odyssey (Option A: Due in class Friday, Oct. 18), or from one of the later Greek writers (Sappho, Sophacles, Euripides, or Plato) (Option B: Due in class Wednesday, Nov. 13). You must turn in your original graded essay with this second essay or you will not receive a grade. Each text should receive equal attention, or 4-5 pages of development each. Take special care to ensure that the two portions of your essay are well integrated and consistent.

5. Final Exam: The final will cover material from the whole semester and will ask you to integrate your learning from across the semester. The last day of class I will hand out a list of several questions, of which some will appear on the final. You must write your exam during the Final Exam Period: Mon, Dec 16, 8:00-10:00 am.

Important University Policies, Dates and Deadlines

9/23: Last day to drop and add courses by Cyberbear. Last day to receive a full refund for classes dropped. Courses dropped after this date will bear a W on the transcript.

10/14: Last day to drop courses with instructor and advisor signatures and a drop/add form. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after October 14.


12/6: Last day to withdraw from courses for Autumn 2002.

12/13: Last day for drop/grade option petitions for Autumn 2002.

P/NP Grade option: A minimum grade average of C- (70) is required for a P grade in the P/NP Grade option.

Incomplete Grade: Please see the criteria that must be met for an Incomplete on p. 21 of the University Catalog. No exceptions will be made for these criteria.
### LS 151 Plenary Lecture Series – Fall 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. September 5</td>
<td>Introduction to Course/ Genesis</td>
<td>Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. September 12</td>
<td>Law and the Prophets</td>
<td>Jean Larson, Campus Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. September 19</td>
<td>Job and Wisdom</td>
<td>James Scott, Foreign Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. September 26</td>
<td>Introduction to Greek Civilization</td>
<td>Hayden Ausland, FLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. October 3</td>
<td>Hero and Antihero in Homer</td>
<td>Stewart Justman, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. October 10</td>
<td>Greek Lyric</td>
<td>Linda Gillison, FLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. October 17</td>
<td>Greek Drama</td>
<td>Rina Quartarone, FLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. October 24</td>
<td>Plato and Greek Philosophy</td>
<td>Hayden Ausland, FLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. October 31</td>
<td>Ancient Theology and Science</td>
<td>Rina Quartarone, FLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. November 7</td>
<td>Roman History Overview</td>
<td>Linda Gillison, FLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. November 14</td>
<td>The Gospels</td>
<td>Tom Lee, Liberal Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. November 21</td>
<td>The Letters of Paul (Romans)</td>
<td>Bruce Bigley, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. November 28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. December 5</td>
<td>Augustine’s Confessions</td>
<td>Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. December 12</td>
<td>Roman and Early Christian Art</td>
<td>Margaret Mudd, Art History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lectures are given at 11:10 –12:00 in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) and repeated at 7:10-8:00 p.m. in SS (Social Sciences) 352