LS 151.80L  Introduction to the Humanities

Paul A. Dietrich                      Fall, 2007
Office: LA 150                        MWF 10:10-11:00
Phone: 243-2805                       DHC 120
Hours: MWF 11-12
& by appointment
4 credits
7:10-8:00 (SS 352)

An introduction to the Western Humanities through an investigation of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, classical Greek civilization, the New Testament and early Christian literature. Topics to be considered include: conceptions of self, family, community, cosmos and the gods; ideas of virtue, wisdom, piety, justice, law, and the state; the nature of the good life, good and evil, and the meaning of suffering; the role of myth, symbol and ritual; conceptions of creation, time, and temporality; varieties of visionary experience and the poetics of change, conversion and metamorphosis; the language of love and desire; imagery of journey and pilgrimage; genres of classical and biblical literatures; idealism, realism, humanism and naturalism.

"A classic is a book that has never finished saying what is has to say. A classic is something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of background noise, but at the same time this background noise is something we cannot do without. (Conversely) A classic is something that persists as a background noise even when the most incompatible momentary concerns are in control of the situation."

Italo Calvino

Course Syllabus

Aug. 27, 29 Introduction. Creation and Covenant in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible: Genesis and Exodus
31 Law (Torah) and Prophets: Amos, Isaiah et al.
Sept. 5, 7 Wisdom (Writings): Love and Suffering in the Song of Songs, Psalms, Job
10, 12, 14 Greek Civilization and Homer’s Epic
17, 19, 21 Separation, Initiation and Return in the Odyssey
24, 26, 28 Songs of War, Love and Honor in Greek Lyric: Archilochus, Sappho, and Pindar
Oct. 1, 3, 5 Midterm Exam
12 The Birth of Tragedy: Greek Drama and Sophocles’ Oedipus Cycle and Euripides’ Medea and the Bacchae
17, 19, 22, Paideia and the School of Athens: Greek Philosophy
24, 26 and Plato’s Dialogues
29, 31, Nov. 2 The New Covenant: Jesus in the Gospels (Luke)
5, 7, 9 Paul’s Letter to the Romans
14, 16, 19 Augustine’s Confessions: The Poetics of Conversion
Nov.21-23  Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov.26,28,30 Augustine, Confessions. Time, Memory and
Dec.3,5,7 Healing
7 Conclusion and Review
10 Final Exam - 8:00-10:00

Required Reading

The New Oxford Annotated Bible (w/Apocrypha) (Coogan, ed.; Oxford)
Homer, The Odyssey (Fagles, tr.; Penguin)
Greek Lyric, (Miller, tr.; Hackett)
Sophocles, Three Tragedies (Oedipus Cycle) (Greene tr.; Chicago)
Euripides, Three Plays (Roche, tr.; Norton)
Plato, Five Dialogues (Grube tr.; Hackett)
Ovid, Metamorphoses (Humphries; Indiana)
St. Augustine, The Confessions (Boulding tr.; Vintage)

Course Requirements

1. Class meetings will be supplemented by weekly plenary lectures
   (attendance required). Written responses (1-2 pages) to selected
   lectures due Friday following lecture. (No late responses)
2. Essay (4-6 pages) responding to biblical materials due Sept.
   21 on "What does it mean to be human in ancient Israel? How are
   understandings of the self (virtue, wisdom, piety) related to
   understandings of the family, the community, and the gods
   (justice, covenant, law)? A revised and enlarged version of your
   essay (6-8 pages) incorporating materials from classical Greek
   civilization will be due Oct.26. The final version of the essay
   including material from the New Testament and St. Augustine will
   be due Dec. 7 (8-10 pages). The final essay will thus compare
   and contrast the various answers to these questions from Genesis
   to the Confessions. No extensions on written assignments.
3. Prompt completion of assigned reading. Quizzes on readings as
   needed. Evidence of plagiarism results in failure of course.
4. Grades will be based on papers and exams; however, attendance
   and participation will be considered in the final grade.
5. Midterm Exam (Wednesday, October 12) and Final Exam (Monday,
   December 10).

"Classics are certain texts, events, images, rituals, symbols and persons (in which we acknowledge) a disclosure of a
reality we cannot but name truth...some disclosure of reality in
a moment of 'recognition' which surprises, provokes, challenges,
shocks, and eventually transforms us; an experience that upsets
conventional opinions and expands the sense of the possible;
indeed a realized experience of that which is essential, that
which endures - the presence of classics in every culture is
undeniable. Their memory haunts us. Their actual effects in our
lives endure and await ever new appropriations, constantly new
interpretations."

David Tracy
LS 151: Introduction to the Humanities

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:00 pm
& by appointment
nathaniel.levtow@umontana.edu

Fall 2007
Section 4
MWF 1:10-2:00
GBB L13
Th 11:10-12:00 (ULH)
or 7:10-8:00 pm (SS352)
4 credits

Welcome to LS 151, Introduction to the Humanities. In this course we will read and discuss a selection of texts from the ancient world. We will devote special attention to classics of the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions. These literary masterpieces are both beautiful and challenging. Together we will explore how their authors encountered and responded to enduring human themes and problems including: God, gods, and goddesses; wisdom, virtue, and justice; fate and human destiny; life and death; friendship and love; the individual and society; weakness and power; war and peace; happiness and suffering; good and evil; myth and history; exile and return; truth and change.

