

The Western Tradition in the Humanities II
HUMANITIES 212, sections 006 and 011
Fall semester, 2009

Instructor: Wilhelmus

Office: LAC 3040

Telephone: (812) 464-1747

E-mail: twilhelm@usi.edu

Office Hours: Before the 9:00 A.M. class and after the 1:30 P.M. class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The best way to reach me is through email.

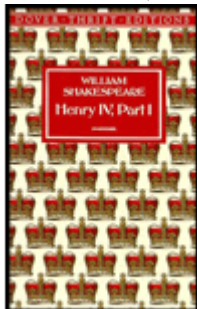
Summary of Requirements: Here's a summary of course requirements explained more fully in the rest of this syllabus.

- You must be able to use Blackboard and have other computer skills.
- There are five required books.
- There are two required exams.
- There may be quizzes.
- There are two required papers.
- You must take and pass with 100% a plagiarism quiz.
- There are three unexcused absences.

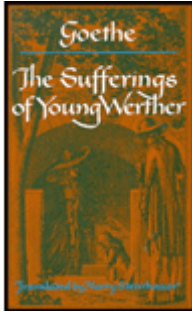
Required Texts



1. Benton and DiYanni, *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities*, Volume 2, Second Edition, Prentice-Hall. Comes with music CD.



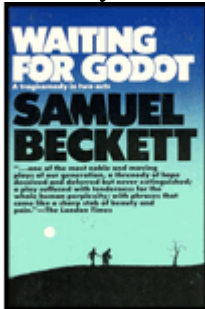
2. William Shakespeare, *Henry IV, Part I*, Dover, ISBN 0486295842.



3. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *The Sufferings of Young Werther*, Norton, ISBN 039309880X.



4. James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Penguin, ISBN 0142437344.



5. Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*, PGW, ISBN 0802130348

Course Description

Humanities 212 is a survey course designed to develop an understanding of Western culture by examining works of literature, the arts, and philosophy from the Renaissance to Modern times. Humanities 212: The Western Tradition in the Humanities II fulfills the second half of the Western Culture component C4 of the University Core Curriculum.

Course Objectives

To follow the development and evolution of Western thought and culture and to explore its relevance to yourself and to your place (and your culture's place) in the modern world. You will learn some important information about your culture's intellectual and artistic past and learn also to evaluate it in ways that are appropriate and relevant to a collegiate education.

Recommendations for successful completion of the course

You are expected to attend the class regularly, participate actively in class discussions, and to have the assigned work and readings done on time. Consult your syllabus often. Keep up with the reading at all times.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required and essential in this course. If you have more than three unexcused absences, you will probably be asked to drop the course. If you must miss class for a valid reason, you should consult with me prior to the absence. After a while, whether you have excuses or not, if you miss too many classes you won't be getting the material and you should drop.

Students with Disabilities Act Compliance

If you have a disability, you are encouraged to register for disability support services in the Counseling Center. If you require an accommodation, please advise me by the end of the first week of class. You may be required to provide written documentation to support these accommodations. I will work with you to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform and participate in class.

Blackboard and Other Online Resources

We will make frequent use of the online learning program Blackboard for posting assignments, updating calendars, and passing on supplementary information. It's expected you will have frequent recourse to a computer and the Internet in order to get this information, checking it at least once a week.

Unfortunately the word processing element in Blackboard is occasionally weak so usually I "attach" files of the documents I create for Blackboard which you then need to open in order to see them as they were created. Usually the best way to read such an attached document properly is to right-click on the link in Blackboard and "Save Document As" and save it to your hard drive or a disk. This approach also facilitates printing. Then open it in MSWord (available on all on-campus computers).

At other times we will make use of items available on the Internet. For example, one resource we'll use frequently both inside and outside of class is a database of images of art works available through the USI Rice Library called ARTstor. The way to get there is to go to the library website, click on databases, click on Art, Music & Theatre, scroll down, and click on ARTstor. Once you're there, click on Go to enter the digital library. Then you can search for artists and their works.

Other Computer Skills

All out-of-class written assignments must be created and then sent to me by email attachment. In addition you should keep a copy of anything you submit in a file on your computer or on a CD or a flash drive in case something you send me does not get through. It is highly desirable that you will use MSWord as your word processing program. Other programs, like MSWorks or Caere WordPerfect are possible, but they create difficulty for both my reading and commenting on your submissions and in getting information back to you.

