

HUM 324.009: The Modern World
University of North Carolina Asheville
Discussion sections: MW 11:25-12:35
Common lecture: F 11:25-12:35
Spring 2009

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TR 1-2 p.m. or by appointment
www.unca.edu/humanities/

The Humanities Program aims to help develop men and women of broad perspective who think critically and creatively, and who communicate effectively. Toward this end, this course addresses the ideas, institutions, and expressions that comprise the “modern world” from the mid-seventeenth to the mid-twentieth century. Although focused primarily upon the “western” culture of Europe and America, we will also examine the ways in which modernity has had a broader impact in an increasingly globalizing society.

Texts and readings: The following books are *required* and are available in the HU bookstore.

- Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition*, vols. 4-6, 5th edition
- *The Asheville Reader: The Modern World*, 2nd edition (AR)
- Jun’ichiro Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows*
- Henry David Thoreau, *Walden and Civil Disobedience*
- Elie Wiesel, *Night*

Much of our discussion in the section meetings will be focused on the primary source selections as indicated in the outline below. While most selections come from *The Asheville Reader*, note that others are found in the Fiero texts, other books, or on electronic reserve. You must bring the appropriate selections to class on the indicated days – failure to have your own copy of the texts will count as an absence for that day.

Requirements and grading: Letter grades are based on a ten point scale, rounded to the nearest whole number. A “plus” grade indicates the highest 20% of a letter grade (e.g., 87.5 - 89.4 = B+); a “minus” is the lowest 20% (79.5 - 82.4 = B-). Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Attendance	10%	Event papers (2)	5% each
Quizzes	10%	Essays (2)	10% each
Midterm exam	10%	Final paper	20%
Final exam	15%	Participation	5%

Attendance and participation: I expect your regular attendance (including the Friday lectures), and I expect you to come to class prepared by having completed the reading assignments. I will take attendance regularly in both lectures and discussion meetings. You may miss *two* attendance opportunities without penalty; but with your third absence, your final grade will be lowered by half a letter grade (i.e., five points), and with the fourth you will drop an entire letter grade (10 points). Students with more than four absences will fail the course. In rare circumstances, students may have very valid reasons for missing class. You need to discuss such absences with me, but even if you have a valid reason you may be required to complete additional assignments to avoid penalty. Your participation grade will be determined by your regular and *informed* participation in class discussions.

Regarding the Friday lectures: Please ***arrive prior to the beginning of the lecture*** and sit in our assigned section. I will regularly check your attendance and students who arrive late may be counted absent. Outlines for the lectures are available a day or two in advance on the HUM 324 website – you should print these out and bring them with you to the lectures.

Quizzes: To ensure your preparation for class discussions and your comprehension of course materials (including the Friday lectures), we will have regular pop quizzes (10 points each) on the readings and lectures. ***No make-up quizzes will be given.*** Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and the remainder averaged for 10% of your final grade.

Exams: There will be two exams: a midterm (10%) and a final examination (15%) on the dates indicated in the course schedule below. Exams will consist of short identification and essay questions; the final will be partially comprehensive but strongly weighted toward the latter part of the course.

Papers: There are three types of papers that you will write; I will distribute separate guidelines for these. I expect that all written work will be your own, and I will penalize to the fullest extent any form of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism. All papers are due in hard copy at the beginning of class on the dates noted in the course outline; late or electronic submissions may be accepted at the instructor's discretion for unusual situations, but are subject to penalty.

Essay papers: For our discussion of *Walden* and *Night*, you should prepare a three page essay that discusses how these works illustrate some of the key themes of this course. I will distribute some discussion questions for each book, but your paper should be a well integrated essay rather than merely a series of answers to these questions.

Event papers: You must attend at least two cultural events during the course of the semester. Examples of such events would be attending the theater, a concert, an art exhibition, a special lecture by a visiting speaker, etc. ***Try to choose events that relate to some of the themes of the modern world that we will be exploring in this course,*** such as an exhibit of expressionist art or a concert of modern music. I will announce opportunities during the course of the semester and other opportunities may be noted in the common lectures or posted on the Humanities website. You may substitute for one such event participation in an approved "service event." If in doubt about an appropriate event, discuss your idea with me beforehand. For both of these events, you should write a short (2 page) paper explaining why you chose this event and how it contributed to your understanding to the key issues, events, and/or ideas examined in this course. Papers are due on Feb. 18 and April 1 – on each of those dates, half the class will give brief (5 minute) presentations on their events.

