

Spring 2006

Prof. Mark C. Chapman

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Exploration of the Humanities (HUMA 1301.001)

Office: JO4.636

Office hours: after class or by appointment

Room: JO 4.102

MWF 9:00-9:50a.m.

Description of Course:

HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities (3 semester hours): An introduction to the concept of cultural tradition through the study of selected works of literature, philosophy, music, and visual art. Emphasis on the relations among various forms of cultural expression and developing students' ability to interpret complex artistic works in their historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts. General education core course. (3-0)

Broadly defined, the topic for this course will be the exploration of the human condition. Students will study different forms of cultural expression (drama, short story, novel, essay, poetry, visual art, and film) from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that address this theme.

Course Requirements/ Evaluation Criteria:

Grades will be determined on the basis of attendance, class participation, written assignments, tests, and quizzes. Quizzes will be unannounced and may be given at any time. Attendance and class participation will be required for all classes. In addition to short response papers (1-2 pages), there will be two non-cumulative tests on the material and the in-class lectures. Proper grammar, spelling, and MLA style format are required on all written work.

There will be no incompletes given for this course.

\*Note: The material in this course will be adult in nature. Some of the language and content will be explicit and may be considered offensive by some individuals.\*\*

Grade Scale:

Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Quizzes (5)	10%
Response Papers (5)	20%
Attendance	10%
Class Participation	10%

Course Grades:

97-100	A+	73-76	C
93-96	A	70-72	C-
90-92	A-	67-69	D+
87-89	B+	63-66	D
83-86	B	60-62	D-
80-82	B-	57-59	F
77-79	C+		

Important note: Tape recorders or other recording devices are not permitted.

Tests and quizzes are of the "closed-book" variety. There are no make-up tests or quizzes unless you are involved in a university sponsored event and have the proper documentation. Quizzes will not be announced.

Response papers (1-2 pages): These are your reactions to the assigned material. Feel free to use 1<sup>st</sup> person, but make sure your response addresses the material and has a clear thesis or point. If you discuss Auntie Tillie's goat and it does not relate to the reading you chose to respond to, you are not developing a proper response paper.

Your task is to respond to the piece on a personal level: What about the story or play had a significant influence on you? What specifically is that influence? What makes it so compelling in relation to your life today? How might this piece resonate later in your life? First person is acceptable; but be forewarned, altered standards are not an excuse for sloppy or poorly written papers. There are five required response papers. No late work will be accepted.

Attendance and withdrawal policy: Attendance is mandatory. Absences will affect your final grade and your ability to complete the assignments. If you are absent, you are simply absent. Tardiness is severely discouraged. It is your responsibility to be on time to class. If you are late or absent and have missed lecture/discussion information the instructor will not recap the information for you. Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which you must initiate. If you stop attending and do not formally withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an "F." Last

**class participation:** This is a discussion-oriented class; therefore, you must read the assignments in order to discuss them. You are also responsible for the material presented during lectures, discussions, and video presentations. Take notes. Thoughtful and mutually respectful comments and observations are welcomed. Behavior that disrupts the learning environment will not be tolerated.

**note concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty:** This course operates according to strict standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty includes any instance of cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and/or falsifying academic records. In any case of deliberate plagiarism or academic dishonesty, the student will fail the assignment or test, and possibly the course. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes academic dishonesty. No excuses will be accepted. See university website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/student/sliffe/scholastic> for examples and definitions.

If you are a disabled student, you are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services in the Student Union, room 1.610 (972-883-6104). The services include: testing accommodation, sign language interpretation, counseling, etc. Registration with the Office of Disability Services is not mandatory. Please notify the instructor if you are registered for these services. Please see university website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/student/sliffe/hcsvc>

**\*\*This syllabus is subject to change: Any changes will be made by the instructor.\*\***

#### Required texts:

Ernest Hemingway	<i>The Man with the Golden Arm</i>	ISBN 1-58322-008-9 (Seven Stories P)
Samuel Beckett	<i>Endgame and Act Without Words</i>	ISBN 0-8021-5024-1 (Grove P)
Ann Charters, ed.	<i>The Story and Its Writer</i>	ISBN 0-312-39729-1 (Bedford/ St. Martin's)
Arthur Miller	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	ISBN 0-14-048134-6 (Penguin Plays)
Tim Shepard	<i>True West</i>	ISBN 0-573-61728-7 (Samuel French, Inc.)

Short story selections are all in Ann Charters's anthology *The Story and Its Writer* and are designated by an asterisk (\*).

#### Calendar

8/1/09	Introductions	
8/1/11	Ralph Waldo Emerson "The American Scholar"	
websites:	<a href="http://www.emersoncentral.com/amscholar.htm">http://www.emersoncentral.com/amscholar.htm</a>	
	<a href="http://www.bartleby.com/5/101.html">http://www.bartleby.com/5/101.html</a>	
	<a href="http://art-bin.com/art/oscholar.html">http://art-bin.com/art/oscholar.html</a>	
	<a href="http://www.nationalcenter.org/AmericanScholar.html">http://www.nationalcenter.org/AmericanScholar.html</a>	
	<a href="http://www.infomotions.com/etexts/literature/american/1800-1899/emerson-american-227.txt">http://www.infomotions.com/etexts/literature/american/1800-1899/emerson-american-227.txt</a>	
8/1/13	E. A. Poe "The Fall of the House of Usher" & "The Tell-Tale Heart" (in Charters*)	
8/1/16	No Class: Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Day	
8/1/18	Charlotte Perkins Gilman "The Yellow Wallpaper"* & "Why I Wrote 'The Yellow Wallpaper'"*	
8/1/20	Sarah Orne Jewett "A White Heron"*	
8/1/23	Zora Neale Hurston "The Gilded Six-Bits,"* "Spunk,"* & "Sweat"*	
8/1/25	Kate Chopin "The Story of an Hour"*	<b>Response paper 1 due</b>
8/1/27	Sherwood Anderson "Hands"*	

