California State University, Sacramento
Humanities and Religious Studies
HRS 11: Arts and Ideas of the West, II – G.E. Area C3
Spring 2010

Prof. Thoma
Section 1-T/R 10:30-11:45
BRH 202

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+ I rarely answer my phone. ^ see +

PECIAL NOTE

The information in this syllabus is subject to change due to spring 2010 mandatory faculty furlough requirements.

Students will be notified (in class and through saclink email) of changes as soon as possible.

Course Description: An introduction to the art, architecture, literature, history, music and philosophy of the West from the Renaissance period to the present time. General Education Area: C3

Course Objectives: This course is designed as an introductory survey of a vast expanse of Western cultural history dating from the 1400s through the present period. Primary student objectives will include the development of understanding and appreciation of the ideals and values that inspired the West’s cultural production during this time span.

Successful students will be able to:
- Identify major themes in Western culture and recognize how such ideas were interpreted and reinterpreted throughout the period to convey enduring concepts as well as change.
- Analyze how these specific inspirations were expressed stylistically in the visual arts, architecture, literature, history, music and philosophy across various national trends.
- Comprehend the impact of key historical events on cultural production of the period.
- Read, write and discuss the subject matter with thoughtful perspective at appropriate college level.

Matthews and Platt, Readings in the Western Humanities, 6th ed. Vol. II
Shelley, Frankenstein
Conrad, Heart of Darkness
Tolstoy, The Death of Ivan Ilyich

Requirements and Grading:
Careful reading and writing are fundamental aspects of this course, therefore, it is essential to complete all reading assignments and be attentive to lecture materials and presentations. (Take notes!) Attendance is required as per departmental attendance policy—grade reductions (and loss of educational experience!) will result from excessive absences.

Respectful participation in class discussions is encouraged and will affect your overall grade favorably.* Disrespectful conduct, including, but not limited to, cell phones ringing, chatting, coming in late, leaving early, texting, surfing the internet, walking in and out during lecture, disruptive behavior, etc... will affect your participation grade unfavorably. If you have special needs or extreme circumstances requiring you to miss class, come late, etc..., please discuss with the instructor.
*IMPORTANT! If you are a student who experiences anxiety simply at the thought of speaking up in class, please see me or email me for helpful strategies and tips for reducing stress and improving your learning experience. I consider all students equally important to the classroom dynamic.

Course grades are determined by the following: (Possible Points)
25% - Attendance and Participation‡ --------------------------------------------- 75 points
30% - Quizzes (4-lowest grade dropped) ** (30 points each) ------------------------ 90 points
20% - In-class writing assignments (2)**♦ ---------------------------------------- 60 points
25% - Final**- short essay and multiple choice ----------------------------------- 75 points
100%--------------------------------------------------------------------------------- 300 points

A --- 300-277 points
A- --- 276-268 points
B+ --- 267-261 points
B --- 260-246 points
B- --- 245-237 points
C+ --- 236-230 points
C --- 229-216 points
C- --- 215-206 points
D+ --- 205-199 points
D --- 198-186 points
D- --- 185-175 points. You should have come to see me long before it got to this point.

‡ The attendance and participation grade will include points accumulated by good attendance (15 pts), class discussion (15 pts), regular “journaling” (25 pts) and some miscellaneous “TBA” opportunities (20pts).

** All tests and writing assignments must be taken at the scheduled times. Students may not leave and return to the classroom during quizzes, writings or the final. Take care of any necessary tasks before or after the class session. For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E, For the final you will need Scantron 886-E.

♦ For the (2) writing assignments, plain notebook paper is fine--a bluebook is okay but not necessary. The in-class writing assignments will be graded on a simple rubric (0-1- minimal or no effort, unfamiliar with the topic, 2- some basic ideas, 3-very good development in discussion of assigned topics and good use of information gained through the lectures and readings and 4-excellent application of knowledge and analysis of material including good creative interpretation.) Good writing skills will be important in presenting your ideas well, but emphasis will be on thinking rather than mechanics of writing. These assignments are not tests, but exercises in analysis of information and creative application of your knowledge. No additional preparation beyond completing assigned readings and attentive presence in class should be necessary to do well on the writings. More detailed instructions and guidelines will be given at the time of assignments.