Final paper: This section is participating in a joint writing exercise that involves at least four other HUM 324 sections. Each section will require a final paper that will be a collaborative effort by three or four students. Specific details will be made available as soon as they have been finalized.

NOTE: Modifications may have to be made to the schedule during the course of the semester due to inclement weather or other circumstances. In such cases, I will inform students of a revised

schedule as quickly as possible (usually via email). If class is cancelled on a day when an assignment is due or an exam is scheduled, assume that these will be due at the subsequent section meeting unless you are notified otherwise.

Course schedule and reading assignments: The common lectures for all HUM 324 sections will be Fridays from 11:25-12:35 in Lipinsky Auditorium (titles indicated by **bold** type below). Quizzes on these lectures and readings will be on the subsequent Monday and Wednesday section meetings. You should prepare for section meetings by carefully reading the primary materials and writing out questions for class discussion; beginning the second week of class, I will assign students to be in charge of presenting key readings to the class.

Jan. 14 Course introduction

I. Articulating Universal Laws

Jan. 16 **The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment**

Fiero vol. 4, pp. 75-83 (84-93)

Jan. 19 **NO CLASS** (Martin Luther King Day)

Jan. 21 Galileo Galilei, "The Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina" (AR: 2-8)

Isaac Newton, *Principia* (AR: 19-25)

Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (Fiero Reading 4.12)

John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Fiero Reading 4.13)

Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (AR: 59-66)

Jan. 23 **Enlightenment and Liberalism: Rights and Revolution**

Fiero vol. 4, pp. 95-109; 137-138 (139-166)

Jan. 26 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Fiero Reading 4.14)

John Locke, *Two Treatises on Government* (AR: 26-36)

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (AR : 50-58)

National Assembly, "Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen" (AR: 91-94)

Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence" (AR: 76-81)

James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist Papers* (AR: 85-90)

Jan. 28 Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (AR: 103-112)

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (AR: 236-245)

Simon Bolivar, "Message to the Congress of Angostura" (AR: 230-235)

Jan. 30 **Industrialization, Romanticism, Alienation**

Fiero vol. 4, pp. 102-103; vol. 5, pp. 1-21, (50-69), 77-81

Feb. 02 Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance" (AR: 163-168)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (AR: 68-75)

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (AR: 262-267)

Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto" (Fiero Reading 5.18)

Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience" in *Walden and Civil Disobedience*

Feb. 04 Thoreau, *Walden* (**ESSAY #1 DUE**)

II. Challenges

- Feb. 06 **Slavery and American Freedom**
Fiero vol. 4, pp. 114-118
- Feb. 09 Benjamin Banneker, "Letter...to Jefferson" and response (AR: 113-118)
Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano...* (AR: 181-185)
Frederick Douglass, from *Narrative...* (AR: 206-212)
- Feb. 11 Booker T. Washington, "Address at the World's Fair..." (AR: 344-349)
W.E.B. DuBois, *Strivings of the Negro People* (AR: 360-366)
Marcus Garvey, selections from writings (AR: 367-375)
- Feb. 13 **Native American Experience**
- Feb. 16 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)
- Feb. 18 Cultural events presentations (**EVENT PAPER #1 DUE**)
- Feb. 20 **Woman Suffrage in America**
Fiero vol. 4, pp. 109-111; vol. 5, pp. 81-82
- Feb. 23 Abigail Adams, "Letter to John Adams" (AR: 170-174)
Olympe de Gouges, "Declaration of the Rights of Woman..." (AR: 175-180)
Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (AR: 186-201)
John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (AR: 222-228)
- Feb. 25 Sojourner Truth "A'nt I a Woman?" and "Address..." (AR: 218-221)
Elizabeth Cady Stanton et al., "Declaration of Sentiments" (AR: 213-217)
Flora Tristan, *The Female Worker's Union* (AR: 251-255)
Susan B. Anthony, "The Declaration Rights for Women" (AR: 273-276)
- Feb. 27 **Darwin and Social Darwinism**
Fiero vol. 5, pp. 25-28, 73-75
- Mar. 02 Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species* (AR: 382-390)
Vladimir Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (AR: 333-338)
Olive Schreiner, *Trooper Peter Halket of Mashonaland* (AR: 296-298)
- Mar. 04 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Mar. 06 **Islam and the Modern World**
Fiero vol. 4, pp. 45-51
- Mar. 8-14 NO CLASSES** (Spring Break)
- Mar. 16 NOTE: All readings for this week are on electronic reserve
Tanzimat decrees (The *Gulhame* Proclamation, An Ottoman "Bill of Rights")
™emseddim Sami FrashNri, "Transferring the New Civilization . . ."
Mustafa Kemal, "Design for a Modern Secular Turkish State"
- Mar. 18 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "Embassy to Constantinople"
Rifa Tahtawi, On Paris, Its People, Their Ideas and Lives in the 1820s
Anais al-Jalis, Defines a Vision of Women and Their Role in Society
Sayyid Ahmad Khan, "The Rights of Women"
Queen Soraya, "The Liberation of Afghan Women"

