HUMANITIES 3303: Challenges of Modern Culture

Instructor: Pamela Herron
Semester: Fall 2014
CRN: 14373
Classroom: LART 101
Credits: 3
Office: Worrell 107 (Office may change – watch for announcement)
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E-Mail: pgstover@utep.edu Please note that contact by UTEP email is the best way to reach me.

Texts: See attached e-text list for required reading. Other documents may be posted on Blackboard. In addition students are encouraged to examine texts by Frederick Douglas, Nietzsche, and other relevant works along with poetry by Wordsworth, Keats, Shange, Eliot, Whitman, and Sandburg.

Purpose: This course is an upper-division multi-discipline Liberal Arts survey course which investigates the elaboration of ideas within the frame of Western Culture (the intellectual traditions, events, and personalities associated with European and North American cultures between 1640 and the present). Texts for this course are seminal texts for ideas and concepts vital to the shaping of western cultural institutions and practices. The guiding theme for this course is, “All Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” These words penned by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence helped define the United States. This course will examine influences and texts from both Europe and this country prior to the founding of the US and during its development, then examine how these concepts have been interpreted for people of color, women, those in poverty, immigrants and other disenfranchised groups. Students will examine current policies today and use critical analysis to speculate on future developments for a final project.

Procedure: The course will focus on the assigned texts and may include other assigned articles. These texts will serve as the springboard for individual, small group, and whole class discussion and analysis. Students are also expected to read and analyze current events and other resources for presentation to the class. Please read all assignments thoroughly and carefully, so that others can learn from your interpretations and you can learn from the interpretations of others through class discourse.

Objectives: Students will examine, understand and analyze aspects of development of Western culture. Students will understand and apply knowledge to contemporary issues. Through critical analysis students will examine and analyze historic and contemporary texts and their influence and impact on our culture and its development. Students will further analyze texts and material through class and small group discussion. Students will apply their knowledge to current issues and speculate on future events and dynamics. Students will independently research an aspect of Western culture to present to the class.

Grading Scale: A = 450-500 points; B = 374-449 points; C = 273-373 points, D = 172-272 points; F = 171 points and below

Assignments:
- 10 reflection papers or quizzes on required texts – 25 pts. each. Quizzes are unannounced. Students will bring to class their notes on the assigned texts to be turned in to the instructor. Failure to bring written notes will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. In lieu of reflective papers, the instructor may assign BlackBoard discussions for sets of readings.
- Required short papers/group projects - 75 pts.
- Research, paper and Final Presentation - 150 pts. Final paper at least 1500 words on current topic to be approved by instructor. Bibliography must be included. Students may prepare a PowerPoint for their final project but it is not required.
• Class participation/Portfolio – 25 pts. 3-prong/pocket folder will include all class notes, journal reflections, notes on additional reading and related material. Students are strongly encouraged to read additional material relevant to the course.

Attendance and Participation: Active participation is essential and integral to the course. Lack of participation in class discussion or failure to read/analyze the assigned texts will result in a reduction of points from your papers. Cell phones, computers and all electronic devices will be turned off at the beginning of class. This includes no text messaging. If you must eat in class, please limit your food to a small, quietly consumed snack. Because learning rarely happens in isolation, but from a sharing of ideas and experiences, attendance at every class is mandatory. Since emergencies do arise, two absences will be allowed without penalty; after two absences, you will lose 10 points for each class you miss, regardless of the reason. Students who miss a portion of the class will lose a commensurate number of points. These points will be deducted from the total accumulation of points you have earned by the end of the semester. If you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to contact a CLASSMATE, not the instructor, to get information on what was covered that day and copies of any papers that were passed out. It is assumed that since you signed up for this time slot, you are able to make the class in a timely manner. If you come to class late, points will be deducted from your assigned paper. Make-up papers will be allowed only with a documented excuse (i.e. medical emergency or military duty). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class; those students entering class after roll call are counted tardy; each tardy counts as half an absence. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor at the end of class if you are tardy. Do not assume that I have noted your appearance after roll call is taken. You do not need to contact me if you are going to be absent. Students missing more than 20% of classes (6 classes) will be dropped.

Plagiarism and theft of intellectual property: If you use work from someone else and submit it as your own; if you use work from another source in your assignments and do not give direct credit to your source; or if someone with whom you are working writes/creates any part of the work for you, you are plagiarizing. Acts of plagiarism are acts of theft, and will be dealt with swiftly according to UTEP’s established policy. All assignments will be submitted through SafeAssign on Blackboard to help you with appropriate citation.

Assignments: All out-of-class assignments MUST be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font (10 pt. Arial) with word count identified in the heading, unless otherwise stated along with a bibliography at the end of your paper. A separate page for the bibliography is not required. In some cases I may allow assignments be emailed to me. Do not email assignments unless requested by the instructor. Save a copy of your assignments before you hand them in, as well as keep returned assignments until the end of the semester so you can keep abreast of your grade. Please ensure that you understand the requirements for the assignments before you begin, and give yourself ample time to complete them so that you can turn in your best work. Assignments are due at the beginning of class; those turned in to me after class will be counted as late. If you know you are going to be absent, give it to a classmate to turn in or turn it in early. Please note: Assignments that do not follow the given directions will not be given a passing grade. There are no “redo’s.” Late assignments will lose 5 points per day.

