

Humanities 324.001  
The Modern World  
M-F 10:15-12:45 NH 012

Dr. Uldricks  
Summer (T1) 2009

## SYLLABUS

### REQUIRED READING:

Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., vols. 4, 5 & 6 (F4-F6 below)  
*The Asheville Reader: The Modern World*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (AR below)  
Lewis, *Crisis of Islam*  
Wright, *Black Boy*  
Zamiatin, *We*  
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience* (extra credit)  
Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows* (extra credit)

### INTRODUCTION:

The Humanities program is a four semester sequence of courses required of all students. The functions of the sequence as an all-university requirement are to refine the student's powers of critical reading, writing and thinking, and to develop his or her sense of historical perspective, while engaging him or her in the scrutiny of important human problems. The Humanities courses investigate ideas and values in the contemporary world and in the history of civilization from an interdisciplinary perspective. They draw materials from the areas of history, literature, religion and speculative thought, and, to a lesser extent, from the fine arts, natural sciences and social sciences. The courses rely heavily on the interpretation of primary sources and works of art. The student is given the opportunity to discuss his ideas, write frequently and engage in critical thinking.

The general subject of Humanities 324 is the Modern World, with the impact of science on all aspects of modern life as one of its principle themes. The course will also deal extensively with modern ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, fascism, racism, etc.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be a mid-term examination on June 18<sup>th</sup> and a final examination on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. These will be essay tests; bring a blue book to each examination. An essay on themes of alienation in *Black Boy* [southern nights section only] is due June 23<sup>rd</sup>. An essay on "Elements of Totalitarianism in Zamiatin's *We*" is due July 1<sup>st</sup>. These papers should be from four to six typed, double spaced pages in length. Students should read the daily assignments **BEFORE** coming to class, and should be prepared to **PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY** in class discussions.

Examinations must be taken and papers turned in the assigned day or substantial grade penalties will result. All papers must be submitted in hard copy only (no e-mail). The grade of "Incomplete" will be given only in exceptional (and well documented) circumstances. Attendance at **ALL** class meetings is required. Missing more than one class will result in a grade penalty. Cheating or plagiarism will result in failure of the course. In determining course grades the two essays and the midterm exam count 20% each and the final exam 40%.

OFFICE HOURS:

M - W 3:30-4:30  
and by appointment

NH 206  
251-6620; FAX 251-6820  
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COURSE OUTLINE:

June 8 – Introduction & the Scientific Revolution  
F4, 75-93; AR 2-25

9 – The Enlightenment  
F4, 95-113; AR 43-75 & 122-134

10 – Cont'd.  
F4 118-122, 132-137

11 – The Development of Liberalism  
AR 26-36, 236-245 & 262-267

12 – The Neo-Classic and Romantic Movements  
F4, 139-166 & F5 1-69, AR136-142, 152-154

15 – The American and French Revolutions  
F4, 137-139; AR 76-94, 103-112, 175-180 & 230-235

16 – Cont'd.

17– Industrialization and the Marxist Response  
F4, 102-103, & F5, 71- 108  
AR 246-261 & 277-289

18 – MID-TERM EXAM

19 – Women and the Quest for Universal Suffrage  
F5, 81-82; AR 186-201, 213-217, 222- 228, 273-276

22 – Racism and the Struggle for Civil Rights  
F4, 114-118; AR 113-118, 181-185, 202-212 , 218-221, 344-349,  
360-366, 367-375  
Wright, *Black Boy*

- 23 – The Native American Experience  
AR 304-10, 311-14, 315-20, 339-42  
ALIENATION ESSAY DUE
- 24 – Darwin and the Theory of Evolution  
F5, 25-28; AR 382-390
- 25 – Imperialism  
F5, 73-77; AR 296-298, 321-338
- 26 – Responses to Imperialism: China, Japan & Ottoman Turkey  
AR 119-121, 321-326 & 327-332  
Lewis, *Crisis of Islam*  
Tanizaki (extra credit)
- 29 – World War I, Freud & the European Crisis of Consciousness  
F6, 26-35 & 49-56; AR 441-446 & 456-460  
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience* (extra credit)
- 30 – The Rise of Communism & Fascism in the Interwar Years  
F6, 54-65; AR 461-474, 480-487 & 497-502  
Zamiatin, *We*
- July1 – World War II, the Holocaust and the Existentialist Response  
F6 60-65; AR 513-521  
TOTALITARIANISM ESSAY DUE
- 2 – Modernity and Modernism  
F5, 93-139, F6 1-26, 35-49 & 78-91; AR 424-434
- 3 – FINAL EXAMINATION