III. The Quest for Meaning

- Mar. 20 **World War I and the European Crisis of Consciousness**
Fiero vol. 6, pp. 26-30, 49-54
- Mar. 23 Poems of World War I (Fiero Reading 6.7)
Erich Maria Remarque, from *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Fiero Reading 6.8)
Helena Marie Swanwick, "The War and Its Effect upon Women" (AR: 456-460)
Winifred Holtby, from *Women and a Changing Civilization* (AR: 475-479)
- Mar. 25 Sigmund Freud, from *Civilization and Its Discontents* (Fiero Reading 6.3)
Carl Jung, from *The Spiritual Problem of Modern Man* (AR: 441-446)
- Mar. 27 **NO LECTURE:** Spring Symposium on Undergraduate Research
- Mar. 30 TBA
- Apr. 01 Cultural events presentations (**EVENT PAPER #2 DUE**)
- Apr. 03 **Enlightening China and Japan: Western Imperialism in Asia**
Fiero vol. 4, pp. 51-59; vol. 5, pp. 73-77
- Apr. 06 Emperor Ch'ien-lung "Letter to King George III (AR: 119-121)
Ito Hirobumi, from *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (AR: 327-332)
- Apr. 08 Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows*
- Apr. 10 **Modernity and Modernism**
Fiero vol. 5, pp. 93-118, (119-131), 132-137; vol. 6, pp. 1-10 (11-25), 35-48
- Apr. 13 Gertrude Stein, "Picasso" (AR: 424-427)
Franz Kafka, "A Country Doctor" (AR: 428-434)
- Apr. 15 Friedrich Nietzsche, from *Beyond Good and Evil* (AR: 414-423)
Fyodor Dostoevsky, from *The Brothers Karamazov* (AR: 394-413)
Christopher Isherwood, *The Berlin Stories* (on electronic reserve)
- Apr. 17 **Fascism in the Interwar Years and Beyond**
Fiero vol. 6, pp. 54-59
- Apr. 20 Friedrich Nietzsche, from *Beyond Good and Evil* (AR: 414-423)
Benito Mussolini, from *Political and Social Doctrine of Fascism* (AR: 480-487)
- Apr. 22 John Maynard Keynes, from *The End of Laissez-Faire* (AR: 470-474)
Mahatma Gandhi, from *Indian Home Rule* (AR: 321-326)
- Apr. 24 **World War II, the Holocaust, Existentialism**
Fiero vol. 6, pp. 60-65, 69-83, (83-89)
- Apr. 27 Adolf Hitler, from *Mein Kampf* (AR: 461-469)
Gertrude Scholtz-Klink from "A Speech . . ." (AR: 488-492)
- Apr. 29 Hannah Arendt, from *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (AR: 497-502)
Albert Camus, from *The Myth of Sisyphus* (AR: 513-517)
Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Republic of Silence" (AR: 518-521)
- May 01 **The New Physics**
- May 04 Elie Wiesel, *Night* (**ESSAY #2 DUE**)
- May 06 **FINAL EXAM** (11:30-2:00)