

The University of Texas at El Paso
MW10:30 -11:50 am

Humanities 3303 CRN 27106
Liberal Arts Rm. 211

Challenges of Modern Culture: *Revolutions*

Instructor: Ruby A. Montana, MA

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Office hours: Mondays 1:30-3:00 and by appt., Worrell Hall 305

I. Course Description

Recommended Prerequisites: Humanities 3301 or 3302

For thousands of years now, humans have used philosophy, literature, history, etc. to understand and record our world and our experiences within it. These subjects all fit under the greater Humanities umbrella. Awareness and study of the past and present human experience gives us the opportunity to feel a sense of connection to those who have come before us, as well as a deeper meaning to our present day occurrences. This semester, we will focus on intellectually and culturally relevant issues associated with European and North American cultures between 1792 and the present. Texts for this course were selected because they reveal issues and concepts that reveal “revolutions” vital to the shaping of Western cultural beliefs, institutions, and practices. At first glance, our reading list may appear intimidating, but each class session will include the essential dialog to help you succeed in this course. However, I cannot stress enough the importance of setting aside the allotted time necessary to dedicate yourself to the assigned texts. Wikipedia or other such internet conveniences will NOT be reliable substitution for actual reading. The goal of this course is to expose you to some of the influential ideas and works which essentially helped shape not only Western culture as we know it, but very likely some of your own perspectives as well. By thoroughly examining and seeking to understand these texts in their original context, you should begin to see their significance in our modern day world. My goal is that you will leave this semester with a greater understanding of where many commonly held views have stemmed from, while holding a fresh perspective on your surroundings and worldview.

II. Required texts:

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Mark Twain, *Letters from the Earth*

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*

III. Course Requirements

Students in this course will be expected to complete readings before class and participate in class discussions and activities. Grades for the course will be earned by accumulating points in the following manner:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. 10 Pop Quizzes | 20 points each | (200 points total) |
| 2. Assignments | point variation | (200 points total) |
| 3. 3 Exams | 100 points each | (300 points total) |
| 4. 1 Essay | 200 points | (200 points total) |
| 5. 1 Final Presentation | | (100 points total) |

TOTAL POINTS = 1000 divided by 10 = grade

Points will be added together at the end of the semester to receive the following letter grades: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; under 60=F. Cheating will result in an automatic F.

IV. Policies and Procedures

Regular attendance is imperative to your success in the class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to keep up with assigned readings, as it is your responsibility to notify instructor of planned excessive absences. Late homework assignments and late essays will only be accepted if prior arrangements have been made before the day of your absence. Similarly, exams can only be made up if prior notice was given to instructor. No exceptions. Otherwise, I do not need to be notified of absences. However, excessive absences may result in being dropped from the course. Pop quizzes cannot be made up, but there will be extra credit opportunities to make up lost points.

Of significant importance is an understanding that courtesy in the classroom is a requirement. I encourage active discussions and feedback in class, but it should always be done in a respectful manner. Disrespect toward the instructor or other students will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Cell phone and laptop use during lecture is not allowed.

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, not doing one's own work, plagiarism, and unacceptable collusion. Not doing one's own work may involve copying from or providing information to another student, or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as one's own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.

ADA statement As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled

Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office.

V. Calendar (*Subject to change at the instructor's discretion*)

January

22- Course Introduction

27- *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*: Dedication, Introduction, and Chapters 1 and 2

29- Chapters 3 - 4, 6 - 9

February

3- Chapter 13, Sections 2 - 6

5- *Brave New World*, Chapters 1 - 5

10- Chpts. 5 - 11

12- Chpts. 11 - end

17- Philosophy Focus: Plato's *Allegory of the Cave*, Epicurus' *Problem of Evil*

19- *Letters from the Earth*, beginning - Letter VIII

24- Letter VIII - end

26- **Exam I**

March

2- *Slaughterhouse-Five*, One - Three

4- Three - Six

9- Six - Nine

11- Nine - end

16- Spring Break

18- Spring Break

23- *Beloved*, beginning - 51 ("As for Denver, the job Sethe had of keeping her from the past that was still waiting for her was all that mattered.")

25- pg. 51-up to pg. Pg. 86 ("Nothing better than that to start the day's serious work of beating the past.")

30- pgs. 86 - pg. 158 ("Piling itself, burying itself. Higher. Deeper.")

April

1- pgs. 158- pg. 256 (You are mine You are mine You are mine)

6- pgs. 256- end

8- **Exam II**

13- *Between the World and Me*: pgs. I -25 (beginning - “Trayvon Martin must terrify you in a way that he could never terrify me.”)

15- pgs. 25 - end of I (“Trayvon Martin must terrify you in a way that he could never terrify me.” - end of I)

20- II - pg. 111 (II - “The same hands that drew red lines around the life of Prince Jones drew red lines around the ghetto.”)

22- pg. 111 - end (“The same hands that drew red lines around the life of Prince Jones drew red lines around the ghetto.” - end)

27- Film: *BlacKkKlansman* (Dir. Spike Lee)

29- *BlacKkKlansman* (Dir. Spike Lee)

May

4- **Final Presentations begin**

6- **Final Presentations cont’d.**

15- **Final Exam, Essay due** - 10 am - 12:45 pm

****April 3rd- Drop Deadline****