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ENG 4950-001: Literary History and Bibliography

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English 4950/Spring 2004, MWF
LITERARY HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Instructor: Dr. McCormick
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Office Hours: MWF 11-12 & 3-4
(and by appointment; I am also
often in my office on T and R)

Required Texts:

1. Abrams, Norton Anthology of English Lit., 1 & 2
2. Perkins, American Trad. in Literature, 1 & 2
3. Holman, Handbook
4. MLA Handbook

SUPPLEMENTARY PURCHASE: Spiral notebook (for this course only; to be used as journal -- see **JOURNAL** handout)

THREE PRELIMINARY REMARKS

- A. I welcome your questions about any of our assignments for this course. Ask and I'll be happy to clarify.
- B. Abrams and Perkins (texts #1 and #2 above right) will be our primary texts. Regard Holman's Handbook (#3) as a tool for reviewing and consolidating materials presented in lectures and assigned readings.
- C. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

NATURE OF THE COURSE

English 4950 has a dual purpose: to help advanced (and graduate) English majors develop a coherent picture of the history of English and American literature, and to introduce them to some of the basic tools and methods of literary research.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED

You will be expected to attend class regularly, to perform reading and writing assignments diligently and promptly, and to contribute to class discussion. Your grade for the course will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

1. 20% A 750-1500 word library paper, due before mid term. (See THEME REQUIREMENTS handout for specifications.)
2. 20% A 1500-2000 word synthesis of course materials, due three weeks before the end of the semester. (See THEME REQUIREMENTS handout.)
3. 20% Mid-Term Exam
4. 20% Final Exam
5. 20% Journal (at least 200 words before every class) + 2 500-word journal-based essays. (I will evaluate your journal and a 500-word journal-based essay at MID-SEMESTER and again at the end of the semester. For details, see your JOURNAL handout.)

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED (continued)

I will assign the following values to the grades you receive on the five projects described above:

A+ = 4.2	B+ = 3.2	C+ = 2.2	D+ = 1.2	F = 0.0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	Missing = -1.0
A- = 3.8	B- = 2.8	C- = 1.8	D- = 0.8	

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

A = 4.2 to 3.8	B = 3.7 to 2.8	C = 2.7 to 1.8	D = 1.7 to 0.8
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But note the following incentive to attend class faithfully:

If at the end of the semester your average falls 1 to 2 decimal points below the cutoff for the next higher grade category, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had **no more than 3 unexcused absences**. For example, if your average were 2.6 or 2.7 (i.e., 1 or 2 points below the cutoff for a **B**), you would receive a final grade of **B** if you had had no more than 3 unexcused absences. If you had 4 or more unexcused absences, your average of 2.6 or 2.7 would earn a final grade of **C**.

ATTENDANCE

I will expect you to attend this class regularly. If an emergency arises which prevents your attending one of our sessions, please call me promptly to explain.

LATE AND MISSED WORK

Papers are due at the beginning of the class period on the dates indicated by an asterisk (*) on your syllabus. Late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class day they are late. TWO EXAMPLES:

- (1) If your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **TUESDAY**, your grade would be penalized by a half letter: e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a C-;
- (2) If your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **WEDNESDAY**, the grade would be lowered by two half letters; e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a D+. **Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up.**

OPTIONAL REVISION

Any of you who wish to do so may elect to revise your 750-1500 word library paper in hopes of raising the grade for the paper by a maximum of one letter. One exception: a paper whose grade I have penalized for plagiarism (see below) may not be revised and resubmitted. Optional revisions are due no later than the final class meeting of the semester.

PLAGIARISM

Note the English Department's statement concerning plagiarism:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including assignment of a grade of F for the course.

SYLLABUS

NOTE: Asterisks in the left-hand margins of the following pages indicate important due dates--for papers, journals, and exams.

JAN 12 Introduction to the course. CRAVN ReNeoRomVic (see explanation below.)

CRAVN:

C[elts] -- native inhabitants of England

R[omans] -- occupy England, 50 B.C-450 A.D.

A[nglo-Saxons] -- Danes invade England c. 500 A.D.: OLD ENGLISH

LITERATURE

V[ikings] -- More Danes invade England c. 856-870 A.D.

N[ormans] -- French defeat Anglo-Saxon king in 1066: MIDDLE ENGLISH

LITERATURERenNeoRomVic:

Re[naissance] -- c. 1500-1660: Humanism & Reformation

Neo[classical] -- 1660-1798 [Restoration & 18th century]: Neoclassical

Rom[antic] -- 1798-1832

Vic[torian] -- 1832-1901: roughly the lifetime of Queen Victoria

The first period of English literature we will study in this course is MEDIEVAL LITERATURE.

