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Spring 2-1-2003

# LS 152L.09: Introduction to the Humanities

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## LS 152: INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES

Modern Period

Spring 2003

**Section 5: MWF 11:10-12:00, SG 303; Section 9 MWF 10:10-11:00 LA 302**

**General Lecture: Thursday 11:10-12:00 ULH or 7:10-8:00 SS352**

**Instructor:** Christopher Anderson

LA 427 Tel.:243-4678

Office Hours: 2-5 Wednesdays, 1-2 Thursdays

**Texts:** 1. Faculty Pack on e-reserve: <http://eres.lib.umt.edu> Course: LS152; password: Erasmus

### **Available at UC Bookstore:**

2. Mark Musa, ed. *The Portable Dante*
3. Thomas More, *Utopia*
4. William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
5. René Descartes, *Discourse on Method*
6. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
7. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
8. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*
9. Michel Tournier, *The Ogre*

**Goals and outcomes:** This course is designed to give you an understanding of what western culture is, how it has evolved into its present forms, and how to assess modern western culture critically. We will do so through the study and discussion of selected texts from the 14th century to the present. LS 152 is a W course, and a primary goal, of course, is to teach you to express your thoughts in writing appropriate to academic argumentation. You can reasonably expect at the successful completion of this course to be able to: 1) read and interpret literary, philosophical and historical texts, 2) have some notions of what western culture is and how it has evolved, 3) take careful notes, 4) be able to write an academic essay.

**Methods:** We will meet three days per week to discuss assigned texts, lectures and films. You will also attend the Thursday plenary lectures and take careful notes on them. I will quiz you on the plenary lectures and films. You will write 4 interpretive analyses of the texts you have read, two of which will be expanded and revised versions of your first and third papers. Your revisions will take into account new readings. You will have 2 major examinations (midterm and final) on your assigned readings.

### **Your responsibilities for class discussion are:**

- 1) to come to all classes, including the plenary lectures, and bring the assigned texts with you,
- 2) to prepare for each class by having read the assignment and taken notes that will help you

to refer to the texts to support your arguments,

3) to discuss with your classmates what you think are important themes you find in the texts or what may be important ways in which a text questions or challenges its readers. You will want to offer reasoned arguments for textual meaning, challenge assertions that cannot be supported by the texts, and remain focused on the texts in question. Fruitful discussion requires the development of specialized skills such as a) listening carefully to an argument, b) giving credit for right assumptions (This may require your giving a brief summation of what you think is right.), and c) pointing to any flaws in the argument that will allow you to posit your own views, and d) positing your own view.

**Your responsibilities for the plenary lectures and films are** (this constitutes the 4<sup>th</sup> credit):

- 1) to attend all the plenary lectures and films from their beginning to end without disrupting those around you.
- 2) to take careful notes on the lectures as fuel for classroom discussion and quizzes.

**Your responsibilities for the writing requirement are:**

- 1) to carefully write your best draft of a reasoned argument on a specific topic analyzing specific texts, and to proof read it for spelling and grammar before turning it in, and to give it a title,
- 2) to turn in your typed papers at the beginning of class on the day in which they are due,
- 3) to give credit to all your sources, including internet sources (see page 20 of the UM policy on plagiarism) and provide a complete bibliography,
- 4) to respond to criticisms by correcting errors (in logic, interpretation, grammar, and spelling, or rhetorical style) in your rewrites.

**My responsibilities are:**

- 1) to guide class discussions in such a way as to keep them focused on the texts in a spirit of open and friendly debate,
- 2) to show you methods of close reading,
- 3) to apply predetermined standards fairly in my evaluation of your writing, and to give to you useful suggestions on how to improve your work,
- 4) to evaluate your understanding of the readings and lectures fairly through quizzes and examinations on assigned material,
- 5) to meet with you individually during my office hours, should you request to do so, to discuss strategies for reaching the goals you have set for yourselves for this course,
- 6) to return your corrected essays in a timely fashion that gives you adequate opportunity to make careful revision.

