

Introduction to the Humanities
Humn 100-04

Fall 2005

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Sistrunk

Office: 210 Trinity Hall Office hours: T- Th 11:00-1:00 and by appointment

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Required Reading:

Jane Austen, Persuasion

Course Reader (hereafter cited as C.R.) Electronic Reserve 2EF42

Purpose and Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the humanities especially as they are portrayed in film. Through class discussion and by reading critical evaluations of the technical and aesthetic issues raised by the cinematic art we view, the course is designed to cultivate an appreciation of the insights that film can lend to understanding the humanities including theater, literature, music, dance, art, philosophy and history. Our range of inquiry will be dictated, especially, by the course reading and the films, however, throughout the semester there will be ample opportunity to explore students' special interests.

Note: This course is an approved G.E. course for area C.

Grading:

Standard Grading scale (100-90% = A; 89-80% = B etc...)

Paper 15%, Examinations (15% each) 60%, Participation 7.5%, Response papers 10%/2.5%
Oral Report 5 % (1000 pts. total)

Research Paper: The student will explore a topic that they have selected dealing with a cinematic treatment of the humanities. Future K-12 instructors should try to select a topic treated in the California curriculum. Your topic must have the approval of the instructor (before your summary statement is submitted).

The paper project will be worth 145 pts. of your final grade and should be typed and double spaced. Grades will be based on the student's ability to use texts and film to support an original interpretation, his or her use of library materials and overall presentation (grammar, organization, spelling). Each student must use at least one library source, a monograph or scholarly journal. A written statement defining your paper topic (worth 5 pts.) will be due in class on Sept. 20. The paper itself will be due in class on Nov. 15. **Late topic statements will lose credit and papers will lose ½ of a letter grade each day that they are not turned in after these dates.**

Participation: Be active, alive, awake! Discuss works intelligently, bring up questions in class, and show that you have thought about the reading and the films. Class writings and discussions will also be evaluated as will overall class etiquette Excessive absences will harm your grade. Each student will bring three questions to class over each film that we view.

Examinations The first exam (Sept. 15) will cover weeks 1-4; the second exam (Oct. 11) will cover weeks 5-7; the third exam (Nov. 9) will cover weeks 8-11; the final exam will cover weeks 12-15. Multiple choice, short answer and essay selection. A study sheet will be provided. You may not leave the classroom during exams except for medical emergencies and then will take a make-up.

Oral Report: 5 minute summary of research paper.

Response Papers: Students will respond to various questions over the readings, films, discussions and four designated public events during the course of the semester (10%). Everyone will respond to colleague reports (2.5%)

*** You must have a medical excuse from the student health center or on letterhead paper from your doctor if you miss an exam for medical reasons. If something unforeseen happens make-ups will be offered at a time convenient for the instructor. There are no make-ups of make-ups.

** Any student who has a disability of any kind that might prevent the fullest expression of her or his abilities should contact me the first week of the class so that we can discuss class requirements. Likewise, any student who foresees conflicts with assignments because of religious holidays should discuss these with me the first week of class.

Schedule (Subject to Change):

- Week 1 (August 23, 25) Introduction, Paleolithic Forms/Writing
C.R.: The Edicts of Asoka
- Week 2 (August 30, September 1) Greek Civic Art/ Theater
C.R.: "Antigone"
Film: "Antigone"
- Week 3 (September 6, 8) Film Allegory: Medieval and Modern
C.R.: Huizinga, Autumn of the Middle Ages
Film: "The Seventh Seal"
- Week 4 (September 13, 15) Cinematic Perspectives of a Medieval Woman
*****Examination September
15*****
C.R.: Francis Gies Joan of Arc: The Legend and Reality
Film: "La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc"
"The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc"
- Week 5 (September 20, 22) Literature in Film
*****Topic Statement due Sept.
20*****
Jane Austen, Persuasion
C.R.: Daniel Pool What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew
Film: "Persuasion"
- Week 6 (September 27, 29) High Art?
C.R.: Life Magazine, "Jackson Pollock: The Greatest Living Painter in the United States?";
Larouse Dictionary "Pollock"; Stuart Plattner, High Art Down Home; Sally Price,
"Provenances and Pedigrees"; Nelson Graburn, "Ethnic Arts of the Fourth World"
Film: "Pollock"
- Week 7 (October 4, 6) Native Interpretations : Inuit Film
C.R.: R. Quinn Duffy, The Road to Nunavut; American Historical Review 107.3 (2002)
"Film Reviews" and 107.4 (2002) "Communications"
Film: "The Fast Runner"

Week 8 (October 11, 13) Oral History: The Sami Mystical Past
*****Examination October

11*****

C.R.: Bjorn Collinder, The Lapps; Johan Turi, Turi's Book of Lapland

Film: "The Pathfinder"

Week 9 (October 18, 20) The Western Movie Hero

C.R.: Richard Maxwell Brown "Violence"

Film: "High Noon"

Week 10 (October 25, 27) The Eastern Movie Hero

C.R.: Alain Silver, The Samurai Film

Film: "Seven Samurai"

Week 11 (November 1, 3) Documentary

C.R.: William Rothman "Night and Fog" ; Doris Bergen "The Final Solution"

Film: "Night and Fog"

Week 12 (November 8, 10) Dance

*****Examination November

8*****

C.R.: Dance Essays

Film: "The Company"

Week 13 (November 15, 17) Music

*****Paper due Nov

15*****

C.R.: W.B. Stanford, The Ulysses Theme ; Thomas Goldsmith, The Bluegrass Reader

Film: "O Brother Where Art Thou"

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14 (November 29, December 1) Student Presentations

Week 15 (December 6, 10) Humanities in Film

*****Final Examination: Dec. 15: Tuesday 12:00-1:50*****