

HUMANITIES 214
THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

M 11:25-12:35 (HLH)
TR 10:50-12:00 (NH 118)
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4.0 sem. hrs.

Ext. 6349

Course Description

Humanities 214 is the second in the series of four Humanities courses which form the core of the liberal education offered by UNCA. This course examines the ideas, values, and world-views of the medieval and Renaissance periods, beginning with the fall of Rome and ending with the Scientific Revolution. Course prerequisites include Language 101.

Objectives

- Improve your critical abilities in reading, thinking, writing, and discussion;
- Recognize and evaluate differing values and world-views, both past and present;
- Increase your empathy for and understanding of people from different cultures and backgrounds;
- Become acquainted with different ethical values and to make your own reasoned judgments about ethical problems and issues;
- Develop the ability to see the connections between different disciplines and methods of analysis.

This course requires a great deal of reading, much of which is difficult and may require re-reading two or three times.

Attendance

Attendance in class and for the large Monday lectures is expected! The material covered in the course and the structure of this class are focused on what takes place in the classroom. Attendance, completion of reading and writing assignments, and active participation are of paramount importance. Your questions and input in class are important for your own intellectual growth and education, and these benefit your fellow student (as well as your grade). You are all adult learners and will be treated as such when it comes to attending class, keeping-up with the readings, and so on. Excessive absence (three or more) will result in a lower letter grade and will be dealt with on an individual basis. Normally one letter grade is deducted for each three classes missed (three absences means that the highest grade possible is a B, six absences means that the highest grade possible is a C, etc.). A student's grade can be severely (and negatively) impacted by not attending class. Absence does not excuse a student from the material covered in class. If you will be absent for some reason, courtesy suggests that you notify me prior to being absent. **ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT FOR THE TESTS (2/24 and 3/26) AND EXAM (WEDNESDAY 5/6, 11:30 TO 2:00).** True emergencies, e.g. hospitalization, car accidents, do happen, but these will need to be documented. No make-up tests or exams will be given. If a student misses a test or

exam, for whatever reason, he/she will earn a “0” for the test or exam. All work for this course, with the exception of the final exam, must be in my hand before the beginning of the last class.

For the Monday common lecture the following is expected. Prior to the lecture you should access the lecture outline on the Humanities web site (UNCA web page – current students – academic departments – Humanities – Humanities 214 – Spring 09 lecture series), printout the outline, and bring it with you to the lecture. During the lecture you should sit in the area assigned to our class, take notes from the lecture, and be prepared to answer test questions based on the lecture.

For the regular classes on Tuesday and Thursday, you need to bring the books containing the readings for the day and a notebook in which to jot down notes.

Grade

The final grade will be determined based upon the following: class participation (15% of final grade); attendance and report on three cultural events (5% of final grade – written reports are due the last days of February, March, and April); test on 2/24 (20% of final grade); test on 3/26 (20% of final grade); two papers (minimum five pages each) one of which is due 2/19 (5% of the final grade) and the other of which is due 4/14 (5% of the final grade); and a final comprehensive exam on 5/6 (30% of final grade). The papers will have one letter grade deducted for each day that they are late; neither paper will be accepted if it is turned in after the beginning of the last class.

Academic Honesty

“Any act of plagiarism or cheating is academic dishonesty. A person who knowingly assists another in cheating is likewise guilty of cheating. According to the instructor’s view of the gravity of the offense, a student may be punished by a failing grade or a grade of zero for the assignment or test, or a failing grade in the course. If it seems warranted, the instructor may also recommend to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs dismissal or other serious University sanction” (*UNCA Catalog, 2008-09*, p. 36).

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities should contact Ethan Fesperman in the Disability Services Office at 232-5050 <efesperm@unca.edu>. This office will then notify me concerning necessary accommodations.

Office Hours:

Normally I am in my office Mondays 10-11 and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00. Other times are by appointment.

Grade Scale:

A (= 94 and above); **A-** (=90-93), **B+** (=87-89), **B** (=83-86), **B-** (=80-82), **C+** (=77-79), **C** (=73-76), **C-** (=70-72), **D+** (=66-69), **D** (=60-65), **F**=below 60.

A really means outstanding; **B** is solidly good, better than usual; **C** means ordinary, what most people routinely do; **D** is unsatisfactory, sloppy, careless; **F** indicates that the work

is significantly deficient. Participation includes, but is not limited to the following: 1) evidence of having done the readings on time; 2) completion of all assignments on time; 3) attention and openness in class discussion; and 4) active contributions to the class discussions, especially those contributions which indicate that the student has read and mastered the reading assignments. Students will be expected to purchase index cards on which they will write answers for quizzes based on the reading assignments. At the end of the semester these quizzes will be factored into the student's participation grade.

