

HR 496, Great books
Fall 2006—Spring 2007
Humanities 342
6:30-9:00 alternate Wednesdays

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SYLLABUS

Texts

- Arendt, Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York: Penguin, 1994 [1963].
- Benjamin, Walter. *Illuminations: Essays and Reflections*. Edited and with an Introduction by Hannah Arendt. New York: Schocken Books, 1969 [1955].
- Buber, Martin. *I and Thou*. Trans. Walter Kaufmann. A Touchstone Book. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996 [1970].
- De Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. Reissue Edition. New York: Vintage Books, 1989 [1952].
- Eiseley, Loren. *The Unexpected Universe*. A Harvest Book. New York: Harcourt, 1994 [1964].
- Eliade, Mircea. *The Myth of the Eternal Return*. Mythos Series. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1991 [1954].
- Frye, Northrop. *Words with Power: Being a Second Study of the Bible and Literature*. Reprint Edition. New York: Harvest/HBJ Books, 1992 [1990].
- Garcia-Marquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Trans. Gregory Rabassa. HarperPerennial Classics. New York: HarperCollins, 1998 [1970].
- Helprin, Mark. *Winter's Tale*. Reissue Edition. New York: Harvest Books, 2006 [1983].
- Kubrick, Stanley. *2001: A Space Odyssey*. DVD. Warner Brothers, 2004 [1968].
- Kuhn, Thomas. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 3rd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996 [1962].
- Lord, Albert. *The Singer of Tales*. Second Edition. Eds. Steven Mitchell and Gregory Nagy. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000 [1960].
- Menand, Louis. *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*. Reprint Edition. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002 [2001].
- Meyer, Leonard B. *Emotion and Meaning in Music*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961 [1956].
- Pirsig, Robert. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. HarperPerennial Classics. New York: HarperCollins, 2006 [1974].
- Szabó, István. *Mephisto*. DVD. Anchor Bay Entertainment, 2001 [1981].

I've listed good, cheap editions for most books. In the two or three contrary cases, the listed editions are superior in some specific way. You will notice that two of these texts are films. We will watch these together in class. There is no need for you to acquire them.

I maintain a class web site which I hope will be useful to you. There will always be a current copy of this 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. To access the site, go to my web page <<http://www.julianlong.net/>> and follow the links to Long's Back Room/SLU classes.

Schedule

August 28: Fall classes begin
September 4: Labor Day holiday
September 6: Organizational meeting
September 20: Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*
October 4: de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
October 18: Buber, *I and Thou*, Arendt, "Introduction," *Illuminations*, pp. 1–55
October 23–24: Fall break
November 1: Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*
November 15: Szabó, *Mephisto*
November 23–24: Thanksgiving holiday
November 29: Frye, *Words with Power*
December 6: Helprin, *Winter's Tale*
December 13–19: Final exams
December 19, 5:00, p.m. – Fall semester paper due.
December 20–January 14: Semester break
January 15: Martin Luther King holiday
January 16: Spring classes begin
January 24: Menand, *The Metaphysical Club*
February 7: Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," *Illuminations*, pp. 217–251. Meyer, *Emotion and Meaning in Music*.
February 21: Eiseley, *The Unexpected Universe*.
March 7: Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*.
March 12–17: Spring break
March 21: Eliade, *The Myth of the Eternal Return*.
March 28: Kubrick, *2001: A Space Odyssey*.
April 6: Good Friday holiday
April 18: Benjamin, "The Storyteller," *Illuminations*, pp. 83–109. Lord, *The Singer of Tales*.
May 2: Garcia-Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.
May 7–12: Final exams
May 12, 5:00, p.m. – Spring semester paper due.

Overview

The course is primarily reading and discussion. I will invite a few colleagues to help us discuss readings each term, and I'll announce these as we go along. Assignments include

modern and postmodern classics with some thought to represent a spectrum of issues, disciplines, and genres.

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 ten of these for each of you over the year—that will give you a little flexibility about which ones you do. For the three classes when more than one reading is assigned, you may choose one or the other reading as subject for your paragraph essay.

In addition, I'd like you to write a more substantial essay each term. We'll talk about these essays at some length in class, and I'd like to have a conference with each of you each term about your particular paper. 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. We meet every two weeks except for December 6, which falls only one week after the previous meeting on November 29. A hint to the wise: I'll not give quizzes as long as people come to class and/or unless I discover that people aren't reading.

Standards for written work:

Address substantive issues in your paragraph essays. Defend any claims you make by specific reference to text. 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 essays, 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'll schedule regular office hours each semester and make appointments for other times within reason. If you really need me you can call me at my wireless number or at home; leave a message if I don't answer. Generally the best way to communicate with me is to write me email.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Academic Resources Center, 3840 Lindell	
Academic Services	977-2370
Writing Center	977-2930
Student Educational Services (Disability Accommodation)	977-8885
Campus Ministry	
Loyola Campus Ministry Center	977-2425
English Department, 3800 Lindell	
Main Office, Humanities 129	977-3010
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.