The MEDIEVAL PERIOD in European history is the period which begins after the fall of the Roman Empire (c. 500 A.D.) and ends with the advent of the Renaissance. England's medieval literature is divided into two historical periods: (1) Old English (Anglo-Saxon period; e.g., Beowulf); (2) Middle English (Norman [French] period; e.g., Chaucer)

The second period of English literature we will study is the RENAISSANCE:

HARBINGERS OF RENAISSANCE:

1450 -- invention of printing press;

1453 -- fall of Greek city of Constantinople -- Turks force Greek scholars to flee with ancient "humanist" Greek manuscripts to ITALY, birthplace of the Renaissance;

PIVOTAL EVENTS OF RENAISSANCE:

1492 -- Columbus "discovers" New World;

1517 -- 1517 (German monk Martin Luther attempts to reform the Roman Catholic Church; after he is excommunicated he establishes (in Germany) the first "Protestant" church -- the Lutheran Church.

- JAN 14 **MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Old English Period (500-1100)**
READING ASSIGNMENT:
 1. Study the following handouts: (a) "**ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND**" & (b) **JOURNAL: ENG 4950.**"
 2. Abrams, Vol. 1, pp. 1-4 ("Introduction" to Old English period).
 3. Abrams, 21-23 & 33-37 (Beowulf, introduction and excerpt).
IMPORTANT REMINDERS:
 Remember to bring to class a spiral notebook in which you have written a journal entry of no fewer than **200 words** in response to the readings listed above. And please remind me today to give you a handout entitled "**MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500.**"
- JAN 16 **MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: Middle English Period (1100-1500).**
READING ASSIGNMENT:
 1. Abrams, 5-11 ("Introduction" to Middle English Period.)
 2. Abrams, 363-384 (Everyman).
 3. Handout: "**MEDIEVAL ENGLAND FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO 1500.**"
JOURNAL ENTRY: Don't forget to prepare -- and bring to class -- a journal entry responding to today's assigned reading. See your **JOURNAL** handout for suggestions. Remember that the minimum requirement for your entry is 200 words. The best journals will routinely exceed the minimum requirement.
- JAN 19 Martin Luther King's Birthday. No class.
- JAN 21 Middle English Period: Romance
JOURNAL ENTRY: Before this and **EVERY** class session for which we have a reading assignment, remember to prepare a journal entry before you come to class. Bring your journal to every class.
READING ASSIGNMENT:
 Abrams, excerpts from Sir Gawain and the Green Knight:
 a. 205-212 (to Part 2): Green Knight interrupts Christmas feast; Sir Gawain humbly accepts challenge;
 b. 214-215: Sir Gawain gets dressed;
 c. 227-228: Sir Gawain declines sexual overture.
- JAN 23 **IMPORTANT:** Today's class will meet at Booth Library. Meet me at Booth's **SOUTH ENTRANCE** (on the Coleman Hall side) at 10:00 a.m. sharp. A librarian will conduct us to our library meeting room.
 1. **HOW TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CLASS:** Before our meeting at Booth Library today, spend at least **TWO HOURS** in Booth's Reference area (at the north end of the main floor (3000 level). Familiarize yourself with the reference books and computer databases listed in your handout entitled "**QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS.**"
 2. For your journal entry, record your experiences inspecting several of these reference books/databases and make a list of questions you have concerning how to use any of the books or databases which confuse you.

I'll be tremendously impressed with those of you who include (in your journal entry) some specific discussion of how you might use one or more of these resources to gather information pertinent to a paper you plan to write in this or another of your English courses.

- JAN 26 Middle English Period: Popular Ballads
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 384-386 (Popular Ballads)
 2. Abrams, 389 ("Lord Randall") & 392 ("Three Ravens").
 3. Handout: "THEME REQUIREMENTS." Bring your questions concerning "THEME 1" to class. Today we will do some preliminary brainstorming for theme topics.
- Remind me today to distribute handouts entitled "QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SOME RESEARCH TOOLS," "BACKGROUND TO RENAISSANCE . . . (KABOOM,)," "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING," & "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM."
- JAN 28 RENAISSANCE (1500-1660)
RENAISSANCE TOPICS to be covered in today's readings:
1. Advent of Printing Press
 2. Humanism (study of Greek texts and ideas)
 3. Reformation (Martin Luther's attempted reformation of -- and eventual break with -- the Catholic Church).
- READING ASSIGNMENT:** Remember to prepare a journal entry to bring to class:
1. Handouts: "SHORT HISTORY OF PAPER AND PRINTING," "BACKGROUND TO RENAISSANCE . . . (KABOOM,)" and "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM."
 2. Abrams, 395-400 ("Introduction")
 3. Abrams, 968-969 ("Kinds of Prose and Poetry")
 4. Abrams, 971-973 ("Translating the Bible")
- JAN 30 RENAISSANCE (1500-1660)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 748-749 (to mid page; Christopher Marlowe)
 - * 2. Abrams, 768-787 (Marlowe's Dr. Faustus, to Chorus 2).
- FEB 2 **READING ASSIGNMENT:** Abrams, 787-801 (Dr. Faustus, to end).
 For a portion of your journal entry, try to connect specific moments in today's assigned pages from Dr. Faustus (pp. 787-701) to some of the points made in your "REFORMATION AND HUMANISM" handout.

