

HUMANITIES 324 "The Modern World"

Seamus McNerney

SPRING 2009

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Course Description:

I). "And that **all men** may be restrained from invading others' rights, and from doing hurt to one another, and the Law of Nature be observed, which willeth the Peace and Preservation of all Mankind..."

(John Locke 1690)

II). "The terms and concepts associated with right and wrong, good and evil, success and failure, are impossible when applied to **one man** who is a destiny." (Joseph Goebbels 1945)

For the next 4 weeks, we will examine the philosophical, literary, artistic and historical circumstances that inform the above quotes. Our course begins with the Scientific Revolution and culminates with the Holocaust. Our goal is to reach an understanding of how these two seemingly disparate observations are at all possible.

Structure/Attendance: Classes run roughly 70 minutes. Friday is the main group lecture in Lipinsky at 11:25 You are allowed **2 unexcused absences for the semester**. This includes the Friday main group lectures.

**** Unexcused absences result in the lowering of your overall grade by one letter grade per absence.**

Do not get up and leave in the middle of class. It is rude and distracting and causes difficulties for students with learning disabilities.

--**Cell Phones/Pagers:** Don't bring them to class. It is rude and disruptive..

--**Readings:** Every student is expected to have completed the readings for the week listed. If a class is cancelled, it is assumed that the relevant readings have been completed. Because of the sheer enormity of the amount of material we will cover, it is your responsibility to strictly adhere to the reading schedule **even though some material will not be covered in class!**

Grading: You will be appraised on the following grading system--

*THREE PAPERS	75%
*Class Participation/Cultural Events/Daily Questions	25%
Standard A-F grading with plus/minus	

Expectations: This is a 300 level course. Each student is expected to produce writing and in-class discussion correspondent with this level of instruction. Now that you have experienced Humanities 124 and 214, it is expected that your background informs our discussion of this specific period. In other words, I expect a certain degree of understanding and knowledge drawn from your previous humanities courses. This is utterly essential to the topics at hand.

Snow: If a paper is due on a day that class is cancelled due to inclement weather, IT IS DUE the next class period. If a paper is due for a class that is delayed due to a late start, the paper is still due that day. Be reasonable about making it to class on bad days.

Plagiarism: Unacceptable. Any work submitted that is suspect will be graded with an F. Also, any student engaging in plagiarism will be graded with an F for the course and referred to the Chancellor's office. If you are uncertain about the defining features of plagiarism, please speak with me.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED: Any incomplete work (that is, not turning in a paper, a cultural event or attending the final exam) will result in the grade of **F** for the course, regardless of previous academic standing.

Terms of this syllabus are subject to alteration/suspension upon the instructor's judgement

Core Readings and Lecture Sequence
HUM 324 CORE SYLLABUS – SPRING 2009
John McClain

Required texts:

- Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition*, vols. 4-6, 5th edition (F4-F6 below)
- Jun ichirō Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows*
- Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays*
- Sigmund Freud—Future of an Illusion .
- The Asheville Reader: The Modern World*, 2nd edition (AR below)

-Fiero Readings are indicated by F4-F6. Readings in *The Asheville Reader* are indicated by AR.

Core Readings and Lecture Sequence
January 14: Wednesday: classes begin; introduction to course

- 1) January 16: “Science and the Enlightenment” – McClain/Spellman
F4, 75-83
Galileo Galilei, from “The Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina” (AR: 2-8)
Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (AR: 59-66)
John Locke, from *Two Treatises on Government* (AR 26-36)
Adam Smith, from *The Wealth of Nations* (AR: 68-75)
- 2) January 23: “Enlightenment and Liberalism: Rights and Revolution” --Pearson
Thomas Jefferson, The Declaration of Independence (AR 76-81)
James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, from *The Federalist Papers*(AR 85-90)
Jean Jacques Rousseau, from *The Social Contract* (AR 50-58)
National Assembly of France, Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen (AR 91-94)
Edmund Burke, from *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (AR 103-112)
Simon Bolivar, Message to the Congress of Angostura (AR 230-235)
- 3) January 30: “Industrialization, Romanticism, Alienation” -- McClain/McNerney
F4, 102-103; F5, 77-81
(Our Marx reading is an excerpt from the “Manifesto” in Fiero)
John Stuart Mill, from *On Liberty* (AR: 262-267)
Alexis de Tocqueville, from *Democracy in America* (AR: 236-245)