TEXTS: *The Humanistic Tradition*, vol. 2, 3, and 4, Fiero
 The Asheville Reader: The Medieval and Renaissance World [AR]
 Utopia, More
 The Song of Roland
 The Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali
 Othello

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Weeks 1- 2 1/14 – 1/16 Intro/Review
 Fiero vol. 2, ch. 8

 1/19 – 1/23 **MLK Holiday/No Common Lecture**
 Fiero, vol 2, ch. 9, AR: Procopius (16-27), *Muqaddimah*
 (electronic text), AR: Ibn Khaldun (140-47)

Week 3- 1/26 – 1/30 Community and Authority in the Medieval West (Gillum)
 AR: Benedict (2-15), Einhart (28-36), Fiero, vol. 2, ch. 11, *Book of Kings*
 Excerpt (electronic text)

Week 4- 2/2 – 2/6 Islam and The Muslim World (Downes)
 Fiero, vol. 2, ch. 10, “Conflict Between Faith and Science in the Middle
 Ages” (electronic text)

Week 5- 2/9 – 2/13 Science, Religion, and the Rise of the University (Wilson)
 Fiero, vol. 2, ch. 12. AR: Aquinas (107-13), The Medieval Church (72-
 79); *Magna Carta* (pp. 80-83),

Week 6- 2/16 – 2/20 Peace and War for the Glory of God: Cathedrals and Crusades
 (Dunn)
 Fiero, vol. 2, ch. 13, assorted Crusades readings (electronic text); *The
 Song of Roland*
 Paper 1 is due on 2/19

Week 7- 2/23—2/27 From Xian to Kyoto: the Cultural Heritage of Asia (Ho)
 Fiero, vol. 2, ch. 14, pp. 152 – 170, AR: Sei Shonagon (172-183)
 Assorted poetry: Tu Fu/Li Po (electronic texts) (report, Chinese
 Footbinding and Hindu Sati).
 Test I on 2/24

- Week 8-** 3/2 – 3/6 Medieval India (Maitra)
Fiero vol. 2, ch. 14, (pp. 144 – 51), assorted readings (electronic texts)
- Week 9-** 3/9 – 3/13 **Spring Break/No Classes**
- Week 10-** 3/16 – 3/20 Best Selling Authors, Cross Dressing Warrirs, and Other Uppity Women of the Middle Ages (Ho)
Fiero, vol. 3, ch. 15. AR: Hildegard and Marie de France (38-57); Christine de Pisan (117-23); beginning of European Renaissance; Fiero, vol. 3, ch. 16
- Week 11-** 3/23 – 3/27 European Renaissance: Humanism and Art (Gillum)
Fiero, vol. 3, ch. 17. AR: Nogarola, Machiavelli (188-209); Vasari, Michelangelo (pp. 188-209), Cellini
TEST 2 on 3/26
Last Day to Withdraw with a W: March 25
- Week 12-** 3/30 – 4/3 Reformations (Ettari)
Fiero, vol 3, ch. 19; AR: Grumbach (217-20), Calvin (256-66) (report, Luther on the Jews);
- Week 13-** 4/6 – 4/10 Counter-Renaissance and *Othello* (Dunn)
Othello excerpts, Fiero vol. 4, ch. 22; More, *Utopia*
- Week 14-** 4/13 – 4/17 African Cultural Spheres (Traboulsi)
Fiero, vol. 3, ch. 18 (African section, 85-103). AR: Al Omari, Pires, Affonso of Congo (150-62), *Sundiata*
Paper 2 is due on 4/14
- Week 15-** 4/20 – 4/24 The Americas: To the 1600s (Pearson)
Fiero, vol. 3, ch. 18, pp. 103-120. AR: Columbus and Poma (350-71), Montaigne “Of Cannibals” (296-306)
- Week 16-** 4/27 – 5/1 Counter Reformation, Royal Absolutism & the Baroque (Sousa)
Fiero vol. 4, ch. 21 AR: Mornay (278-85), and Elizabeth I (267 – 77)
- Week 17-** 5/4 Where have we been? Where are we? Where are we going?: The Ebb and Flow of Empires (Dunn)

EXAM: 5/6; 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.