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GH 151L.50: Introduction to Western Humanities Antiquity

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INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES

Liberal Studies 151—50

Fall 2017

CRN: 74615

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LA 152, ext. 6844

Office Hours: M, F 2:00 – 3:00; T, 11:00 – 12:00

and by appointment

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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

Course Objectives, Learning Outcomes, Structure

This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of the humanities through a focus on selective texts from the ancient to the medieval periods that have shaped Western civilization. We will explore the formation and transformation of some Western worldviews 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 texts.

Course Objectives

- Become familiar with the study of the humanities
- Read a sample of classic texts in the humanities from the Ancient to the early medieval period and use these texts to learn and consider their central themes, learn major developments in the history of the Western humanities, and develop skills in critical reflection and writing.

Learning Outcomes for Writing Courses

- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions
- Demonstrate appropriate use of English language

Course Structure

The course will be delivered online with support from UMOonline. Readings and assignments are designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills stated in the course objectives. For purposes of assignments and class activities, the week starts on Monday at 12:01 a.m. and ends on Sunday at midnight. The course will consist of the following components:

- 1. Lectures:** "Lectures" are in video, audio, or written form, to be viewed/heard/read during the week assigned and prior to completing discussion forum questions, case studies, and other assignments (unless otherwise specified).
- 2. Reading assignments:** Each week will feature a reading or two posted directly on the course page.
- 3. Discussion Forum:** Discussion questions will be posted each week in relation to the lectures and readings. You are required to posted responses to each question on the forum(s). As the discussion evolves, all students should extend the dialog by posting additional questions and responses relevant to the topics under discussion. **You should do that at least once per week.** All students are required to participate in discussions **by the end of the day Thursday every week.** To achieve full credit, you should respond to another student once per week and include occasional questions for other students to respond to in your posts. To avoid a last-minute flurry of postings, please post earlier, rather than later, and check back at least twice, including the week following your post (to see if someone has responded to you). Class participation reflects a significant portion of the grade, based on the grading matrix posted under the main course heading. I will check the discussion forum regularly, sometimes posting responses and questions, but sometimes also allowing the students' discussion to unfold with each other. Remember that discussion forums are appropriate only for questions and discussions that would normally occur in the classroom. Please try to stay on point—keep your discussion relevant to the issue/question under discussion and keep the language formal and appropriate. Remember that the rest of the class can read posts.
- 4. Questions for the instructor:** Feel free to send questions or express concerns to me privately through email or by phone regarding any aspect of the course.

Grading Policy

Again, for purposes of assignments and class activities, the week starts on Monday at 12:01 a.m. and ends on Sunday at midnight. **Assignments that are late will be penalized one-half letter grade per day.** Students who will to request permission to submit an assignment late must contact me well before the assignment deadline. Extensions will be granted and late assignments forgiven only when there are serious and verifiable extenuating circumstances.

Grading guidelines for class discussion: See "Forum Grading Matrix" under the main course heading.

Assignments and Grading Criteria

- Major paper (draft plus revision): 25 percent of grade
 - Online posts; Quizzes: 25 percent of grade
 - Midterm exam: 25 percent of grade
 - Final exam: 25 percent of grade
1. Major Paper: I will offer a couple of choices for writing a formal paper, with at least one option for the biblical literature and one for the Greek. You will have a choice on what you would like to do. Details about these papers will be given in class and on the course website.

Late papers will be penalized two points per day (beginning the date it is due) up to 50 percent of the grade total unless prior permission from the instructor is obtained. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, with one to one-and-one-half-inch margins. Use page numbers, and give references to page numbers from the primary text and full citations to all outside sources. Papers should be uploaded to Moodle, if possible, and a hard copy brought to class. Also note that papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be returned ungraded for correction *and* marked down as late. Written work will be evaluated in terms of the strength of your critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and clarity and grammatical accuracy of your writing.

2. Online Responses, Quizzes, and Other Assignments: Students will be asked to post answers to discussion questions online and perhaps take quizzes or have other short assignments. Please check the course page in Moodle or ask if assignments are due if you are unable to attend a class period. Late responses will be penalized one point per day until zero is reached.
3. Exams: Exams will likely be a combination of multiple choice, short answer questions, and a longer essay. Exams must be taken at scheduled times unless prior permission of the instructor is obtained, otherwise the exam receives a failing grade. Study-guides will be distributed in advance of each exam to provide a basis for your preparation. Final exams can only be rescheduled if the student can demonstrate that he or she has two additional exams scheduled for the same day.