It is also extremely helpful if you give your document a file name that has your last name, followed by your first name, followed by the section you are enrolled in, followed by the name of the assignment. Thus, the file name might look like this: SmithJohn section 013 paper 1. Such a file would be easy for me to save in the correct place and not get lost. Whenever you email me please include number of the section you are enrolled in.

Note: Because the University now has computers using the 2007 version of Microsoft Word there may be compatibility problems with items on Blackboard which still only recognizes the 1997-2003 version. If you personally use only the earlier version, you may not be able to open documents created in 2007 (There's a patch you can download from the Internet to correct this problem). I've tried to create most of the documents on Blackboard in the earlier version, but if you run into difficulties, let me know.

Attendance/Participation/Extra Credit

I will take attendance and will feel free to call on you and will award you additional credit for good participation. In addition, I will award extra credit for your attending cultural events outside of class or undertaking some additional reading or viewing. Points awarded for such extra credit (up to 10 points per extra-credit experience) will be added directly to the score of the most recent exam. No more than two extra credit submissions will be possible for each exam (i.e. no more than 20 extra points per exam, 40 for the whole semester) would be possible. I have placed guidelines for doing extra credit assignments on the Blackboard site.

Personal Conduct

Turn off your cell phone before you come to class. Use laptops only for taking notes. No instant messaging, twittering, etc. Do not arrive late to class or to exams. It is discourteous to leave the classroom for any reason until class is dismissed, and it is prohibited to do so during an exam. Do not leave early unless you have cleared it with me beforehand. No sleeping. No lengthy comments to your neighbor. Pay attention and respect other peoples' opinions (including your professor's). Laugh at my jokes.

Reading

Two types of reading are required. One is the type of reading that gives you background information, much of which your textbook will supply. In other words, since this is a course in cultural history, you are expected to learn about the historical, political, and intellectual developments of the various periods since the Renaissance and to have a good sense of their placement in a chronology. Generally you will not be required to know specific dates, but knowing a general timeline (When was the Renaissance, the Baroque, the Enlightenment?) will be important. A good sense of geography (especially European) would be helpful as well.

The other kind of reading, sometimes called "close" reading, is the type of nuanced, thoughtful, inquisitive, and imaginative reading that goes with mastering a literary text, understanding a painting in depth, thinking through the philosophical implications of an idea, etc. In the time allotted we can only begin to approximate this kind of reading and analysis this semester. Nonetheless, gaining practice in "reading" a painting, sculpture, work of architecture or music "closely" should be one of your goals.

Study Time

It used to be said that for a serious academic course one should study three hours out of class for every hour in class. By that measurement, a course that meets for three hours during the week should generate about nine additional hours in study time. Although I doubt that everyone will rise to that standard, reading and thinking about what you've read, reviewing your notes and trying to remember what you've heard in class might require more time than you think. Study well and study productively no matter what the time involved.

Papers

The ability to turn the thoughts and ideas from class into clear, understandable prose is an important part of any type of college learning. Simply stated it's hard to say that you "know" anything until you can write about it in ways that make that knowledge clear to your professors and to your fellow students. Such writing entails more than just knowledge of facts. It requires being able to put information to use as part of a coherent discussion or persuasive argument. Therefore, one of the on-going goals of your education should be deepening and extending the skills you developed in your English courses and using them in classes like this one. Such skills should be demonstrated not only in the essay answers you write on exams but also in papers and other outside written assignments.

In this class, you will need to write two papers during the semester—one before midterm and the other after. Each should be around 2,500 words plus the Works Cited page. Topics will come from the Benton and DiYanni general text or from one of the other four books that are assigned. Specific topics for each paper will be posted on the Blackboard site. There is also a "Guide to Writing Papers" and a "Sample Paper" on Blackboard

which you should read regarding the kind of things you should know about writing papers.

Papers must be turned in before or at the beginning of class on the date they are due (stated in the course calendar). Since they will be turned in electronically, by email attachment, any that are turned in after the proper time (9:00 A.M. for the morning class, 1:30 P.M. for the afternoon class) will be considered late. Late papers will have their grades reduced by one letter grade per day past the initial deadline.

Always put your name, my name and the course section number on what you turn in. It would also be helpful for you to put your local myUSI email address on the first page of your paper so I can return it to you easily when it's time. See the "Guide to Writing Papers" and sample paper on the Blackboard site.

