

HUM 202
Literature Track
Spring 2005

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Office.hrs: MW 1-2;
Tu 2-3, and by apppt.

The Search for Values in the Light of ...

This course examines a selection of major works of the modern West. We begin at the end of the Enlightenment and the beginning of the Romantic period, and we continue through the modern and postmodern period, looking at, among other things, various cultural responses to industrialization and the rise of consumer capitalism in the 19th and 20th centuries. While our focus will be on literary texts, we will also consider some of the major philosophical and political writings that influenced, and were influenced by, literary works. We will consider the historical context in which these works were produced, the literary and intellectual traditions which they have come to define, and the ways in which the texts speak to each other.

The goals of the course are as follows: to develop an understanding of these texts and their contributions to the western intellectual tradition; to develop skills in critical thinking and writing through discussing and analyzing these texts.

Texts:

Search Packet (SP)

Austen, *Persuasion* (Penguin Classics edition)
DeLillo, *White Noise* (Penguin Putnam edition)
Dostoyevsky, *Notes from Underground* (Dover)
DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Dover)
Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (W.W. Norton)
Guignon, Charles and Derek Pereboom, eds. *Existentialism: Basic Writings*
Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*
Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Bantam Doubleday)
Sartre, *No Exit and Three Other Plays* (Vintage International)
Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Requirements:

Paper #1 (4-6 pages)	25%
Paper #2 (4-6 pages)	25%
Paper #3 (5-7) pages	30%
Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%

I calculate final grades based on the 4.0 scale as described in the Rhodes College catalogue (p. 69).

Participation: This course is a seminar and requires the active and engaged participation of every member of the class. Make sure you read each day's reading carefully and come to class with questions or comments to bring to the discussion. While I encourage you to choose your own moment to enter a discussion, if you haven't contributed in a while, be prepared to be called on.

Quizzes: There will be about 10 unannounced quizzes during the course of the semester to reward careful reading. I will drop the two lowest grades. **Quizzes cannot be made up.**

Policies:

All assigned reading and writing is due at the beginning of the class for which it is assigned unless otherwise noted. Always bring the assigned text (in addition, of course, to paper and pen) to class; repeated failure to do so will cause you to be marked absent. I expect you to be on time to class. Repeated lateness will also cause you to be marked absent.

The schedule of assignments is subject to change as needed, so **if you miss a class, make sure you check with a classmate to get both notes and confirm the next assignment.** Except under extraordinary circumstances, I do not provide lecture notes to students who miss class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to catch up on what you missed from someone in the class.

Late papers will be penalized a third of a letter grade per day. Except in the case of documented illness or family emergency (and by prior arrangement with me), papers more than a week late will receive a failing grade. Under special circumstances I will grant extensions on papers. If you need an extension, please contact me at least one class period before the paper is due.

Informed participation in class discussion is part of the work of the course; thus, more than three absences during the semester will adversely affect your final grade. Failure to complete one or more assignments or to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failing grade for the course.

First Drafts: Since one of the goals of this course is writing effectively, you will be required to hand in a first draft prior to the final due date of each paper (see schedule of assignments). First drafts are not graded; however, a final draft will not be considered complete without a first draft.

Writing workshops: For the first two papers we will spend class time discussing papers written by members of the class. These will be photocopied and the name of the author will be removed. Because of time constraints, not everyone will necessarily have his or her paper discussed. You will receive more guidelines later in the semester.

All work for this class must be done in compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.

Schedule of Assignments (subject to change as needed)

W 1/12: Introductions

Romanticism and Revolution

F 1/14: William Blake: "The Chimney Sweeper;" "London"(handout)

M 1/17: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**

W 1/19: Wordsworth: "Expostulation and Reply," "The Tables Turned," "We Are Seven" "The world is too much with us" (handout)

F 1/21: Edmund Burke, from "Reflections on the Revolution in France"

Mary Wollstonecraft, from "A Vindication of the Rights of Men" **SP**

M 1/24: Kierkegaard, from "Fear and Trembling" in *Existentialism* pp 26-55; 65-6

W 1/26: Austen, *Persuasion*

F 1/28: *Persuasion*

M 1/31: *Persuasion*

W 2/2: *Persuasion*

The Victorian Response to Modernization

F 2/4: Engels, from "The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844" **SP**

Draft of paper 1 due outside my office by 4pm*

M 2/7: Workshop selected drafts

W 2/9: Marx, "Alienated Labor" **SP**

F 2/11: Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

M 2/14: ***Final draft paper 1 due;** begin *Notes from the Underground*

W 2/16: Dostoyevsky, *Notes from Underground*

F 2/18: Dostoyevsky, *Notes from Underground*

M 2/21: Nietzsche, from *The Gay Science* in *Existentialism* pp123-141

W 2/23: Nietzsche, pp 149-171

F 2/25: Wilde, "The Decay of Lying" **SP**

Modernism: Self and the Other

M 2/28: DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

W 3/2: DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

F 3/4: Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

M 3/7: Spring Break

W 3/9: Spring Break

F 3/11: Spring Break

M 3/14: Freud, cont'd

W 3/16: Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

F 3/18: Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

M 3/21: James Joyce, "The Dead" **SP**

Drafts of paper #2 due by 4pm

W 3/23: Workshop selected drafts

F 3/25: **Easter Break**

M 3/28: TBA ***Paper #2 due by 4pm**

After Modernism: Problems of Freedom and Identity

W 3/30: Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

F 4/1: Levi, *Survival*

M 4/4: Levi, *Survival*

W 4/6: Sartre, "No Exit"

F 4/8: Sartre, "The Humanism of Existentialism" in *Existentialism*

M 4/11: de Beauvoir, from *The Second Sex* **SP**

W 4/13: M.L. King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (electronic handout)

F 4/15: DeLillo *White Noise*

M 4/18: *White Noise*

W 4/20: *White Noise*

F 4/22: *White Noise*

M 4/25: *White Noise*

W 4/27: *White Noise*

F 4/30: URCAS (no class)

Final Paper due: during scheduled exam period