- 4) February 6: "Slavery and American Freedom" -- Judson
 F4, 114-118
 Benjamin Benneker, Letter to Thomas Jefferson and Jefferson's Response (AR: 113-118)
 Olaudah Equiano, from *The Life of Olaudah Equiano ...* (AR: 181-185)
 Frederick Douglass, from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (AR: 206-212) Booker T. Washington, "Address at the World's Fair in Atlanta" (AR: 344-349) W.E.B. DuBois, from "Strivings of the Negro People" (AR: 360-366)
 Marcus Garvey, "Negro Progress Postulates Negro Government" "The World as It Is: Insulting Negro Womanhood" "The World as It Is: The Internal Prejudices of Negroes" "Let the Negro Accumulate Wealth: It Will Bring Him Power" (AR: 367-375)
- 5) February 13: "Native American Experience" -- Pearson
 Simon Pokagon, from "The Future of the Red Man" (AR: 304-310)
 Zitkala-Sa, "Why I am a Pagan" (AR: 311-314)
 Ohiyesa, from *The Soul of the Indian* (AR: 315-320)
 Black Elk, Lakota Government (interview) (AR: 339-342)
- 6) February 20: "Woman Suffrage in America" – Campbell
 F5, 81-82
 Abigail Adams, "Letter to John Adams" (AR 170-174)
 Sojourner Truth "A'nt I a Woman? and "Address to the First Annual Meeting of the American Equal Women Rights Association" (AR: 218-221)
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton et al., "Declaration of Sentiments" (AR: 213-217)
 Susan B. Anthony, from *The Declaration Rights for Women* (AR: 273-276)
- 7) February 27: "Darwin and Darwinis(s) – Weber and Payne
 F5, 25-27, 73-75
 Charles Darwin, from *The Origin of Species* (AR: 382-390)
 Vladimir Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (AR: 333-338)
- 8) March 6: "Islam and the Modern World" – Payne
 The readings for the week are on electronic reserve in the library AND on the HUM 324 lecture outline as posted on the HUM web site.
- 9) March 13: Spring Break
- 10) March 20: "WW 1 and the European Crisis of Consciousness" – Uldricks/Nallan
 F6, 26-30, 49-54
 FREUD-Future of an Illusion(entire text)
 Carl Jung, from *The Spiritual Problem of Modern Man* (AR: 441-446)
 Olive Schreiner, from *Trooper Peter Halket of Mashonaland* (AR296-298)
- 11) March 27: Annual Spring symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creativity (no classes)
- 12) April 3: "Enlightening China and Japan: Western Imperialism in Asia" – Ho
 F5, 75-77
 Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows*
 Emperor Ch'ien-lung "Letter to King George III (AR: 119-121)
 Ito Hirobumi, from *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (AR: 327-332)
 Mahatma Gandhi, from *Indian Home Rule* (AR: 321-326)

- 13) April 10: "Modernity and Modernism" -- Hobby/McNerney
F5, 93-137; F6, 1-25, 35-48, 78-89
Gertrude Stein, "Picasso" (AR: 424-427)
Franz Kafka, "A Country Doctor" (AR: 428-434)
Friedrich Nietzsche, from *Beyond Good and Evil* (AR: 414-423)
- 14) April 17: "Fascism in the Interwar Years and ... Beyond" -- McClain
F6, 54-65
John Maynard Keynes, from *The End of Laissez-Faire* (AR: 470-474)
Benito Mussolini, from *The Political and Social Doctrine of Fascism* (AR: 480-487)
Adolf Hitler, from *Mein Kampf* (AR: 461-469)
Hannah Arendt, from *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (AR: 497-502)
Christopher Isherwood, from *The Berlin Stories* (electronic reserve, library and HUM 324 web site outline)
- 15) April 24: "WW 2, the Holocaust, Existentialism"— Uldricks/Davis
F6, 60-65
Albert Camus, from *The Myth of Sisyphus* (AR: 513-517)
Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Republic of Silence" (AR: 518-521)
- 16) May 1: "The New Physics" --Konz
- May 4: Monday, last day of class