

HR 496, Great books
Fall 2008—Spring 2009
Xavier 122
6:30-9:00 alternate Wednesdays

Julian Long
Phone: 314/977-3951
<http://julianlong.net/wordpress>
longj3@slu.edu

SYLLABUS

Texts

- Arendt, Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York: Penguin, 1994 [1963].
- Dewey, John. *Art as Experience*. Perigee Books. New York: Penguin Putnam Inc., 1980 [1934].
- 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].
- Garcia-Marquez, Gabriel. *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Trans. Edith Grossman. New York: Penguin Books, 1989 [1988].
- Helprin, Mark. *Winter's Tale*. Reissue Edition. New York: Harvest Books, 2006 [1983].
- Kuhn, Thomas. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 3rd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996 [1962].
- Kundera, Milan. *The Unbearable lightness of Being*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 1999 [1984].
- MacIntyre, Alasdair. *Three Rival Versions of Moral Enquiry*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991 [1990].
- Pirsig, Robert. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. HarperPerennial Classics. New York: HarperCollins, 2006 [1974].
- Potok, Chaim. *My Name is Asher Lev*. Anchor Books. New York: Random House, 2003 [1972].
- Rorty, Richard. *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999 [1989].
- Schlink, Bernhard. *The Reader*. Trans. Carol Brown Janeway. New York: Vintage International, 1998.
- Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. Pocket Books. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1985 [1982].
- Films: *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Blade runner*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *Mephisto*, *Nowhere in Africa*, *Out of Africa*, *The Horse's Mouth*, *The Lives of Others*, *The Specialist*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.

The books are required. I've listed good, cheap editions for most of them. It isn't necessary that you get the listed editions, but it helps discussion if we all have the same page numbers. You don't need to acquire the films. We'll screen them on a series of Saturdays throughout the year, but they'll also be on reserve for you in Xavier Annex. The films are not required, though I hope you will want to see them.

I maintain a class web page on my blog, 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. The blog address is: <http://julianlong.net/wordpress/>. (Note that Saturday films have been canceled. Films are on reserve at the Instructional Media Center in Xavier Annex.)

Schedule

August 25: Fall classes begin
September 1: Labor Day holiday
September 3: Organizational meeting
September 6, Saturday film: *Blade Runner*
September 17: Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*
October 1: Rorty, *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity*
October 11, Saturday film: *The Lives of Others*
October 15: Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
October 20–21: Fall break
October 25, Saturday film: *Out of Africa*
October 29: Dewey, *Art as Experience*
November 12: Eliade, *The Myth of the Eternal Return*
November 15: Saturday film, *The Horse's Mouth*
November 19: Eiseley, *The Unexpected Universe*
November 27–28: Thanksgiving holiday
December 3: Helprin, *Winter's Tale*
December 6, Saturday film: *2001: A Space Odyssey*
December 10–16: Final exams
December 16, 5:00, p.m. – Fall semester paper due.
December 17–January 11: Semester break
January 12: Spring classes begin
January 17, Saturday film: *Mephisto*
January 19: Martin Luther King holiday
January 21: MacIntyre, *Three Rival Versions of Moral Enquiry*
February 4: Walker, *The Color Purple*
February 7, Saturday film: *The Specialist*
February 18: Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*
February 23, Saturday film, *Nowhere in Africa*
March 4: Schlink, *The Reader*
March 7–15: Spring break
March 25: Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*
April 12, Saturday film: *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*
April 8: Garcia-Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*
April 25, Saturday film: *Love in the Time of Cholera*
April 22: Potok, *My Name is Asher Lev*
May 6–12: 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. Reading assignments include modern and postmodern classics in a variety of genres.

Grades, writing, attendance:

I'd like you to write a one-page paragraph essay detailing your reaction to each reading assignment and hand it in at the beginning of class before the discussion. I want these to be honest, unprejudiced reactions, so generally I'll not accept them after class discussion. You may write about the films, however, and I'll accept as many as two paragraph essays on films each semester in lieu of essays on books. And since you'll need to have seen the films in order to write about them, I'll accept those essays after the Saturday screenings. I'll plan to count ten paragraph essays for each of you over the year—that will give you a little flexibility about what to write.

In addition to the paragraph essays, I'd like you to write a more substantial semester essay each term in which you explore some theme that appears in more than one text. These should be original essays and not research papers. You may use films as well as books. 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 mostly every two weeks. 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. The Saturday movie screenings are, as I say, not required; though I hope some of you will come each time because it's fun to talk about the movies after we watch them.

About form:

Address substantive issues in all your essays. Defend any claims you make by specific reference to the relevant texts. 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
Julian Long	
Home	773-2876
Wireless	302-3267
Honors Program	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.