

Liberal Arts 200B. Culture and Expression: Middle Ages and Renaissance

Candace Gregory-Abbott

Email: cgregory@csus.edu

Homepage: www.csus.edu/indiv/g/gregoryc

T 5:30 – 8:???

Office: TAH 3059

Tel# 278-3824

Office Hrs: MW 11-12

Tues 4-5 pm

Course Content and Objectives

Liberal Arts 200B is an interdisciplinary seminar on cultural movements, figures, and art forms of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Focus is on the West with some global comparison. Emphasis is on theoretical perspectives, methods, and research techniques germane to the liberal arts.

Learning Objectives:

1. Be conversant as to the dates and basic cultural aspects of all of the European Middle Ages and Renaissance.
2. Illustrate general knowledge of the cultural movements, important figures, and significant art forms of each era, along with sophisticated knowledge of such pertaining to the era(s) of each student's special interests.
3. Be familiar enough with the corpus of primary texts and works of art to know whence comes the general academic understanding of the cultural history of these eras.
4. Be conversant in the relevant major scholars and their theoretical perspectives.
5. Be practiced in the techniques of graduate-level research in the liberal arts, particularly with regard to subjects in the medieval period and Renaissance.

Required Texts

Lawrence Cunningham and John Reich, *Culture and Values: A Survey of the Humanities*, Volumes 1

Judith Herrin, *The Formation of Christendom*

Beowulf (trans. Seamus Heaney)

Song of Roland

Chretien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*

Castiglione, *Book of the Courtier*

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Earsmus, *Praise of Folly*

Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*.

Course Format

The course will consist of mainly of seminar discussions of readings and of the visual arts, together with some presentation of research by students.

- Week 7** **13 March**
East meets west. The Crusades. Crusader architecture and music.
- Week 8** **20 March** **High Middle Ages**
The High Middle Ages. Gothic architecture. Scholasticism.
Readings: Cunningham / Reich, Chapter 10
Peter Abelard, *Sic et Non*, excerpts.
Moses Maimonides, *Guide for the Perplexed*, excerpts
- 27 March** **Spring Break**
- Week 9** **3 April** **Fourteenth Century**
Black Death and the Hundred Years War. The early Renaissance. The art of Giotto.
Readings: Cunningham / Reich, Chapter 11
Francois Villon, poems
Christine de Pisan, poems
- Week 10** **10 April** **Early Renaissance**
Literary achievements of the early Renaissance: Francesco Petrarch and Geoffrey Chaucer.
Readings: Cunningham / Reich, Chapter 12
Francesco Petrarch, excerpts
Geoffrey Chaucer, excerpts
- Week 11** **17 April**
Renaissance humanism.
Reading: Erasmus, *Praise of Folly*
- Week 12** **24 April** **High Renaissance**
The Italian High Renaissance. Italian masters: Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo, Titian.
Readings: Cunningham / Reich, Chapter 13
Castiglione, *Book of the Courtier*
- 1 May** **No Class**
- Week 13** **8 May** **Renaissance in the North**
The Northern Renaissance. Art of Albrecht Durer. Jan van Eyck, Hieronymus Bosch, and the writings of Martin Bucer and Thomas More.
Readings: Cunningham / Reich, Chapter 14, to page 355
Thomas More, *Utopia*, excerpts
Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*
- Week 14** **13 May** **Shakespeare and Elizabethan England.**
Readings: Cunningham / Reich, Chapter 14, from page 356 onward.
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*