

Humanities 414 The Individual in the Contemporary World (4)
FALL 2008

Instructor: Dr. James Pitts – Zageir 213

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9-10:30 a.m.; most Wednesdays 8–9 a.m. Also by appointment
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Class meetings times & Places

Common 414 meeting: Humanities Lecture Hall, Friday 11:25 am -12:35 pm. Dr. Pitts' Section meets T & TH 11:00 am - 12:10 pm in Karpen Hall. Room 016.

Prerequisites: 75 semester hours and language 102; completed Humanities 124, 214, 324.

Texts: Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition, Volume 6, 5th edition*
Campbell et al., *The Asheville Reader: The Individual in the Contemporary World*
Jason Sokol, *There Goes My Everything: White Southerners in the Age of Civil Rights, 1945-1975*

The 414 Framework: Each topic is introduced by a large-group lecture on Friday (**Attendance Required—you must sign a weekly attendance sheet held by Professor Pitts at each common lecture.** Lecture Outlines will be available on the Humanities web site (for downloading) a few days prior to the Friday lecture. Most Tuesday meetings of our discussion section will focus on issues presented in the Friday lecture and assigned readings in Fiero and the Asheville Reader. Most Thursday meetings will focus on readings assigned in the Sokol book or a video. **Regular participation and preparation is required in Tuesday and Thursday meetings. Students who anticipate a scheduling conflict with the attendance requirements are advised to drop enrollment immediately.**

Humanities Objectives:

- To lead students to realize that they are the heirs of ages of accumulated thought, decisions, and productions, and co-creators of contemporary culture.
- To familiarize students with major trends in the development of Western civilizations; with aspects of the development of other cultures; and with human accomplishments which are both noteworthy and representative.
- To develop awareness of the validity of different perspectives, and to go beyond relativism to appreciate underlying human values.
- To understand the concept of “community” and to realize the ways in which individuals both develop, and are developed by, their communities; to question social conventions critically and responsibly; and to realize the effects of one’s decisions upon the community.
- To realize the presence and role of power structures throughout history, and to understand their effects upon human development.

Course Themes:

The following themes are core to the reading, thinking, and discussions that we will do this semester. These themes are embedded in contemporary life. Look for the variety of ways the themes appear in various contexts.

- Globalization
 - Cultural hybridity
 - Rights and universals
 - Identity and liberation
- Representation and reality
 - Sustainability
 - Participation and estrangement

Makin' It Real

There Goes My Everything, a recent history of how white southerners experienced black citizens' struggle for equality and inclusion from the end of World War II to the mid 1970s. Reading and discussing this book will enable students to see several themes of Humanities 414 unfold in an earlier era within a culturally distinct region of the United States. Looking at whites and the South in an earlier era of tumultuous change will help us to better understand our nation and contemporary world issues in the 21st century. We will focus on "...*My Everything*" in Thursday class meetings throughout the first half of the semester.

A second way to make Humanities 414 themes relevant to 21st century students is our 414 section's requirement that each student attend and report on three (3) cultural/learning activities offered this semester either on the UNCA campus or in Asheville. In each of the activities selected for report the student must explain how the activity illuminates or exemplifies one of the core 414 themes above.

Email Questions and Tuesday Discussions

Following the Friday lecture Professor Pitts will email students in his section one or two questions to consider before our Tuesday section meeting. Professor Pitts will call on several students to get the class discussion going. Quality contributions to class discussions will be noticed. Professor Pitts' evaluation of each student's contribution to Tuesday discussions will contribute **20%** to the course grade.

Thursday Meetings:

Thursday meetings will be conducted as a seminar, and during our reading of "*There Goes My Everything*" assigned groups of students will take turns presenting the content of the book chapters. Dr. Pitts will take the lead in one of the early sessions to demonstrate how a student group might report and explain the content of a chapter. Each group will take responsibility for two chapters on its assigned date. All students are required to read every chapter of Sokol's book but those who are not presenting are expected to provide an attentive and active seminar that responds to the work of the presenting group. Dr. Pitts will attend, listen, and evaluate the quality of learning and mutual teaching for each presenter in the group. (Thursday presentations will contribute **20%** of the course grade).