The writing assignment point conversion for the purposes of calculating your final grade will be as follows:
Writing assignments totaling 8 points = 60 grade points; 7 = 54 grade points; 6 = 48 grade points;
5 = 42 grade points; 4 = 36 grade points; 3 = 30 grade points; 2 = 24 grade points; 1 = 10 grade points

It is your responsibility as a committed student to keep track of your point total and manage your study habits accordingly. This will eliminate grade “surprises” at the end of the semester.
Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.

**Course Calendar**

All reading assignments are to be completed **before** the class week for which they are listed.

| Week 1 | JAN 26, 28 - Introduction; the Early Renaissance 1400-1494  
Read: Chapter 11 in *the Western Humanities* (hereafter referred to as ‘WH’) and selections by Mirandola and Alberti in *Readings in the Western Humanities* (hereafter referred to as ‘RDNGS’). |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 2 | FEB 2, 4 - The High Renaissance 1494-1564  
Read: Chapt. 12 in WH; Castiglione and Machiavelli in RDNGS |
| Week 3 | FEB 9, 11- Northern Renaissance, Humanism, Reformation and Counter-Reformation 1500-1603  
Read: Chapt. 13 in WH; Erasmus in RDNGS  
**Quiz # 1 Feb 11** |
| Week 4 | FEB 16, 18 - the Baroque Age 1600-1715  
Read: Chapt. 14 in WH; Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz in RDNGS |
| Week 5 | FEB 23, 25 – the Baroque cont.  
Read: Chapt. 15 in WH; Locke  
**In-class writing assignment # 1 Feb 23** |
| Week 6 | MAR 2, 4 - the Enlightenment: the Age of Reason 1700-1789  
Read: Chapt. 16 in WH; Kant, Wollstonecraft and Rousseau in RDNGS |
| Week 7 | MAR 9, 11- Revolution, reaction and the Romantic Era 1760-1830  
Read: Chapt. 17 in WH; Thomas Jefferson (including *the Declaration of Right of Man and Citizen*) in RDNGS.  
**Quiz # 2 Mar 11** |
| Week 8 | MAR 16, 18 - Romantic Era continued…  
Read: *Frankenstein* by Shelley (pp – TBA) |
| Week 9 | MAR 23, 25 - *Frankenstein* by Shelley  
**Quiz # 2 Mar 25** |
| Week 10 | MAR 29, APRIL 1 SPRING BREAK – BE SAFE! |
Week 11
APR 6, 8 – The mid-19th Century
Read: Chapt. 18 in WH;
Marx and Flaubert in RDNGS
Begin Tolstoy’s *the Death of Ivan Ilyich* (pp TBA)

Quiz # 3  APR 8

Week 12
APR 13, 15 – The mid-19th Century cont…
Read: *the Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Tolstoy

Week 13
APR 20, 22 – Early Modernism 1871-1914
Read: Chapt. 19 in WH;
Nietzsche and Freud in RDNGS

In-class writing assignment # 2  APR 22

Week 14
APR 27, 29 – Modernism in art
Read: *Heart of Darkness* by Conrad

Week 15
MAY 4, 6- The Zenith of Modernism 1914-1945
Read: Chapt. 20 in WH;
Woolf in RDNGS

Quiz # 4  MAY 6

Week 16
MAY 11, 13 – Course catch-up and conclusion

Week 17
MAY 20 - FINAL EXAM : 10:15-12:15

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Have a nice summer and remember, go to a play, a concert, a gallery!
Read a book! (or two)...and visit a great museum near you.

The Getty Museum in Malibu: www.getty.edu
Some upcoming shows: Leonardo da Vinci and the Art of Sculpture: Inspiration and Invention -March 23–June 20, 2010
In Focus: Tasteful Pictures -April 6–August 22, 2010 – pictures of food!
The Aztec Pantheon and the Art of Empire - March 24–July 5, 2010

The de Young Museum in S.F.: www.famsf.org/deyoung
Birth of Impressionism: Masterpieces from the Musée d’Orsay -May 22, 2010 — Sept 6, 2010
Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne and Beyond: Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the Musée d’Orsay -Sept 25, 2010 — Jan 18, 2011

The Legion of Honor Museum in S.F.: www.famsf.org/legion
Some upcoming shows: Impressionist Paris: City of Light - May 22, 2010 — Sept 6, 2010
Cartier and America - Dec 19, 2009 — Apr 18, 2010