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LS 152L.10: Introduction to the Humanities

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Spring 2001

LS 152, Introduction to Western Humanities (Modern)

Dr Ruth Vanita

Tuesday, Thursday 7.10-9 p.m.

Section 10, 4 credits. Room: LA 302

Office: LA 146A. Office Phone: 243-4894

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and by appointment

Texts

Shakespeare, Othello

Descartes, Discourse on Method

Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

Franz Kafka, Metamorphosis

Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness

Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

James Baldwin Go Tell It On The Mountain

Faculty Pack

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes and plenary lectures regularly. Excessive unexplained absences (more than two) will result in a zero for attendance and class participation;
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and actively participate in discussion;
- (c) write a short paper on any one text (3-4 pages double-spaced typed), due March 27 in class;
- (d) rewrite the paper, expanding it to include one more text, due May 10 in class;

Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class.

Topics for papers must be selected from a list given by me.

Grades

The short paper will be worth 20%, the rewritten paper 25%, class attendance and participation, including quizzes, 30%, the written test 25%.

Except in the case of proven emergency, papers handed in late without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade.

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, please notify me in the first week of class.

Plenary Lecture Schedule

1) Feb. 1 Intro. to Medieval Culture	Fandozzi/Dietrich
2) Feb. 8 Luther and the Reformation	Farr
3) Feb. 15 Renaissance Art	Chacon
4) Feb. 22 Themes in Shakespeare's Plays	Pack
5) Mar. 1 Descartes: Modern Philosophy & the State	Perrin
6) Mar. 8 Enlightenment	Borgmann
7) Mar 15 Romantic Literature	Vanita
8) Mar. 29 19th Century Novel	Glendening
9) Apr. 5 Music from Baroque to Romanticism	Fern Glass Boyd
10) Apr. 12 Douglass and His Times	Adeleke
11) Apr. 19 Modern Intellectual History.: Marx	Drake
12) Apr. 26 Colonialism & Racism: Heart of Darkness	Fandozzi
13) May 3 20th Century Novel	Welch
14) May 10 Modernist & Postmodernist Art	Hedquist

The plenary lectures are an important part of the course, and constitute one credit. Attendance is required, and you will be tested on them. Lectures are given every Thursday at 11:10 a.m. in the Urey Lecture Hall and repeated at 7:10 p.m. in Social Sciences 352.

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any changes.

January 30 Introduction

February 1 Christine de Pizan (facpac)

February 6 Montaigne and Pico della Mirandola (facpac)

February 8 Othello Act 1

February 13 Othello Act 2

February 15 Othello Acts 3 and 4

February 20 Othello Act 5

February 22 Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress" (facpac) and "The Nymph Complaining for the Death of her Fawn" (facpac)

February 27 Descartes, Discourse on Method Parts One, Two, Three

March 1 Descartes, Discourse on Method Parts Four, Five, Six

March 6 Wordsworth, "Hartleap Well" and Hume (facpac)

March 8 Frankenstein chapters 1-5

March 13 Frankenstein chapters 6-18

March 15 Frankenstein chapters 19-24

March 19-23 Spring Break

March 27 Dickinson, Poems (facpac) **Paper due in class**

March 29 Alice in Wonderland, chapters 1-6

April 3 Alice in Wonderland, chapters 7-12

April 5 "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" (facpac)

April 10 The Heart of Darkness

April 12 The Heart of Darkness

April 17 The Heart of Darkness

April 19 Freud, Civilization and its Discontents

April 24 Mansfield, "A Cup of Tea" (facpac) and Kafka, Metamorphosis

April 26 Kafka, Metamorphosis

May 1 Go Tell It On The Mountain

May 3 Go Tell It On The Mountain

May 8 Go Tell It On The Mountain and Conclusion

May 10 **Paper due in class**

Recommended Events

UM's production of Shakespeare's The Tempest, Feb. 27-March 3, March 6-10. 7.30 p.m. Masquer Theater.

Videos (shown at 7-10 p.m., NULH):

Apocalypse Now, April 25

Smoke Signals, May 2

Day after Trinity, May 9.