Cultural/Learning Reports:

As referenced above in **Makin' It Real**, each student is required to write three brief papers (each will be a **minimum of 3 pages**) in response to a learning event or activity offered to the public at UNCA or in Asheville. Each report should be handed in on the dates listed in Professor Pitts' syllabus. **All reports must be paper hard copy, word**

processed, and double-spaced. Dr. Pitts will not accept email (or flash drive) submissions of cultural/learning reports. (The three Cultural/Learning Reports will be averaged to contribute **20%** of the course grade)

Student Journals:

Through the semester each student is required to develop a personal learning journal. As you read each week's assignments, listen to lectures, react to class videos and class discussions you will have numerous opportunities to record your reflections and questions. Dr. Pitts will collect this journal near the end of the semester. **The student journal, like the cultural/learning reports, must be submitted as (paper) hard copy. It must also be word processed and double-spaced. Don't submit email, a CD, a diskette or a web site!** The grade on your journal counts for **20%** of the course grade.

Final Comprehensive Examination:

The final examination will be **take-home**, to be handed out on Dec 5, the final day of class for HUM 414. This take-home final will be handed in on December 10. (**20%**)

Plagiarism

The presentation of someone else's words or ideas as your own (i.e. without giving that person credit) is a serious offense. If you use someone else's words use quotation marks and a note citing the source; if you use someone else's ideas in your own words you also must note the source. If you plagiarize your actions will be reported to your advisor and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; you will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and you may not redo the assignment for a higher grade.

Disability Accommodations

Students who have documented disabilities or learning differences are strongly urged to consult with Dr. Pitts before the second week of the semester. Even before meeting with Dr. Pitts consult with the Office of Liberal Arts Learning and Disability Services. Working together we can make learning and evaluation accommodations that are suitable.

Campus E-mail and Course Communication

Dr. Pitts will use your campus e-mail account to communicate with you. Every week I will send discussion questions. Via email I also will send announcements of course relevant events and speakers, changes in assignments, and changes in class meetings. If you have to tell me of illness or other reasons for missing class make sure to email me in advance. **If your listed campus e-mail account is not operative or you have chosen to use another email account you have a major problem. Update the account or set up an effective forwarding command. I strongly advise you to check your Bulldog account daily. Finally, TURN OFF CELL PHONES DURING BOTH LECTURES & DISCUSSION CLASSES! Step out of classroom settings to take messages.**

I. REFLECTIONS ON THE POST-WAR HUMAN CONDITION

Topics & Dates	Assigned Readings or Presentations
August 19 & 21	Themes and Postmodern Condition (In Discussion Section) Assigned Readings (Complete before Friday's lecture) <i>The Greatest Resource: Education, E.F. Schumacher, (AR) pp. 395-412.</i> <i>Azikiwe, Nnamdi, "A Denunciation of European Imperialism." (AR) pp.32-37</i> <i>Eisenhower, Dwight D, "Farewell Radio and Television Address to the American People.: (AR) pp. 148-152</i> <i>Hopes, David Brendan, "Memorial Day." (AR) pp. 207-209</i> <i>Jieruo, Wen, "Living Hell (From her Memoirs)." (AR) pp.486-493</i> <i>Shultz, G.G., W.J., Perry, H.A. Kissinger and S, Nunn, "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons." (AR) pp.413-417</i>
August 22	First Common Lecture: Cold War Era—JUDSON
Aug 26-28	Assigned Readings: <i>Rawls, John, "The Main Idea in the Theory of Justice." (AR) pp.361-367</i> <i>Gandhi, Mohandas, "All Men are Brothers." (AR) pp.158-169</i> <i>Bambara, Toni Cade, "The Lesson." (AR) pp.56-63</i> <i>Connelly, M, and P, Kennedy, "Must it be the West Against the Rest?"</i> <i>Berry, Wendell, "Thoughts in the Presence of Fear." (AR) pp.81-85</i>
Aug 26	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts' e-mail following the Friday lecture
Aug 28	Dr. Pitts presents the Introduction to Sokol's book
August 29	Poverty and Plenty – BROWNING (Do readings above before 8/29)

Labor Day – Monday September 1 – NO CLASSES. (Pitts will send e-mail as scheduled for Tuesday class, September 2)

Sept 4	Student group A presents chapter 1 in Sokol, Prelude: In the Wake of the War
Sept 5	Human Rights – GIBNEY (Do readings below before Gibney lecture <i>UN Declaration of Human Rights & Declaration of Women's Rights (AR) 659-68</i> <i>Sontag, Susan, "Regarding the Torture of Others." (available on e-reserve</i> <i>The Land of Rights, Mary Ann Glendon (AR) pp. 269-83</i> <i>Agosin, Marjorie, "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" (AR) pp.9-12</i>
Sept 9	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts' e-mail following the Friday lecture

II. CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS: IDENTITY & LIBERATION

Sept 11	Student group B presents chapter 2 in Sokol, "Our Negroes" No More
Sept 12	Immigration and Cultural Intersection—MCENANY (Before Lecture read the following): <i>Erdich, Louise, "The Buffalo Prayer." (AR) pp.153-154</i> <i>Alexie Sherman, "I Hated Tonto (Still Do)." (AR) pp.13-16</i> <i>Achebe, Chinua, "Dead Men's Path" GF pp.131-133</i> <i>Cisneros, Sandra, "No Speak English" (GF) p. 137</i> <i>Lalami, Laila, "The Trip." (AR) pp.239-247</i>
Sept 16	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts' e-mail following the Friday lecture
Sept 18	Student Group C presents chapter Three, Daughters of Dixie, Sons of the South

Sept 19	<p>Islam – CHAPMAN (Read before Chapma lecture) Rauf, Imam Feidal Abdul, “America: A Shariah-Complieant State.” (AR) pp.355-360 D’Souza, Dinesh, “The Land of the Free.” (AR) pp.132-137 Deen, Mawil Y, Izzi,(Samarrai), Environmental Ethics, Law and Society.” (AR) pp.112-122 Qutb, Sayyid, Social Justice in Islam.” (AR) pp.344-352 First Cultural/Political Event paper is due. No electronic copy or flash drives will be accepted. Only hard copy. (Retain a copy for your files).</p>
Sept 23	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts’ e-mail following the Friday lecture
Sept 25	Student Group D presents chapter Four in Sokol, BBQ,Fried Chicken....
Sept 26	<p>Civil Rights /Black Protest Thought – WHITLOCK (Read before lecture) <i>Malcolm X, “Message to the Grassroots.” (GF pp. 101)</i> <i>Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullt” (available on e-reserve and free online)</i> <i>King, Martin Luther, “Letter From the Birmingham Jail” (AR) pp.214-228</i> <i>Walker, Alice “Elethia” (GF) pp.103-134</i> <i>Baldwin, James, “Notes Froma Native Son.” (AR) pp. 38-55</i> <i>Randall, Dudley, “The Ballard of Birmingham” (AR) pp.353-354</i> <i>Sokol, Jason, “Daughters of Dixie, Sons of the South” (AR) pp418-435</i></p>
September 30	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts’ e-mail following the Friday lecture
Oct 2	Student group E presents chapter Five in Sokol, “Softly the Unthinkable”
Oct 3	<p>Representation and Reality –McNerney (Read Before McNerney lecture) <i>Postman, Neil, “The Huxleyan Warning”</i> <i>Ginsberg, Allen, A Supermarket in California.” (AR) pp.170-171</i> <i>Borges, Jose-Lui,” “The Anthropologist.” (AR) pp.86-88</i> <i>O’Brien, Tim, “How to Tell a True War Story.” (AR) pp. 307-318</i> <i>O’Conner, Flannery, “Good Country People.” (AR) pp.319-336</i> <i>Nozicck, Robert, “The Experience Machine.” (AR) pp.285-287</i> <i>Steinem, Gloria, “Sex, Lies and Advertising.” (AR) pp.436-447</i></p>
Oct 7	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts’ e-mail following the Friday lecture
Oct 9	Student Group F presents chapter Six in Sokol, “The Price of Liberation”
Oct 10	<p>Gender and Identity – CAMPBELL/ALLEN (Read Before Campbell lecture) <i>Unknown, “The Rape of Mr. Smith,” (AR) pp.459-460</i> <i>Sanchez, Sonya, “Woman” (GF) pp-113</i> <i>Angelou, Maya, “Phenomenal Woman,” (AR) pp29-31</i> <i>Anne Sexton,, “Self In 1958,” (GF) pp112</i> <i>Butler, Judith, “Gender: The Circular Ruins of Contemporary Debate.” (AR) pp.89-91</i> <i>Kawabata, Yasunari, “Summer and Winter.” (AR) pp.210-213</i> <i>Lorde, Audre, “Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference (AR) pp.257-265</i></p>
Oct 11-14	FALL BREAK: NO MONDAY & TUESDAY CLASSES

III CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS: CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

