

HR 496, Great books
Fall 2005—Spring 2006
Humanities 142
6:30-9:00 alternate Wednesdays

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SYLLABUS

Fall readings

- Pirsig, Robert. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. HarperPerennial Classics. New York: HarperCollins, 2005 [1974].
- Lippmann, Walter. *Public Opinion*. Free Press Paperbacks. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997 [1922].
- Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*. A Harvest Book. New York: Harcourt, 1989 [1929].
- Arendt, Hannah. *The Human Condition*. Second Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998 [1958].
- Szabó, István. *Mephisto*. DVD. Anchor Bay Entertainment, 2001 [1981].
- Hoban, Russell. *Riddley Walker*. Expanded Edition. Bloomington, IN: University of Indiana Press, 1998 [1980].
- Eiseley, Loren, *The Unexpected Universe*. A Harvest Book. New York: Harcourt, 1994 [1964].

Spring readings

- Galbraith, John Kenneth. *The Affluent Society*. New York: 40th Anniversary Edition. Houghton Mifflin, 1998 [1958].
- Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. Quill Editions. New York: HarperCollins, 2001 [1990].
- John Dewey. *Art as Experience*. Perigee Books. New York: Penguin Putnam Inc., 1980 [1934].
- Neame, Ronald. *The Horse's Mouth*. DVD. Criterion Collection, 2002 [1958].
- Kuhn, Thomas. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 3rd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996 [1962].
- Eliade, Mircea. *The Myth of the Eternal Return*. Mythos Series. Princeton, NJ: Princeton, University Press, 1991 [1954].
- Kubrick, Stanley. *2001: A Space Odyssey*. DVD. Warner Brothers, 2004 [1968].
- Garcia-Marquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Trans. Gregory Rabassa. HarperPerennial Classics. New York: HarperCollins, 1998 [1970].

You will need a good, up to date, collegiate dictionary. You will need to know how to use the library. You will also need Internet access, an email account, Adobe® Reader®, general familiarity with a major word processor such as Microsoft Word, and access to computer printing and photocopying. You may need off-campus transportation and/or long distance phone service for projects.

Fall schedule

September 7, 2005: Introduction and organization
September 21, 2005: *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*
October 5, 2005: *Public Opinion*
October 19, 2005: *A Room of One's Own*
November 2, 2005: *The Human Condition*
November 16, 2005: *Mephisto*
November 30, 2005: *Riddley Walker*
December 7, 2005: *The Unexpected Universe*
December 14, last day to hand in semester paper

Spring schedule

January 25, 2006: *The Affluent Society*
February 8, 2006: *You Just Don't Understand*
February 22, 2006: *2001: A Space Odyssey*
March 8, 2006: *The Myth of the Eternal Return*
March 22, 2006: *The Horse's Mouth*
April 5, 2006: *Art as Experience*
April 19, 2006: *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
May 3, 2006: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
May 10, last day to hand in semester paper

Web site

You will find web texts listed from time to time at the class web site in Adobe PDF format. There will always be a current copy of the syllabus there, if you should ever need to check changes we make in class for any reason. There is a style sheet there, as well, that tabulates the reader's marks I tend to use. You can download these texts and print them with Adobe® Reader®. If you don't have Adobe® Reader®, there's a link at the class web site to the Adobe® Reader® download page. Adobe® Reader® is a free program.

There are some other resources at the class web site too, including a good many links to other sites you might want to check out. I've listed some sources for buying books, for instance. To access the site, go to my web page <<http://www.julianlong.net/>> and follow the links to Long's Back Room/SLU classes.

Overview

The course is primarily reading and discussion. I will invite a number of colleagues to help us discuss readings through the year, and I'll announce these as we go along. Readings include modern and postmodern classics with some thought to represent a spectrum of issues, disciplines, and genres. I've listed three films, which we'll watch in class.

Grades, writing, attendance, etc.

I'd like you to write a one-page paragraph essay detailing your reaction to each reading and hand it in at the beginning of class before the discussion. I want these to be unprejudiced reactions, so I'll not accept them afterwards. I'll plan to count only seven of these for each of you over the year—that will give you a little flexibility about which ones you do. It will be up to you to be sure you get these assignments to me on time.

In addition, I'd like you to write a more substantial essay each term. We'll talk about these essays and the schedule for them at some length in class. I'm thinking at the moment that I'd like to see two drafts of each one. At present, I'm thinking that I'll base your final grade on class participation (25%), your paragraph essay average (25%), and the two longer essays (25% each).

I expect you to attend class and to be on time. If you need be absent, please let me know in advance and hand your paragraph essay in early unless you want to skip it. You may hand written work in by email, but generally speaking, since we meet only once every two weeks, don't be absent at all. Another hint to the wise: I'll not give quizzes or tests unless I discover that people aren't reading.

Standards for written work:

Presentation counts. Finish counts. Grammar and spelling count. I expect your writing to show thought and care for a reader other than yourself and as much maturity of style and finish as you can muster. I expect all work you hand me to be in word-processed form, to be sharp and clear, and to facilitate reading by its clarity of expression, by its thoughtful and principled design, and by its overall effectiveness and force.

Double space your word-processed work, including any notes and references you may include. I have given you a simple style sheet at the class web site as well as links there to other sources of information about style. For questions you can't answer by going to these sources, check the *MLA Handbook*.

Academic Honesty:

I expect you to conduct your work for this class in a manner consistent with university standards of academic honesty. The university *Policy on Academic Honesty* is available in the library.

Disability Accommodation

If you need disability accommodation, you should contact the Office of Disabilities Services at 314/977-2930 in addition to speaking to me, since some accommodations may require college-wide resources. The College of Arts and Sciences asks that you contact Disabilities Services “as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.”

Office hours

I plan to keep office hours from 10:00 until 11:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 3 to 5 on the Wednesdays we have class. I will make appointments for other times within reason. If you need me you can call me at home or at my wireless number; leave a message if I don't answer. But the best way to communicate with me is always to write me email.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Academic Resources Center, 3840 Lindell	
Academic Services	977-2370
Writing Center	977-2210
Student Educational Services (Disability Accommodation)	977-2930
Campus Ministry	
Loyola Campus Ministry Center	977-2425
English Department, 3800 Lindell	
Main Office, Humanities 129	977-3010
Instructors' Office	977-3569
Writing Program, Humanities 226	977-3018
CAI Lab, Des Peres 203	977-3014
Julian Long	
Home	773-2876
Wireless	302-3267
Honors Program	
Notre Dame Hall 107	977-3951
Student Health and Counseling	
Marchetti Tower East	977-2323
Student Housing and Residence Life	
Village Building B	977-2811
Public Safety Department	
DuBourg 9	977-3000

Please report any errors you find in this syllabus.