

HUMA 1301: Exploration of the Humanities

Course Information

HUMA 1301: Exploration of the Humanities

Fall 2007 MWF 10:30-11:20 AM

Professor Contact Information

Theresa M. Towner

My office hours, in JO 5.620, are from 9-10 AM on Monday and Wednesday and by appointment; the phone number is 883-2031, or you may e-mail me at tmtowner@utdallas.edu.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

(including required prior knowledge or skills)

Course Description

Intended to introduce students to the connections between various fields of study in the humanities, this section of HUMA 1301 will focus on the theme of the American imagination. We will read fiction, poetry, speeches, and historical documents and view and discuss films that define, explore, and challenge the ways that this imagination operates.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

This course requires frequent short writing assignments—announced and unannounced—as well as two short examinations, an oral report and accompanying essay, and a comprehensive final examination. The two short exams will each count for 25% of your course grade; the oral report and its essay will count together for 25%, and the final exam will also count for 25%. The quality of the other writing assignments will determine cases of borderline course grades.

Required Textbooks and Materials

The materials marked on the following syllabus as xeroxes are available in a course pack from Off Campus Books. The following texts are available at the UTD Bookstore, Off Campus Books, and commercially.

Use only these editions:

Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Penguin, ISBN 0142437174)

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (Penguin, ISBN 0140421998)

Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time* (Scribner's, ISBN 0684822768)

Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon* (Vintage, ISBN 140003342X)

A course pack is also available at Off Campus Books and the UTD Bookstore.

Suggested Course Materials

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Aug. 17: Course introduction

Aug. 20: Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Chapters 1-16; lecture in MC 2.410

Aug. 22: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Chapters 17-The Last; lecture in MC 2.410

Aug. 24: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; discussion sections; first paragraph due in class

Group A: CB 1.110

Group B: CB 1.112

Group C: CB 1.114

Aug. 27: View *Citizen Kane* in MC 2.410

Aug. 29: View *Citizen Kane* in MC 2.410

Aug. 31: View *Citizen Kane* in MC 2.410

Sept. 3: Labor Day; no class

Sept. 5: United States Constitution and Bill of Rights (xeroxes); lecture in MC 2.410

Sept. 7: Constitution and Bill of Rights; discussion sections

Sept. 10: First examination; MC 2.410

Sept. 12: Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*; lecture in MC 2.410

Sept. 14: *Song of Myself*; discussion sections

Sept. 17: *Song of Myself*; lecture in MC 2.410

Sept. 19: *Song of Myself*; lecture in MC 2.410

Sept. 21: *Marbury v. Madison* (xerox) ; discussion sections

Sept. 24: *Marbury v. Madison*; lecture in MC 2.410

Sept. 26: View *The Wizard of Oz* in MC. 2.410

Sept. 28: View *The Wizard of Oz* in MC. 2.410

Oct. 1: *The Wizard of Oz*; lecture in MC 2.410

Oct. 3: Second examination (not comprehensive); MC 2.410

Oct. 5: Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time*; discussion sections

Oct. 8: *In Our Time*; lecture in MC 2.410

Oct. 10: *In Our Time*; lecture in MC 2.410

Oct. 12: William Faulkner's Nobel Prize address and 1924 Citizenship Act (xeroxes); lecture in MC 2.410

Oct. 15: Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*; lecture in MC 2.410; second paragraph due in class

Oct. 17: *Song of Solomon*; lecture in MC 2.410

Oct. 19: *Song of Solomon*; discussion sections

Oct. 22: *Song of Solomon*; lecture in MC 2.410

Oct. 24: *Song of Solomon*; lecture in MC 2.410

Oct. 26: *Song of Solomon*; discussion sections

Oct. 29: View *The Cowboys* in MC 2.410

Oct. 31: View *The Cowboys* in MC 2.410

Nov. 2: View *The Cowboys* in MC 2.410

Nov. 5: Oral reports; discussion sections

Nov. 7: Oral reports; discussion sections

Nov. 9: Oral reports; discussion sections

Nov. 12: Oral reports; discussion sections
Nov. 14: Oral reports; discussion sections
Nov. 16: Oral reports; discussion sections

Nov. 19: Walt Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (xerox); lecture in MC 2.410; third paragraph due in class

Nov. 21: Richard Wright, "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow" (xerox); lecture in MC 2.410

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving; no class

Nov. 26: Course review

Nov. 30: **8-10 AM:** Final examination in MC 2.410

Grading Policy

This course requires frequent short writing assignments—announced and unannounced—as well as two short examinations, an oral report and accompanying essay, and a comprehensive final examination. The two short exams will each count for 25% of your course grade; the oral report and its essay will count together for 25%, and the final exam will also count for 25%. The quality of the other writing assignments will determine cases of borderline course grades.

Course & Instructor Policies

You cannot hope to pass this class if you do not attend it and complete all of the required work. I do not accept late papers; I do not issue grades of incomplete. This course will be conducted according to strict codes of academic honesty. All cases of plagiarism will be fully investigated and the deliberate instances reported to the University's judiciary officer. Penalties for deliberate cheating may include failing the assignment in question, failing the course, or suspension and expulsion from the University. Students are expected to know the University's policies and procedures on such matters, as well as those governing student services, conduct, and obligations.

Field Trip Policies

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 http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

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, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, 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.

Withdrawal from Class

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 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.

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