Goals of the course include the development of critical reading skills, through a focus on historical and literary contexts, and the development of writing skills, through a process that will allow me to measure your improvement.

Texts
All required. Please purchase the indicated translations (available at the UM Bookstore):

The Epic of Gilgamesh (Trans. George; Penguin, 2003)
The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV translation); (Oxford, 2001)
Homer, The Odyssey (Trans. Fagles; Penguin, 1996)
Greek Lyric (Trans. Miller; Hackett, 1996)
Sophocles I (Oedipus Cycle) (Trans. Grene; Chicago, 1991)
Plato, Five Dialogues (Trans. Grube; Hackett, 2002)
Ovid, Metamorphoses (Trans. Humphries; Indiana, 1983)

Grading:
1. Attendance and class participation: 15%
2. Quizzes and written responses: 10%
3. Essay #1: 15%; Essay #2: 20%
4. Midterm exam: 20%
5. Final exam: 20%
Class Schedule:

*Note: Our schedule may change as our course develops (dates, assignments, etc.); regular attendance will ensure that you are informed of any changes.

§ 1. Ancient Israel and the Ancient Near East: Gilgamesh and the Hebrew Bible

(Week 1)
M 8/27 Introductions
W 8/29 The Epic of Gilgamesh, tablets I-V (pp. 1-47)
Th 8/30: Plenary Lecture 1: Introduction to the Humanities (Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies)
F 8/31 The Epic of Gilgamesh, tablets VI-XI (pp. 48-99)

(Week 2)
M 9/3 *Labor Day, no class*
W 9/5 Genesis 1-11
Th 9/6: Plenary Lecture 2: The Bible in the University; Intro to the Pentateuch (Nathaniel Levtow, Liberal Studies)
F 9/7 Genesis 12-26

(Week 3)
M 9/10 Genesis 27-35
W 9/12 Exodus 1-15
Th 9/13: Plenary Lecture 3: Prophets and Prophecy (Nathaniel Levtow, Liberal Studies)
F 9/14 Deuteronomy 4-11

(Week 4)
M 9/17 Amos
W 9/19 Isaiah 40-55
§ III. Classical Athens: Sophocles and Plato

W 10/17 Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, pp. 11-46

Th 10/18: Plenary Lecture 8: The Broken Urn: Greek Tragedy (Stewart Justman, Liberal Studies)

F 10/19 Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, pp. 47-76

(Week 9)

M 10/22 Plato, Meno

W 10/24 Plato, Phaedo

Th 10/25: Plenary Lecture 9: Plato and Greek Philosophy (Paul Muench, Philosophy)

F 10/26 Plato, Phaedo

§ IV. The Hellenistic World and Rome: Ovid

(Week 10)

M 10/29 Ovid, Metamorphoses (selections)

W 10/31 Ovid, Metamorphoses (selections)


F 11/2 Ovid, Metamorphoses (selections)
*Quiz on Sophocles, Plato, Ovid*

§ V. Jesus, Paul, and Earliest Christianity: The New Testament

(Week 11)

M 11/5 The Gospel of Mark, 1-8

W 11/7 The Gospel of Mark, 9-16

Th 11/8: Plenary Lecture 11: The Gospels (Tom Lee, Liberal Studies)

F 11/9 Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, 1-8
*Essay # 2 Due*
LS 151 Plenary Lecture Series – Fall 2007

Lectures are given on Thursdays at 11:10 –12:00 in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) and repeated at 7:10-8:00 p.m. in SS (Social Sciences) 352

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<td>1. August 30</td>
<td><em>Introduction to the Humanities</em></td>
<td>Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>2. September 6</td>
<td><em>The Bible in the University</em></td>
<td>Nathaniel Levton, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td><em>and Intro. to the Pentateuch</em></td>
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<td>3. September 13</td>
<td><em>Prophets and Prophecy</em></td>
<td>Nathaniel Levton, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>4. September 20</td>
<td><em>Wisdom Literature &amp; the Writings</em></td>
<td>Tom Lee, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>5. September 27</td>
<td><em>Intro. to Greek Civilization</em></td>
<td>Matthew Semanoff, MCLL</td>
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<td>6. October 4</td>
<td><em>Hero and Antihero in Homer</em></td>
<td>Stewart Justman, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>7. October 11</td>
<td><em>Gender and Sexuality in Greek Lyric</em></td>
<td>Beth Hubble, Liberal Studies</td>
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<td>8. October 18</td>
<td><em>The Broken Urn: Greek Tragedy</em></td>
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<td>9. October 25</td>
<td><em>Plato and Greek Philosophy</em></td>
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<td>11. November 8</td>
<td><em>The Gospels</em></td>
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<td>12. November 15</td>
<td><em>The Letters of Paul</em></td>
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<td>13. November 29</td>
<td><em>Augustine’s Confessions</em></td>
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<td>14. December 6</td>
<td><em>Roman and Early Christian Art</em></td>
<td>Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies</td>
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