FEB 4

HOW TO PREPARE FOR TODAY'S CLASS:

1. Carefully review pages 2-4 of your THEME REQUIREMENT handout. Note that "Sample [4950] Themes" are available for three-hour checkout at Booth Library's Reserve desk (call number: 147).
2. Spend at least two hours brainstorming to discover potential topics for THEME 1. Do at least 250 words of written brainstorming **in your JOURNAL** before today's class.

THINGS YOU WILL REMIND ME TO DO TODAY IN CLASS:

1. Remind me to distribute handouts entitled "FIGURES OF REPETITION" and "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY."
2. Remind me to have each of you sign up for a conference at which you will discuss your tentative plans for THEME 1 with me. The more thinking and preliminary writing you do before then, the more productive your conference will be.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE DESCRIBED ABOVE:

Before coming to your conference, spend at least three additional hours brainstorming for a topic (i.e., devote a total of at least five hours to brainstorming). Bring to the conference (and show me) **ALL** of the written brainstorming you have done to date. In addition, bring -- and give me -- a 250-word description of your tentative plans for developing what seems to you to be the single most promising topic that has occurred to you so far. (Keep a copy of the 250-word description for yourself.)

FEB 6 No class. I'll see you in conference

FEB 9 **RENAISSANCE: Sixteenth-Century Poetry****READING ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Abrams, 404-409 ("Art and Nature," "Poetic Conventions").
2. Abrams, 820 (Shakespeare, Sonnet #129).
3. Handouts:
 - a. "FIGURES OF REPETITION"
 - B. "ELIZABETHAN CRITICAL THEORY."

JOURNAL: For a portion of your journal entry, make a list of as many connections as you can discover between Shakespeare's Sonnet #129 and the material in the two handouts.

THEME 1: Continue working on Theme 1.

FEB 11 No class. Work on Theme 1 – due at our next meeting.

FEB 13 Lincoln's Birthday. No class.

- FEB** 16 Theme 1 (2 copies) due at beginning of today's class.
Remind me today to give you the following handouts: "**SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660**" & "**MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE**.
AGENDA FOR TODAY'S CLASS: After I collect your theme at the beginning of today's class, an advisor in Eastern's Career Services office will visit with us to offer suggestions concerning job-hunting, résumé preparation, and the procedure for setting up your placement file in the Career Services Office.
- FEB 18 No class. You need a break, and I need time to read your papers.
- FEB 20 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD -- 1st Phase: RESTORATION (1660-1700)**
READING ASSIGNMENTS:
1. Handout: "**SKETCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION OF 1660.**"
 2. Abrams, 1989-1990 (Earl of Rochester) & 1990-1991 (Rochester's "Disabled Debauchee"). (Assignment continued on next page.)
 3. Abrams, 1786-1788 (John Dryden).
 4. Abrams, 1821-1822 (Dryden's "[Elegy] to the Memory of Mr. Oldham").
 5. Abrams, 1829 (Dryden's "Epigram on Milton").
- FEB 23 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18th CENTURY (Pope)**
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 2212-2213 (Alexander Pope's life and poetry)
 2. Abrams, 2219--the final two paragraphs, beginning on l. 118: "You then whose judgment" (from Pope's Essay on Criticism).
 3. Abrams, 2252 (Pope's "Ode on Solitude")
 4. Abrams, 2266-2270, section 4 to end of poem, ending "Whatever is, is RIGHT" (from Pope's Essay on Man)
- REMINDE ME** today to distribute a photocopied poem -- Anne Ingram's "Epistle to Mr. Pope" -- and a photocopied excerpt from Alexander Pope's Dunciad.
- FEB 25 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2ND Phase: 18th CENTURY (Pope & Ingram)**
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Photocopied excerpt from Pope's Dunciad.
 2. Anne Ingram, "Epistle to Mr. Pope" (photocopied poem).
- OPTIONAL CONFERENCES:** I will do my best to return Theme One (graded) to you today. I would be pleased to have you sign up for a conference at which we can discuss your paper and you can ask me to clarify my comments. If you wish to revise the paper to try to raise the grade by a maximum of one letter, you may do so. The (entirely optional) revision will be due no later than the last day of class -- and revision must be substantial.