Plagiarism

Important information about giving proper credit to sources you use in developing your written assignments is also provided in the "Guide to Writing Papers." In addition, you should read the following information about plagiarism carefully:

The following is quoted from The University of Southern Indiana publication Student Rights and Responsibilities (2004, p. 7):

A student must not intentionally adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without acknowledgment. A student must give due credit to the originality of others and properly reference the following:

1. Quoting another person's actual words;
2. Using another person's ideas, opinion, or theory;
3. Borrowing facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

Plagiarism is literary burglary. At its worst it involves an outright intent to deceive, to pass off another's work as a student's own. Like other crimes, plagiarism occurs in degrees. Plagiarism in the first degree involves outright theft. First-degree plagiarism carries a minimum penalty of failure for the plagiarized assignment and a maximum penalty of four years [suspension]—your college career.

Tutorial on Plagiarism—REQUIRED

“Plagiarism Court” is an online tutorial on plagiarism and how to avoid it provided by Fairfield University. You can find it on the Internet at this link:

http://www.fairfield.edu/lib_plagiarismcourt.html (choose the flash version).

The site contains both a tutorial and a quiz. I would like you to read the explanations and take the quiz until you master it with 100%. When you've achieved this result, I'd like you to email me saying that you've done so. I only need your assurance. I don't need to see the quiz. Your achieving this goal is a requirement of this class and must be completed before you turn in the first paper.

Penalties

The penalty for plagiarism for an assigned paper in my class is failure on that assignment. The grade recorded will be a zero. That's for the first instance. If there is a subsequent instance, the penalty is failure in the class and a report filed with the Dean of Students.

Help with Your Writing

The following statement comes from the Academic Skills office and describes assistance you can receive in working on your papers:

The Writers' Room (ED 1102) has peer writing consultants available to help all USI students with any writing project for any class. In the one-to-one sessions, consultants help students become aware of effective writing processes and strategies while providing feedback at any stage of the writing process. Some areas a student might focus on during a session include brainstorming, revising, writing a thesis statement, organizing ideas, citing, or using language effectively and correctly. Appointments and more information about our free services are available by calling 461-5359.

Tests

There will be two exams in the class—i.e. a midterm and a final. The midterm will correspond to the material covered to that point in the semester only. The final examination will cover information since the midterm but will also contain some questions covering the whole semester. Exams will often include short answer, identification and analysis (of art works, music, and passages from the readings) as well as essay answers. You cannot pass this class unless you complete all the exams and write both of the required papers.

Always put your name, my name, the course number, and the course section number on what you turn in.

Quizzes

Particularly at the beginning of the semester, I may give brief quizzes so see how well you're learning. The scores from these quizzes will NOT be calculated in your grade, but a consistently good performance will help your "participation" score in the class. Quizzes will also give you some idea about what to study and how you are doing in the class. Poor success on quizzes might lead you to consider whether you should continue.

Grades

Overall, papers and tests will be weighed equally and graded on a scale of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. Blackboard contains a utility that automatically turns an assigned letter grade into a point score in order to calculate an average. These grades differ from the current USI grading system by including minus grades as well as pluses. Nonetheless, Blackboard's "gradebook" automatically distinguishes between a plus, a straight letter grade, and a minus, and as a result you'll be able to see clearly where you stand. At the end of the semester, I'll award final grades based upon the USI system. Remember also, however, that extra credit points will be added to test scores, and you may receive a boost up at the end of the semester if I've observed that you've participated well.

On tests I'll arrive at the letter grade by using a 100-point scale and dividing accordingly (90-100 an A, 80-89 a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D), but since this isn't a math class, the numbers I assign—particularly to essay questions—will reflect my estimation of how well you've understood the material question and answered it.

You must attempt ALL of the course requirements to pass this class. Occasionally a student arrives at the end of the semester and finds that he or she has missed turning in a paper or an exam and still would like for me to calculate their final grade on the other work they have turned in. I won't do that. Failure to turn in even one of the assignments (even if it was going to receive a failing grade anyway) is grounds for failing the class all on its own. Nor do I assign an "Incomplete" grade at the end of the semester if the work that's missing is an exam. I will consider an incomplete for a missing paper but only if the reasons for doing so are good ones. I especially will not assign an Incomplete if the student and I haven't spoken about why it is reasonable to do so.

Calendar

The calendar of readings for the class is a separate document under the Blackboard Syllabus tab, not under the Blackboard Calendar tab. Also, remember that this calendar of readings or other course activities may change from time to time. I'll announce such changes when they occur, but the calendar on Blackboard should also be up to date.