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LS 151L.05: Introduction to the Humanities

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Wiering, K. M., "LS 151L.05: Introduction to the Humanities" (2002). *Syllabi*. 3227.
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University of Montana
Liberal Studies

SYLLABUS

Introduction to the Humanities

LS 151; Fall 2002–2003 *both sections*
MWF 9:10-10:00 LA 207
R 11:10 - 12:00 ULH

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LA 332; 243-5791

DESCRIPTION

This course serves to introduce students to the humanities, in particular those works of literature that best represent the ancient period. We have culled a good selection of texts which traditionally forms the subject matter of the classics, a subject which spans nearly ten centuries of ancient literature written in Greek and Latin. Insofar as the Judaic tradition has influenced this, the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are also made part of our readings. Each of these diverse texts are suitable to address the very fundamental aspects of our human condition: questions about our place in the world, perspectives on civilization, its progress (or regress), the gods and divine agency, reactions to determinism and human freedom, contests with fate, the struggle for life against death, violence, and questions about the enigma of love.

TEXTS

New Oxford Annotated Bible (Oxford)
Sophocles, *Oedipus Cycle* (Harcourt Brace)
Euripides, *Three Plays of Euripides* (Norton)
Homer, *Odyssey* (Farrar, Strauss, Giroux)
Sappho (California University Press)
Plato, *5 Dialogues* (Hackett)
Augustine, *Confessions* (Mentor)

REQUIREMENTS

(a) readings

The designated readings listed in the attached class schedule are the focus of the lectures and discussions. They follow, by and large, the schedule of plenary lectures held on Thursdays.

¹ Minor adjustments to the syllabus may be made at a later date to suit the progress of the class. Do make note of these when they are announced in class.

(b) class participation

Participation will earn 10% of your grade. Be mindful that this component can make a difference between an A or B grade. Participation includes timely submission of assignments, preparation of the assigned reading material, and readiness for in-class questions.

(c) quizzes

Quizzes demonstrate your ability or identify weak spots prior to exam time. We will have short occasional quizzes which may ask you to identify a passage, or explain a concept with examples from the literature. These will help us keep pace with the readings.

(d) weekly writing assignment

Select questions that arise from class discussion will be used as topics for a weekly 1–2 page essay. This activity is a developmental exercise, and my comments are intended to help you in the practice of thinking through writing. Revisions are encouraged. Views discussed in your essays should be compared with the original source texts to understand the ancient views. You will find attached a guideline for the format of this weekly essay assignment.

(e) examinations

There are two exams scheduled, each counting as 25% of your grade. Exams will follow the character of the course, testing your general knowledge by true/false, fill-in-the blank, matching, and short answer, and then your ability to handle the pertinent issues behind the facts will be demonstrated with an extended essay. Some questions in the last exams may involve information from earlier readings.

GRADING

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|--------|---|
| Participation & Quizzes | 25 % | Scale | 100–93 | A |
| Weekly essay | 25 % | | 92–85 | B |
| Exam # 1 | 25 % | | 84–77 | C |
| Exam # 2 (Final) | 25 % | | 76–70 | D |
| | | | 69–0 | F |

GROUND RULES

Attendance is required for every class as part of class participation. Absence (including tardiness and early departures) affects your class grade. Absence from class or exams will only be excused for documented medical reasons, military service, or mandatory public service. The first two unexcused absences affect your class participation grade. The third will affect your class grade by one letter. All exams will be taken on the assigned day without exception. Please refrain from eating food during class. Only your work will be graded. Plagiarism will be penalized with an F and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion. Details are spelled out in the university catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

OFFICE HOURS

I will be available in my office (LA 332) for questions or difficulties of any kind on MWRF 12:00 - 1:00 and TR 9:00 - 10:00, or by scheduled appointment. Do take advantage of e-mail if you get stuck while doing homework.

WEEKLY ESSAY

These writing assignments are designed to help you think about ^{our readings} ~~mythology~~, to give evidence of your understanding, and most of all, to increase your skill at writing intelligently and coherently. Be mindful that these assignments are cumulatively worth 30% of your grade.

Format

- length: 1-2 page minimum
- all assignments are typewritten
- due on the date assigned
- assignments will be kept in a folder to hand in

Evaluation

organization

- The topic/thesis is identified in key sentence.
- I have excluded unnecessary repetitions or filler.
- I have excluded reiterative conclusions.
- I have edited for presentation, including grammar.

content

- The paragraph addresses the issue of the assigned question.
- I have included a unique example or supporting evidence.
- Is this essay worth keeping?
- I have edited, keeping in mind previous writing suggestions.

Grading

- | | |
|----|---|
| 0 | 0 points = Fail. The assignment is late. |
| R | allows for revision to earn 8 points |
| 8 | 8 points = grade of B. The assignment has been met. |
| 9 | 9 points = grade of A. There is evidence of work above the minimum. |
| 10 | 10 points = grade of A. Excellent work (with extra credit). |

Students receiving an 8 may revise and attempt to earn a 9.

Class Schedule

| | <u>Plenary Lecture Topic</u> | | <u>Reading Assignment</u> |
|---------------------|--|-------------|---|
| 1. Sep. 3 - 6 | O.T.: Genesis | F | Genesis 1-11 |
| 2. Sep. 9 - 13 | O.T.: Law and the Prophets | M W F | Genesis 12-22 Genesis 23-50 Exodus 1-20 Joshua 1, 23-24 Judges 2, 13-16 |
| 3. Sep. 16 - 20 | O.T.: Job and Wisdom | M W F | Hoseah, Jonah Isaiah 1, 53, 55, 60, Psalm 1, 23, 90 II Samuel 23 Proverbs 2, 8 Ecclesiastes I Kings 3-11 Song of Solomon |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 4. Sep. 23 - 27 | Greek Civilization | M W F | Odyssey 1 - 4 Odyssey 5 - 8 Odyssey 9 - 12 |
| 5. Sep. 30 - Oct. 4 | Greek Epic | M W F | Odyssey 13-16 Odyssey 17-20 Odyssey 21-24 |
| 6. Oct. 7 - 11 | Greek Lyric | M W F | Job Sappha MIDTERM EXAM |
| 7. Oct. 14 - 18 | Greek Drama | M W F | Oedipus Cycle Oedipus Cycle Oedipus Cycle |
| 8. Oct. 21 - 25 | Greek Philosophy | M W F | Oedipus Cycle Alcestis Bacchae |
| 9. Oct. 28 - Nov. 1 | Greek Theology and Science | M W F | Apology Apology Aristotle (suppl. handout) |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 10. Nov. 4, 6 - 8 | Roman Civilization | M W F | Phaedo Phaedo Roman Poetry (suppl. handout) |
| 11. Nov. 12 - 15 | N.T.: Gospels | M W F | Roman Prose (suppl. handout) Matthew Matthew |
| 12. Nov. 18 - 22 | N.T.: St. Paul | M W F | Romans Romans I John |
| 13. Nov. 25 | no plenary lecture on Thanksgiving Holiday | M | Augustine (supplemental handout) |
| 14. Dec. 2 - 6 | Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> | M W F | <i>Confessions</i> <i>Confessions</i> |
| 15. Dec. 9 - 13 | Roman and Early Christian Art | M W F | |

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 8:00 - 10:00