- FEB 27 **NEO-CLASSICAL PERIOD--2nd Phase: 18TH CENTURY** (Johnson)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 2295-2297 (Samuel Johnson)
 2. Abrams, 2365-2370 (excerpt from Johnson's novel Rasselas, Chapters 40-44).
- MAR 1 In class today we will review for the Mid-Term Exam. Study your "**MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE**" and bring your questions about the exam to class. Note that you have a 500-word journal-based paper due at our next meeting.
- MAR** 3 Mid-Term Exam, Part I. (Please try to arrive five minutes early.)
 ** **SUBMIT YOUR JOURNAL and 500-WORD JOURNAL-BASED PAPER TO ME FOR EVALUATION AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY.**
- MAR** 5 Mid-Term Exam, Part II.
- MAR 8 **ENGLISH ROMANTICISM** (1798-1832)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
 Abrams, Vol. 2, pp. 1-13 ("Introduction" to the Romantic Period).
 In class today I will return and discuss your Mid-Term exam.
REMIND ME to distribute photocopied "**NOTES ON ROMANTICISM.**"
SIGN UP TODAY (if you'd like) FOR A MID-TERM CONFERENCE. If you are not doing as well at mid term as you had hoped, I'll offer encouragement and suggestions for doing better in the second half. Bring your journal and Theme One to the conference.
- DATE AND TIME OF OPTIONAL RE-TAKE OF OBJECTIVE PORTION OF MID-TERM EXAM: _____**
- MAR 10 **ROMANTICISM** (1798-1832)
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, Vol. 2, 126-129 (Wordsworth)
 2. Abrams, Vol. 2, 172-182 (Wordsworth's "Michael").
- MAR 12 **ROMANTICISM**, Percy Shelley and Mary Shelley.
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Study "**NOTES ON ROMANTICISM**" handout. For a portion of your-journal entry, make a list of points of connection between the Percy and Mary Shelley selections assigned below and the Romantic tendencies noted in your "Romanticism" handout.
 2. Abrams, 673-675 (Percy Shelley's "A Song: Men of England," "England in 1819," and "To Sidmouth and Castlereaugh").
 3. Abrams, 844-847 (Mary Shelley's life).
 4. Abrams, 847-851 (Introduction to Mary Shelley's Frankenstein).
- MAR 15, 17, 19 **Spring Recess. No classes.**

- MAR 22 **ROMANTICISM**, Mary Shelley
READING ASSIGNMENT: Abrams, 851-862 (Mary Shelley's "Transformation").
IMPORTANT: If you have signed up for a mid-term conference, see me at the appointed time.
- MAR 24 **MOVIE** and **PARTY** class. I will bring refreshments. We will devote today's session to watching a movie about Mary and Percy Shelley and their friends Lord Byron, Claire Clairmont, and the masochistic Dr. Polidori. The film -- entitled "Gothic" -- dramatizes the events Mary Shelley describes in her "Introduction" to Frankenstein. You will not be bored.
- MAR 26 **MOVIE** and **PARTY** class continued. We will watch the remainder of Gothic.
- MAR 29 **VICTORIAN PERIOD** (1832-1901): "Victorian Issues"
READING ASSIGNMENT:
Abrams; choose one (that's right choose **ONE**) of the following three "Victorian Issues" and read carefully the material pertaining to that **one** issue:
1. "Evolution," 1571-1580; **or**
2. "Industrialism: Progress or Decline," 1580-1595; **or**
3. "The Woman Question," 1595-1611
JOURNAL ENTRY: For your JOURNAL ENTRY today, compare and contrast the positions taken by 3 of the writers on the single "Victorian Issue" you have chosen (issue 1, 2, or 3). You will make a five-minute presentation of your findings at today's class session.
REMINDE ME today to distribute a handout entitled "MAJOR PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE/HISTORY."
- MAR 31 **VICTORIAN PERIOD:** Historical Background/Poetry
READING ASSIGNMENT:
1. Abrams, 891-898 ("Introduction" to Victorian Period).
2. Abrams, 1133-1134 (Tennyson, "Charge of the Light Brigade").
JOURNAL ENTRY:
1. As you read the "Introduction" to the Victorian Period (**READING ASSIGNMENT** #1 above) take careful notes in your journal. Your notes will be useful when you begin writing **THEME 2** -- a written synthesis of the literary periods we have been studying this semester.
2. Perform the exercises outlined on the front and back of your "MAJOR PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE/HISTORY" handout; i.e., write a chronological outline and brief summary of English history and literature from 500 A.D. through 1901 (the end of the Victorian period). Doing so will give you a good start on **THEME 2**--a synthesis of your 4950 course materials from the Old English Period through the Victorian. (See your "**THEME REQUIREMENTS**" handout.)
AGENDA FOR TODAY'S SESSION:
(1) You will ask me questions about how to prepare **THEME 2** (see "**JOURNAL**" above); (2) we will look at some successful syntheses students have