Course Procedures and Expectations

- **Announcements**: I will post announcements regularly under "Announcements" on the main course menu.
- **Communication**: Communication using the Discussion Forum and other Moodle features should be thought of as public communication. Please use email to me for issues you wish to discuss privately.
- **Weekly Course Materials**: Click on the link for each week to see all instructions and course materials for the week.

- **Logging in:** You are expected to log at least every other day to read current announcements.

Additional Notes

- **Syllabus:** This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes will be announced in the “Announcements.”
- **Students with Disabilities:** In accordance with the University of Montana’s mission to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, necessary accommodations for students with disabilities will be made whenever possible. If you require accommodations, please provide written information regarding your disability from the Disability Services as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.
- **Plagiarism:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University of Montana. All students should be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code](#).
 - Plagiarism is the represent of another’s work as one’s own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion. (See UM Student Conduct Code.)
 - Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one’s own original work is the proper and honest use of sources.
 - Exams are taken on the honor system. They will be “closed book” exams—allowing no notes, texts, or access to other online materials. **Exam answers that are exact copies of, or highly similar to, sentences from course materials will be investigated as a possible violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and the student may be subject to penalty.**

REQUIRED TEXTS

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, fourth edition, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
 Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. Fagles; Penguin edition)
 Sophocles, *Sophocles I / Three Tragedies*, second edition (trans. Grene; Univ. Chicago press)
 Euripides, *Three Plays of Euripides* (trans. Roche; Norton publ.)
 Plato, *Five Dialogues* (trans. Grube; Hackett press)
 St. Augustine, *The Confessions* (trans. Boulding; Vintage press)

ASSIGNMENTS

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic and Assigned Reading</u> |
|----------------------|---|
| Introduction (8/31) | None |
| Week One (9/5): | Introduction to the Bible; Genesis Watch “Introduction to the Hebrew Bible” lecture (by Nat Levtow) Read Genesis 1-2 |
| Week Two (9/11): | Genesis (cont.) <i>Genesis</i> 3-4, 6-9, 11:1-9, 11:27-ch.13, ch.15-22 |
| Week Three (9/18): | Exodus <i>Exodus</i> : Introduction; Ch. 1-4, 7-8, 11-12, 14-16, 19-20, 24, 32 – 34 |
| Week Four (9/25): | Prophetic and Wisdom Writings Read <i>Amos</i> 1-9; <i>Proverbs</i> 1-4; <i>Ecclesiastes</i> 1-12 |
| Week Five (10/2): | Job Job 1-31, 38-42 |
| Week Six (10/9): | Greek Epic Poetry: Homer’s Odyssey <i>Odyssey</i> ch. 1-12 |
| Week Seven (10/16): | Homer’s Odyssey (cont.) <i>Odyssey</i> ch. 13-24 Bible Paper Due (for some), 10/16 |
| Week Eight (10/23): | Midterm Exam; Greek Lyric Poetry (Sappho); Tragedy Take midterm exam 10/23 Read selections from Sappho Oedipus (first half) |
| Week Nine (10/30): | Greek Tragedy: Oedipus, Antigone Oedipus (second half) Antigone |
| Week Ten (11/6): | The Bacchae The Bacchae |
| Week Eleven (11/13): | Greek Philosophy: Plato’s Dialogues Plato: <i>Euthyphro</i> , <i>Apology</i> Greek Lit. Paper Due (for some) 11/15 |

- Week Twelve (11/20): The New Testament; Thanksgiving Break**
Watch lecture "Gospels and the New Testament" (Levtow)
John 1-2; Matthew 1, 5-7; Mark 1; Luke 1-6
- Week Thirteen (11/27): The New Testament (cont.)**
Luke 7-24; Romans 1-8
- Week Fourteen (12/4): Early Christianity: Augustine's *Confessions***
Augustine: *The Confessions* Preface (xiii-xxvi); Books 1- 5
- Week Fifteen (12/11): Augustine's *Confessions* (cont.)**
Augustine: *The Confessions*, Bk 6, chs. 4-6, 15; Bk 7: 1-5, 9, 12-13, 17, 21
Bk 8, chs. 5, 11-12; Bk 9, chs. 1; Bk 10: 1-8, 17, 24-31, 35, 40, 43
- Final Exam** **Thursday, December 14, available 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**