**Requirements:** LS 152 is a **W** course. **You must have tested into Enex 101 to be eligible to take this course.** **Attendance is required:** more than three absences from class or lecture (combined total, not three of each) can result in a lowered grade, and persistent absence will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Grading:** Final grades will be assessed according to the following criteria:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Quizzes on plenary lectures.....          | 20% of final grade (14 quizzes in all) |
| Exams: midterm (10%) and final (15%)..... | 25%                                    |
| Papers.....                               | 40%                                    |

Class participation..... 15%

**Bonuses:** All those who have a solid B average on all work at the date of the final may choose to be exempted from the final examination and receive the grade they have earned before the final exam. Students with a B+ average are encouraged to take the exam to try to improve their grades.

**Lecture Schedule:** see page 1 of LS152 Faculty Pack.

**Film Schedule:** see page 3 of LS152 Faculty Pack.

**Texts:** in addition to all the texts listed on page 1 of LS152 Faculty Pack, we will be reading in its entirety Michel Tournier's *The Ogre*.

**Proposed Reading Schedule:** (modifications may occur due to increased interest in specific texts that lead to longer discussions, however we would like to keep a relative harmony between texts, lectures, and films, and to cover the prescribed material).

Jan 27: Introduction to LS 152

Jan 29: Dante, *The Divine Comedy: Inferno*, introduction, cantos 1-10

Jan 31: Dante, *Inferno*, cantos 11-22

Feb 3: Dante, *Inferno*, cantos 23-34

Feb 5: Dante, *The Divine Comedy: Purgatory*, cantos 1 and 27-33

Feb 7: Dante, *The Divine Comedy: Paradise*, cantos 1 and 27-33

Feb 10 Petrarch, "Ascent of Mont Ventoux"; Ficino, from *Platonic Theology*

Feb 12 Pico della Mirandola, "Oration on the Dignity of Man"; Erasmus, from *Praise of Folly*

Feb 14 Luther, from *The Freedom of a Christian*; Michel de Montaigne, "On Experience"

Feb 17 Holiday, no class

Feb 19 Francis Bacon, from *The New Science* **First Paper due**

Feb 21 John Donne, "Elegy XIX. To his Mistress Going to Bed" "The Extasie"; "Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward"; "Holy sonnets: Divine Meditations"

Feb 24 Thomas More, *Utopia*

Feb 26 Thomas More, *Utopia*

Feb 28 Miguel de Cervantes, from *Don Quixote*; George Herbert, "Prayer", "The Pulley" "Love" "The Elixir"

Mar 3 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Introduction, Act 1

Mar 5 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act 2

Mar 7 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act 3

Mar 10 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Acts 4-5

Mar 12 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*

Mar 14 Descartes, *Discourse on Method* **Midterm exam**

Mar 17 Blaise Pascal, from *Pensées*, "The Memorial" **Second paper (rewrite) due**

Mar 19 Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"; Richard Crashaw, "The Weeper" Henry Vaughn, "The Night"

Mar 21 David Hume, "Personal Identity", from *A Treatise of Human Nature*

Mar 24-28 **SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS**

**Readings:** finish the readings up to this point; go back and reread what interests you.

Mar 31 Emmanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" Alexander Pope, from "An Essay on Man"

Apr 2 Benjamin Franklin, "Something of my Religion"

Apr 4 James Madison, *Federalist Papers*, no. 10

Apr. 7 William Blake, Selected Poetry and Prose; Emerson, "Self-Reliance"

Apr 9 Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self Reliance"; Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Apr 11 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Apr 14 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* **Third paper due**

Apr 16 Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"; Gerard Manley Hopkins, "That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire..."

Apr 18 Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*

Apr 21 Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*

Apr 23 Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Apr 25 Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Apr 28 Michel Tournier, *The Ogre* pp. 1-65 (the first half of part I)

Apr 30 Michel Tournier, *The Ogre* pp. 66-130 (the second half of part I)

May 2 Michel Tournier, *The Ogre* pp. 131-192 (part II)

May 5 Michel Tournier, *The Ogre* pp.193-238 (part III)

May 7 Michel Tournier, *The Ogre* pp. 239-334 (part IV)

May 9 Michel Tournier, *The Ogre* pp. 225-371 (part V) **Fourth paper (rewrite) due**

**FINAL EXAM: SECTION 5: Monday, May 12, 10:10a.m-12:00 noon.**

**SECTION 9: see course schedule**