prepared for this assignment in past semesters; and (3) you will sign up for an optional conference with me to discuss your progress on **THEME 2**.

- APR 2 No class. Optional conferences.
- APR 5 **VICTORIAN PERIOD**: Poetry
READING ASSIGNMENT: Abrams, 1073-1079 (Tennyson, "Locksley Hall")
JOURNAL ENTRY: For a portion of your journal entry, write a 50-100 word explication of several difficult lines from "Locksley Hall."
- APR 7 **VICTORIAN PERIOD** (1832-1901), Novel
READING ASSIGNMENT:
 1. Abrams, 1311-1313 (George Eliot, pen name of Marian Evans).
 2. Abrams, 1319-1344 (excerpt from Eliot's Mill on the Floss).
- APR 9 Rather than having a formal class meeting today, we will have conferences to discuss your progress on Theme 2--due at our next class meeting. A conference sign-up sheet is posted on my door. Spend at least three hours preparing for the conference. Please bring to the conference your detailed chronological outline and abbreviated summary of English history and literature from 500 A.D. through 1901, together with a 100-word description of your plans for organizing your theme. (I will ask you to give me a photocopy of your 100-word description; you will keep the original.)
- APR 12 No class. Work on **THEME 2**
- APR**14 Theme 2 (2 copies) due at beginning of today's class.
AGENDA FOR TODAY'S CLASS:
 1. I will explain the format of your **FINAL EXAM**. (Please remind me to give you a handout describing the exam.)
 2. You will sign up for an **ORAL SYNTHESIS** conference with me. At the conference you will offer a twenty-minute oral synthesis of the chronology and the literary/cultural movements we have studied this semester -- from the Old English period through the Victorian period.
 3. At 10:15 Bobbi Kingery, from the office of Career Services, will offer suggestions for resume preparation and job hunting.
- APR 16 No class. Individual conferences instead. (See **INSTRUCTIONS** above.)
IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you intend to revise Theme 1, note that the revision (along with the original graded theme) is due no later than our final regular class meeting.
- APR 19 No class. Individual conferences.
- APR 21 No class. Individual conferences.

THE AMERICANS ARE COMING! THE AMERICANS ARE COMING!

YES, IT'S TRUE. THE AMERICANS REALLY ARE COMING. Time will not permit us to examine America's 17th-century **COLONIAL** literature (for example, Bradford's "Of Plymouth Plantation" and Sewall's "Diary"). Nor have we time to study America's 18th-century **ENLIGHTENMENT** period (for example, Ben Franklin and Thomas Paine). We'll begin just after those early periods--with a quick look at **AMERICAN ROMANTICISM** (earlier nineteenth century). See below.

- APR 23 **AMERICAN ROMANTICISM** (earlier 19th century)
READING ASSIGNMENT: Perkins, Vol. 1, 1205-1215 (Poe, "Ligeia").
JOURNAL: For a portion of today's journal entry, make a list of similarities you notice between "Ligeia" and the works of English Romanticism listed on this syllabus. (Be specific.)
- APR 26 **AMERICAN REALISM** (late 19th century)
READING ASSIGNMENT: Perkins, Vol. 2, 404-413 in 7th ed., or 410-419 in 6th ed. (Howells, "Editha").
JOURNAL: For a portion of your journal entry, prepare a 100-word analysis of a passage in "Editha" that you think is particularly crucial to a proper understanding of the story.
- APR 28 **MODERNISM** (earlier 20th century)
READING ASSIGNMENT: Perkins, Vol. 2, 1833-1835 in 6th ed. (Plath, "Daddy").
- APR** 30 **SUBMIT JOURNAL and 500-WORD JOURNAL-BASED PAPER FOR EVALUATION AT BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY.** (Before class, photocopy for yourself any portions of your journal you anticipate will be helpful in studying for your final exam.)
- ** Today is the final day for submitting a (thoroughly optional) revision of **THEME 1**. Bring your questions about the final exam to class.

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINAL EXAMS.

DATE OF OUR 4950 FINAL: _____