

Humanities 324, The Modern World, Spring 2009
Professor McClain

Texts: Gloria Fiero, The Humanistic Tradition, vols. 4-6, 5th edition (F1-F2 below)
The Asheville Reader: the Modern World
Tanizaki, In Praise of Shadows
Thoreau, Civil Disobedience and Other Essays
Achebe, Things Fall Apart

Humanities 324 is the third of the four courses that comprise the Humanities Program, the core liberal arts general education requirement offered at UNCA. In sum, the subject matter of the course is the meaning of “modernity:” how much of what is meant by “modern” is developed in the West, then spread globally: modernization as a world-wide project.

Course objectives:

- familiarity with intellectual and cultural trends of Western civilization as influenced by non- Western and vice versa.
- appreciation of underlying human values
- awareness of power-structures and their influence on all of the above
- skills: critical thinking via reading, writing, listening, and discussion

grades: 1) a midterm, 20% ; 2) a final, 30%; 3) two eight page papers, 20% each (see attached); 4) weekly lecture quizzes, 10%. I will take the 10 best of your individual quizzes to average for this part of your final grade. On the quizzes, check-plus = A, check = C, and check-minus = F.

*** Absences: more than *three* unexcused absences from our individual weekly section will result in a full letter grade deduction off the final average.** “Excused” absences are verifiable, documented medical and official UNCA-related events.

Office hours: Mondays 8-10:30, NH 210 (ext, 6825; email, jmcclain@unca.edu), and by appointment.

To note:

- * some syllabus changes are possible as the semester demonstrates need
- * I recommend that you buy the course texts (all of them) early in the semester.
- * assignments due on canceled days because of my absence or weather will be completed the very next class we meet; this includes quizzes and exams
- * no make ups for midterm exams; if you miss it that percentage of your grade (20%) will be added to the percentage of your final exam; thus your final exam will be worth 50% instead of 30%. **You may not miss the final exam = zero.**
- * no make ups for quizzes missed due to your absence or tardiness
- * tardiness is unacceptable
- * plagiarism/cheating = “0” on that assignment
- * **Remember: HUM 324 is a four hour credit course, not three, thus you should expect to busy.**

ESSAYS

This semester you will write two essays outside of class, each 8 full pages long (typed, double-spaced in 12-point font. All margins should be 1 inch. Justify the left margin, do not justify the right margin.) Each essay will discuss one of the following topics; you may agree or disagree with it. What is important is your argument: opinion supported with evidence and reason.

Due Dates: First Essay, February 27 and Second Essay, May 1.

The topics:

- 1) Faith is more important than facts.
- 2) Religion gets in the way of reason.
- 3) Equality is for those who *are* equal, not for the others.
- 4) Education is the responsibility of the individual.
- 5) "Progress" can happen individually, but not for society as a whole.
- 6) "East" and "West" and "North" and "South" are fictions.
- 7) "I" am a fiction. .
- 8) Materialism and religion go hand-in-hand very well in the modern world.

- A) For each essay you are to use **four** sources, **only four**: two primary texts from our syllabus and two secondary sources, two cultural events. Dictionaries, encyclopedia, web sites are **NOT** acceptable.
- B) Primary material is material written in the time period we are studying, not what someone else says about it; this includes Fiero herself and the editors of the Asheville Reader. The Asheville Reader and the Fiero texts are anthologies of primary sources; they are not single sources but collections of multiple sources.
- C) The two secondary sources should be cultural events, performances in public that you yourself attend--not at home or in private. A private event may be cultural but it is not acceptable for this assignment. You must be at the event, one that, in principle, anyone could attend. Acceptable events are, e.g, plays, concerts, movies, art exhibitions, speeches. These events should reflect modern identity construction concerns, especially regarding issues of the privileged and the marginalized: events about class conflict, race, gender construction, roles, or conflict, e.g. are acceptable. These events must take place during this semester, Spring 2009, starting January 14.

*You may also use to some degree personal biography *in terms of your experience of the event*..

You must use several quotes from your primary sources, at least 3 quotes from each source and each single quote no more than 3 lines long. Your secondary sources (the cultural events) may use quotes, too. If quotes are not possible, you should still use data, titles, from them. I expect the time and the place of the events to be incorporated within the essays, the names of the speaker(s) and performers (characters) Be specific and **detailed** in your description of the events. These events must be outside of any course, e.g. you may not use a Humanities Program lecture.

You may not repeat any sources for the second essay that you used for your first. You may repeat the topic, however. When you hand in your second essay, hand in my graded copy of your first essay too.

Do not email your paper. I will accept only hard copy.

*I will be happy to meet with you individually about these essays but this is not required.

****No late essays will be accepted without verifiable medical reasons.***

Part One: Defining Modernity

January 14, Wednesday, classes begin; introduction to course

January 16: “The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment: Articulating Universal Laws “
F4, 75-83; Galileo, AR 2-8; Kant, AR 59-66; Locke, AR 26-36; Smith AR

January 23: “Enlightenment and Liberalism: Rights and Revolution”
Jefferson, AR 76-81; Madison, AR 85-90; National Assembly of France AR 91-94
Rousseau, AR 50-58; Burke, AR 103-112; Bolivar, AR 230-235

January 30 “Industrialization, Romanticism, Alienation”
F4 102-103; F5 77-81
de Tocqueville, AR 236-245; Mill, AR 262-267

Part Two: Making the World in the Their Image and Not: Modernizing the World with Margins

February 6: “Racism and Slavery”
F4 114-118; Douglass, AR 206-212;; Equiano, AR, 181-185; Washington, AR 344-349; DuBois, AR 360-366; Garvey, AR 367-375 Banneker, AR 113-118

February 13: “Native American Experience”
Pokagon, AR 304-310; Zitkala-Sa, AR 311-314; Ohiyesa, AR 315-320; Black Elk, AR 339-342
* Midterm exam

February 20: “Woman Suffrage in America”
Stanton, AR 213-217 Adams AR 170-174, Anthony, AR 273-276; Grimke, AR 202-205; Truth, AR 218-221

February 27: “Darwin and Darwinism(s)” ****first essay due
F5, 25-27, 73-77; Darwin, AR 382-390; Lenin, AR 333-338;
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

March 6 : “Islam and the Modern World”
Readings on Electronic Reserve

March 13: Spring Break

Part Three: Now Who is the “Other?”

March 20: “ World War 1 and the European Crisis of Consciousness”
F6 27-35, 50-56; Swanwick, AR 456-460; Jung, AR 441-446
Civil Disobedience and other Essays, Henry David Thoreau

March 27: Annual Spring Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creativity

April 3: “Enlightening China and Japan: Western Imperialism in Asia”
Emperor Ch’ien-lung, AR 119-121; Gandhi, AR 321-326; Hirobumi, AR 327-332
In Praise of Shadows, Junichiro Tanizaki

April 10: "Modernity and Modernism"

F6 110-139; F6 1-26, 37-49, 80-91; Stein, AR 424-427; Kafka, AR 428-434 ; Nietzsche (AR 414-423)

April 17: "The Rise of Fascism in the Interwar Years and ...Beyond"

F6, 56-60; Keynes, AR 470-474; Mussolini, AR 480-487; Arendt, AR 497-502

Hitler, AR 461-469

Christopher Isherwood, electronic reserve

April 24: "World War II , the Holocaust, and Existentialism"

F6, 60-65; F6, 770-74; Camus, AR 513-517; Sartre, AR 518-521

May 1 : The New Physics ****Second Essay due

May 4 : Monday, last day of class