2/01	William Carlos Williams “The Red Wheel Barrow”	
ebsites:	<a href="http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88/wcw-red-wheel.html">http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88/wcw-red-wheel.html</a> <a href="http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/williams/1043">http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/williams/1043</a> <a href="http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem2316.html">http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem2316.html</a>	
	Wallace Stevens “The Emperor of Ice-Cream”	
ebsites:	<a href="http://www.poetry-archive.com/s/the_emperor_of_ice_cream.html">http://www.poetry-archive.com/s/the_emperor_of_ice_cream.html</a> <a href="http://www.everypoet.com/archive/poetry/Wallace_Stevens/wallace_stevens_the_emperor_of_ice_cream.htm">http://www.everypoet.com/archive/poetry/Wallace_Stevens/wallace_stevens_the_emperor_of_ice_cream.htm</a> <a href="http://www.web-books.com/Classics/Poetry/Anthology/Stevens_W/Emperor.htm">http://www.web-books.com/Classics/Poetry/Anthology/Stevens_W/Emperor.htm</a>	
2/03	Wallace Stevens “Sunday Morning”	
ebsites:	<a href="http://www.web-books.com/Classics/Poetry/Anthology/Stevens_W/Sunday.htm">http://www.web-books.com/Classics/Poetry/Anthology/Stevens_W/Sunday.htm</a> <a href="http://www.poemhunter.com/p/m/poem.asp?poet=6687&amp;poem=28803">http://www.poemhunter.com/p/m/poem.asp?poet=6687&amp;poem=28803</a> <a href="http://cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/Poetry/Stevens/sunday_morning.html">http://cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/Poetry/Stevens/sunday_morning.html</a>	
2/06	Robert Frost “After Apple-Picking”	<b>Response paper 2 due</b>
ebsites:	<a href="http://www.online-literature.com/frost/741/">http://www.online-literature.com/frost/741/</a> <a href="http://quotations.about.com/cs/poemlyrics/a/After_Apple.htm">http://quotations.about.com/cs/poemlyrics/a/After_Apple.htm</a> <a href="http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/robertfrost/12060">http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/robertfrost/12060</a>	
	“The Wood- Pile”	
ebsites:	<a href="http://www.everypoet.com/archive/poetry/Robert_Frost/robert_frost_the_wood-pile.htm">http://www.everypoet.com/archive/poetry/Robert_Frost/robert_frost_the_wood-pile.htm</a> <a href="http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem859.html">http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem859.html</a> <a href="http://www.online-literature.com/frost/758/">http://www.online-literature.com/frost/758/</a>	
2/08	John Steinbeck “The Chrysanthemums”*	
2/10	Ernest Hemingway “Hills Like White Elephants”*	
2/13	Arthur Miller <i>Death of a Salesman</i>	
2/15	Miller (continued)	
2/17	Miller (continued)	<b>Response paper 3 due</b>
2/20	Nelson Algren <i>The Man with the Golden Arm</i>	
2/20	Algren (continued)	
2/22	Algren (continued)	
2/27	Franz Kafka “The Metamorphosis”*	
3/01	Tim O’Brien “The Things They Carried”*	
3/03	<b>Test 1</b>	
3/06—F 3/11	Spring Break	
3/13	Leo Tolstoy “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”*	
3/16	Sherman Alexie “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven”*	

3/19 ebsites:	Albert Camus “The Guest”* and “The Myth of Sisyphus” <a href="http://stripe.colorado.edu/~morrsto/sisyphus.html">http://stripe.colorado.edu/~morrsto/sisyphus.html</a> <a href="http://www.sccs.swarthmore.edu/users/00/pwillen1/lit/msysip.htm">http://www.sccs.swarthmore.edu/users/00/pwillen1/lit/msysip.htm</a> <a href="http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/sisyphus.htm">http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/sisyphus.htm</a> <a href="http://www.nyu.edu/classes/keefe/hell/camus.html">http://www.nyu.edu/classes/keefe/hell/camus.html</a> <a href="http://theliterarylink.com/sisyphus.html">http://theliterarylink.com/sisyphus.html</a>	
[ 3/20	Samuel Beckett <i>Endgame</i>	
' 3/22	Beckett (continued)	
3/24	Beckett (continued)	<b>Response paper 4 due</b>
[ 3/27	Samuel Beckett <i>Play</i>	
' 3/29	Flannery O'Connor “A Good Man is Hard to Find”*	
3/31	Flannery O'Connor “Good Country People”*	
[ 4/03	Sam Shepard <i>True West</i>	
' 4/05	Shepard (continued)	
4/07	Shepard (continued)	
[ 4/10	<i>Magnolia</i>	
' 4/12	<i>Magnolia</i> (continued)	
4/14	<i>Magnolia</i> (continued)	<b>Response paper 5 due</b>
[ 4/17	<i>Magnolia</i> (continued)	
' 4/19	Andy Goldsworthy <i>Rivers and Tides</i>	
4/21	Goldsworthy <i>Rivers and Tides</i> (continued)	
[ 4/24	<b>Test 2</b>	