

HUMANITIES 414 : *The Individual in the Contemporary World*
UNC Asheville –Summer 2009

“Of all animals, man is the greatest in his intellect, art and compassion for others. He is also the worst and cruelest.” (Aristotle, Politics Book 1)

Instructor: Professor Seamus McNerney
232-2437
New Hall 207

Prerequisites: 75 credit hours, HUM 124, 214, 324

Course Objectives:

The course is intended to help students refine their understanding of the issues confronting the individual and society today, more specifically

To familiarize students with major trends in the development of Western civilizations; with aspects of the development of other cultures; and with human accomplishments which are both noteworthy and representative.

- To develop awareness of the validity of different perspectives, and to go beyond relativism to appreciate underlying human values.
- To understand the concept of "community" and to realize the ways in which individuals both develop, and are developed by, their communities; to question social conventions critically and responsibly; and to realize the effects of one's decisions upon the community.
- To realize the presence and role of power-structures throughout history, and to understand their effects upon human development

Grading:

Daily Questions/Observations—40%
Midterm-----30%
Final-----30%

Attendance: Forty percent of your overall grade is based on class discussion. Attendance is absolutely essential. No absences.

As students, you will lead the discussion of the day's assigned materials by asking thoughtful, substantive questions or by offering meaningful observations from the readings. Because this constitutes forty percent of your grade, attendance is essential. Be very careful...

Required Texts:

The Individual in the Contemporary World, eds. Campbell, Chapman
Ginsberg—Howl
Agresto—Mugged by Reality
Baudrillard--Simulations

SUMMER REQUIRED READINGS:

All readings are to be completed before class.

Monday June 8—Course Introduction/The Cold War

Tuesday June 9—The Cold War Cold War Era

Azukiwe, Nnamdi, "A Denunciation of European Imperialism." (AR) pp. 32-37

Eisenhower, Dwight D, "Farewell Radio and Television Address to the American People." (AR) pp.148-152

Wednesday June 10-- Human Rights, Ethics and Social Justice

Rawls, John, "The Main Idea in the Theory of Justice." (AR) pp.361-367

Sontag, Susan, "Regarding the Torture of Others." (available on e-reserve and free online)

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (AR) pp.448-453

UN Universal Declaration of Women's Rights (AR) pp.454-458

Glendon, Mary Ann, "The Land of Rights." (AR) pp.172-187

Agosin, Marjorie, "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo." (AR) pp. 9-12

Thursday June 11—Human Rights Continued

Friday June 12-- Immigration and Cultural Intersections

Erdrich, Louise, "The Buffalo Prayer." (AR) pp.153-154

Alexie, Sherman, "I Hated Tonto (Still Do)." (AR) pp. 13-16

Achebe, Chinua, "Dead Men's Path." (GF) pp. 131-133

Cisneros, Sandra, "No Speak English." (GF) p.137

Lalami, Laila, "The Trip." (AR) pp.239-247

Monday June 15-- Civil Rights/Black Protest Thought

Malcolm X, "Message to the Grassroots." (GF) pp. 101)

Malcolm, X, "The Ballot or the Bullet." (available on e-reserve and free online)

King, Martin Luther, "Letter From the Birmingham Jail." (AR) pp.214-228

Walker, Alice, "Elethia." (GF) pp.103-4

Baldwin, James, "Notes From a Native Son." (AR) pp. 38-55

Randall, Dudley, "The Ballad of Birmingham." (AR) pp.353-354

Tuesday June 16—Continued

Wednesday June 17-- Islam

Rauf, Imam Feisal Abdul, "America: A Shariah-Compliant State." (AR) pp.355-360

D'Souza, Dinesh, "The Land of the Free." (AR) pp.132-137

Qutb, Sayyid, "Social Justice in Islam." (AR) pp.344-352

Baudrillard, Jean, "L'esprit du Terrorisme." (AR) pp. 69-77

Thursday June 18—Continued from above

Friday June 19—MIDTERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Gender and Identity

Unknown, "The Rape of Mr. Smith." (AR) pp.459-460
Sanchez, Sonya, "Woman." (GF) pp. 113
Angelou, Maya, "Phenomenal Woman." (AR) pp. 29-31
Anne Sexton, "Self In 1958." (GF) pp.112

Monday June 22 Representation and Reality

Jean Baudrillard—*Simulations—Entire text*
Borges, Jose-Luis, "The Anthropologist." (AR) pp. 86-88

Tuesday June 23—Continued from above

Wednesday June 24-- Postmodern Culture

Anderson, Walter, "What's Going on Here?" (AR) pp. 18-28
Kuhn, Thomas, "Scientists and their Worldviews." (AR) pp.229-238

Thursday June 25—Art and Music

Miller, Paul, "Sonic Sculpture." (AR) pp.278-284
**Ginsberg,Allen--Howl
Musical Selections (tba)
Adorno, Theodor, "Culture Industry Reconsidered." (AR) pp. 1-8

Friday June 26—Continued from above

Monday June 29— : Environmental Ethics

Leopold, Aldo, "Thinking Like a Mountain." (AR) pp.248-250
Deen, Mawil Y, Izzi (Samarrai), "Islamic Environmental Ethics. Law and Society." (AR) pp.112-122
Garrett Hardin—"Tragedy of the Commons" (AR pp 188-203)
Patrick Dobel "The JC Stewardship of Nature" (AR pp 123-132)

Tuesday June 30--***Mugged By Reality—John Agresto—Chapters 1, 3-7, 9*

Wednesday July 1—Continued from above

Thursday July 2-- Martha Nussbaum—"Citizens of the World—(AR pp 288-306)
Schumacher, E,F, "The Greatest Resource-Education." (AR) pp.395-412

Friday July 3—Wrap up

FINAL PAPER IS DUE ON TUESDAY, JULY 8