

**Fall 2006 Exploration of the Humanities (HUMA 1301.501)**

**Lecturer: Mark C. Chapman, PhD**

**Room: JO 4.102 T/TH 5:30-6:45 p.m.**

**Office: JO 4.622**

**Office hours: after class or by appointment**

**Email: mcc@utdallas.edu**

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. Syllabus will confirm that course emphasizes ability to connect humanistic themes rather than mastery of specific content. Instructor presents and models academic approaches to issues in humanities. (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.

Pre-requisites: None

Student Learning Objectives/ Outcomes:

1. Students will analyze fiction, nonfiction, and film to investigate their understanding of the human condition.
2. Students will respond in written essays to the theme of the human condition as it is represented in the texts under study.
3. Students will evaluate and express their understanding of the human condition during in-class discussion and in written essays.
4. Students will apply their understanding of the humanities to their lives.

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.

Required Texts:

|                   |                                      |   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 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)        |
| Sam Shepard       | <i>True West</i>                     | ISBN 0-573-61728-7 (Samuel French, Inc.)  |

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

Please print a copy of the short stories and poems available on the internet for in-class discussion.

\*\*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.\*\*

Important note: The use of laptop computers or other electronic devices are permitted only if their use pertains to this class.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

TH 8/17 Introductions

T 8/22 Washington Irving "Rip Van Winkle"\*  
Ralph Waldo Emerson "The American Scholar"  
websites: <http://www.emersoncentral.com/amscholar.htm>  
<http://www.bartleby.com/5/101.html>  
<http://www.nationalcenter.org/AmericanScholar.html>

|           |      |                                       |   |                             |
|-----------|------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| TH        | 8/24 | E. A. Poe                             | “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Tell-Tale Heart” (both in Charters*), and “William Wilson: A Tale”   |                             |
| websites: |      |                                       | <a href="http://www.pambytes.com/poe/stories/william_wilson.html">http://www.pambytes.com/poe/stories/william_wilson.html</a><br><a href="http://www.eapoe.org/WORKS/TALES/wilwilc.htm">http://www.eapoe.org/WORKS/TALES/wilwilc.htm</a> (w/page numbers)   |                             |
| T         | 8/29 | Anton Chekov<br>Katherine Anne Porter | “The Lady with the Small Dog”*<br>“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall”*   |                             |
| TH        | 8/31 | Sarah Orne Jewett                     | “A White Heron”*  |                             |
| T         | 9/5  | Kate Chopin<br>Sherwood Anderson      | “The Story of an Hour”*<br>“Hands”*   |                             |
| TH        | 9/7  | Richard Wright                        | “The Man Who Was Almost a Man”*   |                             |
| T         | 9/12 | William Carlos Williams               | “The Red Wheel Barrow”  | <b>Response paper 1 due</b> |
| websites: |      |                                       | <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><br><a href="http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/williams/1043">http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/williams/1043</a><br><a href="http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem2316.html">http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem2316.html</a> —see next page for complete assignment on 9/12  |                             |
|           |      | Wallace Stevens                       | “The Emperor of Ice-Cream”  |                             |
| websites: |      |                                       | <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><br><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><br><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> |                             |
|           |      |                                       | “Sunday Morning”  |                             |
| websites: |      |                                       | <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><br><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><br><a href="http://cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/Poetry/Stevens/sunday_morning.html">http://cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/Poetry/Stevens/sunday_morning.html</a>   |                             |
| TH        | 9/14 | John Steinbeck                        | “The Chrysanthemums”*   |                             |
| T         | 9/19 | Robert Frost                          | “After Apple-Picking”   |                             |
| websites: |      |                                       | <a href="http://www.online-literature.com/frost/741/">http://www.online-literature.com/frost/741/</a><br><a href="http://quotations.about.com/cs/poemlyrics/a/After_Apple.htm">http://quotations.about.com/cs/poemlyrics/a/After_Apple.htm</a><br><a href="http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/robertfrost/12060/">http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/robertfrost/12060/</a>   |                             |
|           |      |                                       | “The Wood-Pile”   |                             |
| websites: |      |                                       | <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><br><a href="http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem859.html">http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/rpo/display/poem859.html</a><br><a href="http://www.online-literature.com/frost/758/">http://www.online-literature.com/frost/758/</a>   |                             |
|           |      |                                       | “Mending Wall”  |                             |
| websites: |      |                                       | <a href="http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88/frost-mending.html">http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88/frost-mending.html</a><br><a href="http://www.online-literature.com/frost/747/">http://www.online-literature.com/frost/747/</a><br><a href="http://everything2.com/index.pl?node_id=367402">http://everything2.com/index.pl?node_id=367402</a>   |                             |
| TH        | 9/21 | Arthur Miller                         | <i>Death of a Salesman</i>  | <b>Response paper 2 due</b> |
| T         | 9/26 | Miller (continued)                    | <i>Death of a Salesman</i>  |                             |
| TH        | 9/28 | Ernest Hemingway                      | “Hills Like White Elephants”*   |                             |
| T         | 10/3 | <b>Test 1</b>                         |   |                             |
| TH        | 10/5 | Leo Tolstoy                           | “The Death of Ivan Ilyich”*   |                             |

T 10/10 Susan Glaspell "A Jury of Her Peers"  
 websites: <http://www.learner.org/exhibits/literature/story/fulltext.html>  
<http://mchip00.nyu.edu/lit-med/lit-med-db/webdocs/webdescrips/glaspell779-des-.html>

TH 10/12 Samuel Beckett *Endgame*

T 10/17 Samuel Beckett *Endgame* (continued)

TH 10/19 Flannery O'Connor "A Good Man is Hard to Find"\* & "Good Country People"\*

T 10/24 Albert Camus "The Guest"\* & "The Myth of Sisyphus"  
 websites: <http://stripe.colorado.edu/~morristo/sisyphus.html>  
<http://www.sccs.swarthmore.edu/users/00/pwillen1/lit/msysip.htm>  
<http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/sisyphus.htm>  
<http://www.nyu.edu/classes/keefe/hell/camus.html>  
<http://theliterarylink.com/sisyphus.html>

TH 10/26 Sam Shepard *True West*

T 10/31 Shepard *True West* (continued)

TH 11/2 Andy Goldsworthy *Rivers and Tides*

T 11/7 Andy Goldsworthy *River and Tides* (continued)

TH 11/9 *Magnolia*

T 11/14 *Magnolia* (continued)

TH 11/16 *Magnolia* (continued)

**Response paper 3 due**

T 11/21 **Test 2**

TH 11/23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS

### Grading Policy

| Grade Scale:        |     | Course Grades: |             |
|---------------------|-----|----------------|-------------|
| Test 1              | 25% | 97-100         | A+ 73-76 C  |
| Test 2              | 25% | 93-96          | A 70-72 C-  |
| Quizzes (5)         | 10% | 90-92          | A- 67-69 D+ |
| Response Papers (3) | 20% | 87-89          | B+ 63-66 D  |
| Attendance          | 10% | 83-86          | B 60-62 D-  |
| Class Participation | 10% | 80-82          | B- 0-59 F   |
|                     |     | 77-79          | C+          |

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 maximum): 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. Here are some ideas: 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? Sloppy or poorly written papers will be graded accordingly.

Make sure you are using proper grammar, spelling, and usage. There are three required response papers. No late work will be accepted.

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

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.

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

#### Student Conduct & Discipline:

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

#### Academic Integrity:

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

#### Email Use:

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates

from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

#### Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

#### Incomplete Grade Policy:

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

#### Disability Services:

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

#### Religious Holy Days:

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities:

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.  
([http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm))

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***