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Spring 2-1-2006

LS 152L.05: Introduction to the Humanities

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Introduction to the Humanities
LS 152, Section 5
Spring 2006
9:10-10:00 MWF, JRH 205

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Description

This course focuses on significant cultural movements, authors, and works from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. In particular, we will investigate the attitudes and ideas that characterize the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the post-Renaissance period. The goals of the course are (1) to gain overall perspective on the cultural, intellectual, and artistic history of the Western World, beginning with the late Middle Ages, (2) to become familiar with some of the classic works of the Western tradition in creative writing (poetry, drama, fiction), philosophy, religious thought, political theory, art, architecture, and music, (3) to identify and explore enduring themes of the human condition engaged by featured writers and artists. This course should give us greater perspective on what we believe, how we live, and how we got here.

In addition to regular classes, LS 151 requires attendance at a weekly Thursday lecture (representing one of the four credits given for this course). Lectures are given at 11:10-12:00 in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) and repeated at 7:10-8:00 pm in SS (Social Sciences) 352.

Texts

Dante, The Portable Dante (Viking)
More, Utopia (Penguin)
Shakespeare, Hamlet (Signet)
Descartes, Discourse on Method (Library of Liberal Arts)
Voltaire, Candide (Penguin)
Appelbaum, ed., English Romantic Poetry
Dostoevsky, The Death of Ivan Ilych and Other Stories (Penguin)
Conrad, Heart of Darkness
LS 152 facpac on ERES

To access ERES materials, (1) go to the Mansfield Library home page, (2) click on Reserve Materials, (3) locate the course through one of the three drop-down menus, (4) click on Search at bottom of page, (5) click on either of the sections listed, (6) click on OO Electronic Reserve, (7) type in password (Erasmus) and click Accept, (7) click on the text to be opened up.

Exams

There will be a mid-term, a final, and occasional reading and lecture quizzes.

Writing

You will write two critical essays. Research is not required for the papers, but if you do research, borrowings should be fully acknowledged. Plagiarized papers will fail (see "Conduct" below). No late papers except for documented emergencies.

Attendance

After four unexcused absences your grade will decline. The midterm and final exams must be taken on the days and at the times they are scheduled.

Grading

Tests—50%, papers—40%, participation/quizzes—10%

Schedule

January

- 23 Introduction
- 25 Dante, ix-xvi, xxx-xxxvi, Inferno Cantos 1-11
- 26 Lecture: Medieval Art and Culture
- 27 Inferno Cantos 12-22
- 30 Inferno Cantos 23-34

March

- 1 Shakespeare, Hamlet, Acts 2-3
- 2 Lecture: Shakespeare and Hamlet
- 3 Hamlet, Acts 4-5
- 6 Descartes, Discourse vii-26; **ESSAY 1 DUE**
- 8 Discourse 26-50
- 9 Lecture: Descartes and Modern Philosophy
- 10 Discourse, cont.
- 13 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- 15 Donne, misc. poems*
- 16 Lecture: The Art of the Baroque
- 17 Herbert, misc. poems*
- 20 Vaughn, "The Night"; Marvell, "To His"
- 22 Kant, "What Is Enlightenment"
- 23 Lecture: Bach, Beethoven, et al.
- 24 Pope, Essay*; Swift, "A Modest Proposal"

May

- 1 Conrad, Heart of Darkness 1-27
- 3 Heart of Darkness 27-50
- 5 Heart of Darkness 50-72
- 10 **FINAL EXAMINATION**, 10:10-12:10

*Texts on ERES

February

- 1 Purgatory Cantos 1-5, 29-33
- 2 Lecture: Dante and His Times
- 3 Paradise Cantos 1-5, 30-33
- 6 Pico, "On the Dignity of Man"
- 8 "On the Dignity of Man"
- 9 Lecture: Italian Renaissance Art
- 10 Erasmus, from In Praise of Folly*
- 13 In Praise of Folly, cont.
- 15 Erasmus, from Paracelsus*
- 16 Lecture: Renaissance Humanism
- 17 Luther, from The Reformation*
- 22 More, Utopia xi-47
- 23 Lecture: Luther/Protestant Reformation
- 24 Utopia 49-117
- 27 Montaigne, "On Cannibals"; Hamlet Act 1

April

- 3 Voltaire, Candide 7-49
- 5 Candide 49-96
- 6 Lecture: The Enlightenment
- 7 Candide 96-144
- 10 Romantic Poetry 1-21
- 12 Romantic Poetry 23-39
- 13 Lecture: Romanticism
- 14 Romantic Poetry 63-81, 105-110
- 17 Tolstoy, Happy 13-55; **ESSAY #2 DUE**
- 19 Tolstoy, Happy Ever After 56-97
- 20 Lecture: The Russian Novel
- 21 Tolstoy, The Death of Ivan Ilych
- 24 The Declaration*; "Federalist #10"
- 26 Marx, four readings*
- 27 Lecture: Modern Political Thought
- 28 Arendt, "On the Nature of Totalitarianism"

Conduct

UM policy on honesty: "All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University."

Student Conduct Code: <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>