Liberal Arts Honors Program - This class has been designated as a Liberal Arts Honors Program [LAHP] course. It has received this designation because it features at least five of the Honors course criteria, which include student leadership, advanced readings and/or reviews, opportunities for intensive writing, opportunities for intensive research, opportunities to utilize technology, opportunities to make extensive use of campus resources, community-based experiences, pre-professional opportunities, and development of critical thinking. In broader terms, this course is honors-designated because of its creativity and/or intellectual rigor, both of which are integral components of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. No additional coursework is necessary for this course to count towards the LAHP Honors minor. If you are not a member of the LAHP, and are interested in the program, please visit the LAHP website at http://academics.utep.edu/lahp.

UTEP Resources
CASS (Center for Accommodations and Support Services) – If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in the UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Military Student Success Center – If you are active military, a veteran, or a family member of military personnel, please visit the Military Student Success Center in the UTEP University Library Room 205 for help with benefits, registration, and tips for being successful at UTEP. You can also call them at 747-5342, or visit their website at http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=academics.utep.edu/militaryservicesoffice

University Counseling Center – If you are having a difficult time with personal relationships or with college life, please visit the University Counseling Center at the UTEP Union West, Room 202, or contact them at 747-5302, or
visit their website http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/. They provide one on one counseling as well as many helpful workshops.

PLEASE REALIZE AT ALL TIMES THAT YOU ARE PREPARING TO ENTER A PROFESSIONAL CAREER. IN THIS CLASS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO LEARN, BEHAVE, AND DRESS IN THE COURTEOUS, CONSCIENTIOUS, AND GENERALLY BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER CALLED FOR IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

Extra Help: Students may see me by appointment. Help is also available at the UTEP Library Tutoring and Learning Center, 747-5366.

Class Contact:            Class Contact:
Phone Number:            Phone Number:
E-mail:                  E-mail:

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E-mail:                  E-mail:

HUMANITIES 3303: Challenges in Modern Culture SYLLABUS CALENDAR

This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion to meet instructional needs and/or to accommodate time constraints. Bring this syllabus and your assigned readings to class daily. Assignments: The assignments are listed on their due date; reading assignments must be read by the assigned date. Instructor may substitute a reflection paper in place of quizzes which are unannounced.

Wk 1  Introduction to class and review of syllabus. Discussion of nature of final project. Topic selection must be approved by the instructor. Sign up for a presentation date/time before the end of February.

Wk 2   Behn, Aphra. Oroonoko. 1688

Wk 3   Locke, John - “Essay Concerning Human Understanding” 1690
http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/locke/locke1/Essay_contents.html


Sept. 19 Last day to select P/F option.

Wk 4   Jefferson, Thomas – Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution; Federalist Papers
http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/ 1776
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html
http://www.usconstitution.net/jeffwall.html 1787

Federalist Papers. 1787-1788
http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdocs/fedpapers.html

Wk 4 Wed. First Group Project – Connect the Docs – how are these all related and where are we going?

Wk 5   Wollstonecraft, Mary. A Vindication of the Right of Women. 1792
http://www.bartleby.com/144/

http://www.constitution.org/jsm/liberty.htm

Other optional document sources on Slavery and Freedom
http://www.library.pitt.edu/freeatlast/freedom_papers.html
**Wk 6**  Marx, Karl and Engels, Friedrich - *The Communist Manifesto* 1848  

**Wk 7**  Women’s Suffrage documents;  
Truth, Sojourner. “Ain’t I A Woman?” speech Dec. 1851  
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/sojtruth-woman.asp


Women’s Suffrage 1700’s - 1920  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woman%27s_suffrage  
http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/s/susan_b_anthony.html  
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/senecafalls.asp  

Andrews, Rita J. “The Mist of Misogyny”  

http://engagingmen.wordpress.com/2009/04/03/the-rio-declaration/

**Wk 8**  Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *Herland*. 1915  

**Wk 9**  (E-text selection is in English but you are welcome to read it in the original Spanish if you prefer and we can talk about influences and losses in translation. Only this selection from the book is required, not the entire book.)  
Paz, Octavio. *The Labyrinth of Solitude*. 1945  
http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/s/a/sam50/readings521/OP_Mex-Mask.pdf

**Oct. 31 Course Drop Deadline**

**Wk 10**  Beckett, Samuel - *Waiting for Godot*. 1949  
Students are encouraged to watch a production while reading the play. There are several versions available online and on YouTube.  
Part 1 http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xcaMpHbUaJ4  
Part 2 http://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=fvwrel&v=X_gxx2A_X-Q

**Wk 11**  Ellison, Ralph - *Invisible Man (Prologue and Chap 1 only)* and MLK – “I Have A Dream”  
Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. 1952  
King, Jr. Martin Luther King. “I Have a Dream” speech. 1963  
http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkhaveadream.htm  
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the United Nations. Read full text and history.  

**Wk 12**  Presentations

**Wk 13**  Presentations

**Wk 14**  **Portfolios due** /Presentations

**Wk 15**  Presentations. Portfolios returned. Dec. 3 will be our last class meeting. If your grade is acceptable the instructor will determine if you are exempt from the final, in which case your portfolio may count as your final. If you have a grade of C or below you may be required to take the final exam to improve your grade.