

HUMN 300W, Great Books: The Dream of America

MWF 10-10:50am. Spring 2019. Greg Cootsona. Arts & Humanities 105

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Office Hours: Mon. 2:30-3:45pm, Weds. 9:00-9:45am, and by appointment. Arts & Humanities

Description: We often hear talk about “The American Dream,” but is there also a dream of America? Is there some vision of America that guides us? Columbia Professor of Humanities Anthony Delbanco says that this dream is *hope* (and Barack Obama pretty much agreed). Recently, Donald Trump has urged us to go back to a better time in the past in order “to make America great again,” and so some might wonder if this hope still drives us. And yet, in a fundamental way, any hope we still hold is based on the declaration that “all men are created

equal.” In addition, do we fit Abraham’s Lincoln’s words, “With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in”? Even though our conclusions will be partial, this class seeks to understand the “dream of America” through some of its greatest thinkers and writers. HUMANITIES 300W is the humanities component of the upper division sequence in the Great Book & Ideas GE Pathway. It fulfills GE Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Texts

(Texts available at the bookstore or online.)

- Andrew Delbanco, *The Real American Dream: A Meditation on Hope* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998)
- John Updike, *In the Beauty of the Lilies* (New York: Ballantine, 1996)
- *Additional readings on Blackboard*

Grading: Total of 1000 points

- Class participation (including presentations): 150 points
- Journal: 150 points. You will be asked to keep a journal, which you will turn in regularly. You can do this with a spiral-bound notebook, or simply by stapling paper together.
- First paper: 150 points. Due February 1. More details to come.
- Midterm Paper: 250 points. Due April 26. More details on this in the future too.
- Final Paper: 300 points. Week of May 12-17. More details forthcoming.

The following scale will be used to calculate your final grade:

Number of Points	Percentage Range (First number is the bottom threshold)	Letter Grade
930-1000	93-100	A
900-929	90-92.9	A-
870-899	87-89.9	B+
830-869	83-86.9	B
800-829	80-83.9	B-
770-799	77-79.9	C+
730-769	73-76.9	C
700-729	70-73.9	C-
670-699	67-69.9	D+, <i>etc.</i>

Overall Schedule

Fine Print: The professor (i.e., me) reserves the right to make minor amendments to this syllabus throughout the course of the semester. In addition, **please note: much important information will be communicated in class.**

Dates	Reading Please do the reading by the Monday of each week (except week one).
January 23, 25	Note: Always check Blackboard for additional readings Delbanco, <i>The Real American Dream</i> , Prologue
January 28, 30, February 1	Delbanco, <i>The Real American Dream</i> , GOD, chapter 1 First Paper due February 1
February 4, 6, 8	Jefferson, Thomas. Declaration of Independence De Tocqueville, Alexis. <i>Democracy in America</i> (excerpt)
February 11, 13, 15	Delbanco, <i>The Real American Dream</i> , NATION, chapter 2
February 18, 20, 22	Delbanco, <i>The Real American Dream</i> , SELF, chapter 3 Journals turned in February 22
February 25, 27 March 1	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter i (first half) Douglass, Frederick. "The Hypocrisy of American Slavery" Lincoln, Abraham. First Inaugural Address. Gettysburg Address. Second Inaugural Address.
March 4, 6, 8	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter i (second half)
March 11, 13, 15	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter ii (first half) Elizabeth Stanton. "Declaration of Sentiments." Sojourner Truth, Sojourner. "Ain't I a Woman?"
March 18-22	Spring Break!
March 25, 27, 29	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter ii (second half) Journals turned in March 29
April 1 (César Chavez) April 3, 5	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter iii (first half)
April 8, 10, 12	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter iii (second half)
April 15, 17, 19	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter iv (first half)
April 22, 24, 26	Updike, <i>In the Beauty of the Lilies</i> , chapter iv (second half) Ronald Reagan. First Inaugural Address. Second Paper due April 26

Dates	Reading
	Please do the reading by the Monday of each week (except week one).
April 29; May 1, 3	DeLoria, Vine. <i>God is Red: A Native View of Religion</i> (excerpt) Malcolm X. Excerpts from his writings.
May 6, 8, 10	Where are We Today? Review
May 13-17	Finals Week

Attendance and Participation: Your grade in participation is directly related to your attending, and the style of this class will be participatory, often like a reading group. Some of the class I lecture. Nonetheless, we will also take time to run this course like philosophers — and philosophers love to talk and to argue! Missing class will happen, but it's much better if I know in advance. In addition—if you do miss—it's your responsibility to talk with a classmate and find out what you missed.



Papers: How you write is important in this class. You will be graded primarily on the content of your papers.