10/16	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts' e-mail following the Friday lecture <i>Second Cultural/Political Event paper is due. No electronic copy or flash drives will be accepted. Only hard copy. (Retain a copy for your files).</i> .
10/17	Post Modern Culture/Architecture – McClain (Read before McClain lecture) <i>Walter Truett Anderson?</i> “What’s Going On Here?” (AR) pp. 8-28 <i>Kuhn, Thomas, “Scientists and their Worldviews.”</i> (AR) pp. 229-238 <i>Baudrillard, Jean, “L’esprit du Terrorisme.”</i> (AR) pp.69-77 <i>Espada, Martin, “The Man Who Owns the Dumpster Owns the Books</i> (AR) pp.155-157 <i>Lifton, Robert Jay, “The Protean Style.”</i> (AR) pp.253-257 <i>Adorno, Theodor, “Culture Industry Reconsidered.”</i> (AR) pp.1-8
Oct 21	Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts' e-mail following the Friday lecture
Oct 23	<i>Discussion of assigned Readings (tba)</i>
10/24	Contemporary Art - BUTLER <i>Fiero Text (GF) pp.144-169</i> Miller, Paul, “Sonic Sculpture.” (AR) pp.278-284
10/28	<i>Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts' e-mail following the Friday lecture</i>
10/30	<i>Video (to be announced)</i>
10/31	Contemporary Music - WILKEN
Nov 4	Discussion of Professor Wilken's lecture & video ELECTION DAY—Remember to do it!

IV. GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Nov 6	<i>Discussion & video</i> <i>(Read the following before Campbell's lecture)</i> <i>Leopold, Aldo, “thinking Like a Mountain.”</i> (AR) pp.248-250 <i>Dillard, Annie, From: Pilgrim at Tinker Creek,”</i> (GF) pp. 134-135 <i>Dobel, Patrick, “The Judeo-Christian Stewardship Attitude to Nature.”</i> (AR) pp.123-131 <i>Dykeman, Wilma, “ Who Killed the South French Broad?”</i> (AR) pp. 138-147 <i>Wilson, Edward, O. “Storm Over the Amazon.”</i> (AR) pp..494-503 <i>Hardin, Garret, “The Tragedy of the Commons.”</i> (AR) 188-203 <i>Warren, Karen, “The Power and promise of Eco-feminism.”</i> (AR) pp.461-485 <i>Maathai, Wangari, Trees for Democracy.”</i> (AR) pp. 271-277
Nov 7	Environmental Ethics – CAMPBELL

Nov 11	Veteran's Day Discussion Third Cultural/Political Event paper is due. No electronic copy or flash drives will be accepted. Only hard copy. (Retain a copy)
Nov 13	<i>Discussion of materials related to Sulock lecture (Read before lecture)</i> <i>Bartheleme, Donald, "Report." (AR) pp.64-68</i> <i>Lovings, Amory, "Technology is the Answer (But What Was the Question?) (AR) pp.266-270</i> <i>Schultz G.P. W.J., Perry, H>AA> Kissinger and S. Nunn, "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons." (AR) pp. 413-417</i> <i>Roy, Arundhati, "The End of Imagination." (AR) pp.374-386</i> <i>Leverove, Denise, "The Pilots." (AR) pp.251-252</i>
Nov 14	<i>Energy, Technology & Militarism – SULOCK</i>
Nov 18	<i>Class discussion based on Dr. Pitts' e-mail following Sulock's lecture</i>
20	<i>Class Discussion of following Readings related to Pitts' lecture (Before lecture)</i> <i>Havel, Vaclav, "Our Moral Footprint." (AR) pp.204-206</i> <i>Rich, Adrienne, "If Not with Others How? (AR) pp.368-373</i> <i>Nussbaum, Martha, "Citizens of the World." (AR) pp.288-306</i> <i>Kahn, Si, "From: The Fox in the Henhouse." (available on e-reserve)</i> <i>Berry, Wendell, "Manifesto: Mad Farmer Liberation Front." (AR) pp.78-80</i> <i>Amichai, Yehuda, "The Diameter of the Bomb." (AR) pp. 17</i> <i>Wilson, E.O., "The Diversity of Life." (GF) pp.133-134</i>
Nov 21	Global Citizenship – PITTS <i>Course journals are due today. No handwritten or electronic copy will be accepted</i>
Nov 24 - 29	Thanksgiving Holiday Monday -Friday
Dec 2 & 4	<i>Discussion Section Content to be determined</i>
Dec 5	STUDENT PANEL--- Last Class. Dr. Pitts hands out take-home final examination

Dec 10	Take-Home Examination is due at Prof Pitts' Office, Zageir 213
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