Spring 2-1-2002

LS 152L.05: Introduction to the Humanities

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University of Montana - Missoula

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Course Description and Objectives: This course is an introduction to Western humanities through the study of some of the most significant literature from the late medieval to the contemporary period. Its objective is to give you an understanding and critical appreciation of the texts through class discussion and written assignments. This objective will be measured by your ability to determine and analyze important issues/themes in these texts and, when appropriate, to explore significant similarities and differences. This objective will be realized only through your full participation.

I. Texts: The Inferno (NAL-Mentor)
   Merchant of Venice (Signet)
   Discourse on Method (Prentice Hall/LLA)
   Frankenstein (Bantam)
   Narrative of Frederick Douglass (Penguin)
   Civilization and Its Discontents (Norton)
   Heart of Darkness (Penguin)
   Ceremony (Penguin)
   Faculty Packet

II. Reading Assignments:
   Mon. Jan. 28 Introduction to the Course
   Fri. Feb. 1 Inferno, Cantos I-V
   Mon. Feb. 4 Inferno, Cantos X, XIII-XVI and p. 108
   Wed. Feb. 6 Inferno, Cantos XXVI, XXXII-XXXIV
   Fri. Feb. 8 FACPAC, “Oration on the Dignity of Man”
   Mon. Feb. 11 FACPAC, “The Praise of Folly”
   Fri. Feb. 15 FACPAC, Montaigne, Intro. “To the Reader,” “Of Idleness,” “Of Thumbs,”
          “Of Giving the Lie.”
   Mon. Feb. 18 HOLIDAY
   Mon. Feb. 25 Merchant of Venice, Act I
   Wed. Feb. 27 Merchant of Venice, Act II
   Fri. Mar. 1 Merchant of Venice, Act III
   Mon. Mar. 4 Merchant of Venice, Acts IV & V
Fri. Mar. 8  Discourse on Method, Parts 2-6 (you may skim pp. 7-11, 26-35, 44-45, 48-50)
Wed. Mar. 13  FACPAC, Pope, "Essay on Man;" Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"
Fri. Mar. 15  FACPAC, "Declarations of Independence"
Mon. Mar. 18-22  SPRING BREAK!!!
Wed. Mar. 27  Frankenstein, chapters 1-9
Fri. Mar. 29  Frankenstein, chapters 10-16
Mon. Apr. 1  Frankenstein, chapters 17-24
Wed. Apr. 3  FACPAC, Blake, "Marriage of Heaven & Hell"
Fri. Apr. 5  FACPAC, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Shelley, poems
Mon. Apr. 8  Civilization & Its Discontents, pp. xxiii, 22-36
Wed. Apr. 10  Civilization & Its Discontents, pp. 37-52, 64-96
Fri. Apr. 12  Narrative of Frederick Douglass, pp. 7-24, 43-46
Mon. Apr. 15  Narrative of Frederick Douglass, chapters 1-5
Wed. Apr. 17  Narrative of Frederick Douglass, chapters 6-11, appendix
Fri. Apr. 19  FACPAC, Marx, "Alienated Labour"
Mon. Apr. 22  Heart of Darkness, Intro., pp. ix-xi, xxvii-xxxviii
Fri. Apr. 26  Heart of Darkness, Part II, pp. 55-90
Mon. Apr. 29  Heart of Darkness, Part III, pp. 90-124
Wed. May 1  Ceremony, pp. 1-49
Fri. May 3  Ceremony, pp. 49-100
Mon. May 6  Ceremony, pp. 100-151
Wed. May 8  Ceremony, pp. 151-201
Fri. May 10  Ceremony, pp. 201-262

III. Written Assignments:
1. A one page summary or a brief quiz on the plenary lecture: the summary due the Monday following the lecture; the quiz--on the Friday following the lecture.
2. Periodic quizzes on the day's reading assignments--as needed.
3. A thematic essay (3-4 printed pages) on a topic from texts that we have studied through Monday, April 1. Due Friday, April 5.
4. A revision of this paper, due Friday, April 19.

IV. Grading:
1. Grades will be based on the assignments above, according to the following: 40%--essay & revision; 25%--plenary lectures' summaries/quizzes; 25%--final exam; 10%--reading quizzes, participation.
2. Excessive absences (more than 3) and/or tardiness in submission of assignments will lower your grade.
3. Those, if any, taking the class "P/NP" will require a "C-" to receive a "P."

Drop Deadline is March 11.