Office Hours: I will be available in my office as scheduled and by appointment. Please come by if you need help, or, of course, if you are so excited by our class discussions that you want to talk about the course in your free time. If you feel that you are not keeping up with the class, the right time to talk to me is early in the semester — not at the end of it.

Dictionary

One of the best practices in education is this: If you don't understand a word, look it up. I love dictionaries—they are amazing tools. Buy an old-school paper one, find one on the internet, or download one into your smartphone.

Use of Technology

Please don't text, check your e-mail, Snapchat, update Facebook, etc. during class. Staying engaged in what's happening will make the class better for everyone. (Incidentally, I generally offer a break in the middle of class if you really need to text or make a call.)

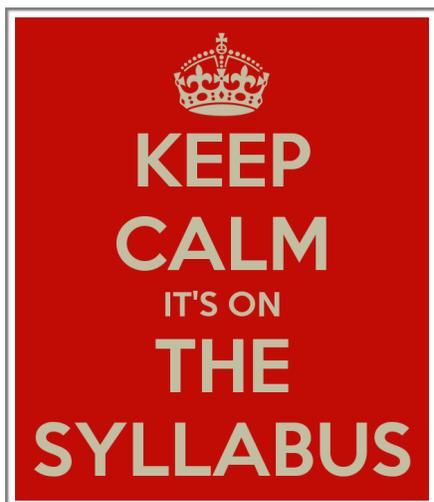
Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a cornerstone of university policy. Cheating and plagiarism are violations of academic integrity and have serious consequences. It is cheating to use another person's work for the writing of your own paper. If you do borrow the ideas of others in composing your written work, they must be cited; if you borrow the words of others, they must be enclosed in quotation marks and cited. If you have any doubts as to whether or not something needs to be cited, play it safe and cite it—or ask me about it. Any standard citation format (MLA, APA, etc.) is fine. It is permissible to use insights and sources from books, web sites, etc. provided that they are acknowledged.

You are bound by the stipulations of the University-wide Academic Integrity Policy. Violating standards of academic honesty will result in zero points for that work and, depending upon the severity, an F in the course. A report will also be sent to Student Judicial Affairs for further action. Students are therefore expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at California State University, Chico, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Any instance of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating on exams) will result in an "F" for the course and a report of academic misconduct submitted to Student Judicial Affairs. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct can be found at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity.shtml>.

Dropping and Adding

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. found <http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/>.



Library Liaison

From time to time your writing and research tasks may require some time in the library. A very good contact person who can be helpful in navigating the resources of the library is George Thompson, ghthompson@csuchico.edu, 898-6603, MLIB 305..

Student Services

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development.

Student services information can be found at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/current-students/>.

Student Learning Center

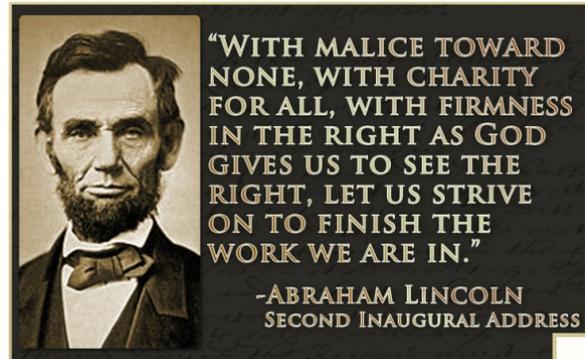
The mission of the Student Learning Center (SLC) is to provide services that will assist CSU, Chico students to become independent learners. The SLC prepares and supports students in their college course work by offering a variety of programs and resources to meet student needs. The SLC facilitates the academic transition and retention of students from high schools and community colleges by providing study strategy information, content subject tutoring, and supplemental instruction. The SLC is online at <http://www.csuchico.edu/slc/>. For some very informative videos (e.g., organizing and outlining your essay, writing made easy, mastering study skills, time management, efficient reading strategies, preventing test anxiety, avoiding procrastination, public speaking), see <http://rce.csuchico.edu/online/workshops/student-learning>.

Students with Certified Disabilities:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester. I will make every reasonable effort to facilitate your success in this course. Please note that you may be required to show documentation of your disability. To receive such documentation or to gain assistance with reasonable accommodation in your classes, please contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The ARC is located in Student Services Center 170; their phone number is 530-898-5959 and their website is <http://www.csuchico.edu/arc>.

Title IX

State law makes university professors mandated reporters. This means I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator whenever I learn about incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking that affect any member of the campus community. This includes disclosures that occur during our class discussions or in private. Students may make a *confidential* report to the Counseling and Wellness Center or Safe Place. Information on campus reporting obligations and other Title IX related resources are available at www.csuchico.edu/title-ix.



Tribal Lands

For thousands of years this land on which CSU, Chico operates has been the traditional land of the Mechoopda people. Today, this land is still the home of many indigenous people and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work here.