

Course Syllabus

HUMA 1301.501: Exploration of the Humanities

“The Image of Science and the Scientist in Western Literature”

Fall 2013

Tuesdays/Thursdays 5:30-6:45pm

JO 4.102

Instructor: Dr. Dennis

Email: pdennis@utdallas.edu

Office: JO 5.109

Office Hours: Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm and by appointment.

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

N/A

Course Description

Students often feel the overwhelming impulse to deem important only the knowledge they acquire in the course of pursuing their majors. What often falls by the wayside are the larger contexts – philosophical, historical, and social, to name just three – into which such knowledge fits. Nowhere is this tendency more palpable than in the natural sciences. When asked about physics, biology, or chemistry, students will tend not to discuss the history of these sciences through the work of those who shaped them; instead, students quote the formulas, laws, or ideas for which physicists, biologists, or chemists are famous. In this Humanities course, we will explore the growth of the sciences from the early eighteenth century to the modern day. More specifically, we will examine how the arts over that span represent the responses of society not only to the important ideas that have shaped the history of science but also to the larger social and ethical concerns that have arisen in the natural sciences over the past three centuries. In works ranging from Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726), to Michael Crichton’s *Jurassic Park* (1990), to the popular medical drama *House* (2004), we will consider such concerns, including, but not limited to the role of ethics in scientific practice, the relationship between science/scientists and society, and the evolving perception of what lays within the purview of science. From such an examination, we will approach a greater understanding of the relationship between the humanities and the sciences.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

In this course, students will develop an understanding of critical approaches taken in humanities towards a variety of source material, including literature, philosophy, history, and art. Without abandoning contemporary source materials, students will learn to expand their sources for understanding a historical period to include products of popular culture.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Michael Crichton. *Jurassic Park*. [978-0345538987]

Arthur Conan Doyle. *A Study in Scarlet*. [978-0486431666]

Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World*. [978-0060850524]

Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein*. [978-0486282114]

Jonathan Swift. *Gulliver’s Travels*. [978-0486292731]

H.G. Wells. *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. [978-0486290270]

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Week 1

27 August: Introduction to the Course

29 August: Lecture: “What does Literature Have to Do with Science?”

Week 2

3 September: *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Chapters 1-11

5 September: *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Chapters 12-end

Week 3

10 September: *Frankenstein*, Volume 1

12 September: *Frankenstein*, Volume 2

Week 4

17 September: *Frankenstein*, Volume 3

Quiz #1 (*The Island of Dr. Moreau*, *Frankenstein*)

19 September: *Jurassic Park*, Introduction, First and Second Iterations

Week 5

24 September: *Jurassic Park*, Third Iteration

26 September: *Jurassic Park*, Fourth Iteration

Week 6

1 October: *Jurassic Park*, Fifth Iteration

3 October: *Jurassic Park*, Sixth and Seventh Iterations

Quiz #2 (*Jurassic Park*)

Week 7

8 October: Review for Midterm Examination

10 October: **Midterm Examination**

Week 8

15 October: *Gulliver's Travels*, Part III

17 October: *Gulliver's Travels*, Part III (cont'd)

Response Paper #1 Due!

Week 9

22 October: *Gulliver's Travels*, Part IV

24 October: *A Study in Scarlet*, First Part

Week 10

29 October: “A Study in Pink” (begin)

31 October: “A Study in Pink” and discussion (finish)

Week 11

5 November: “The Logic of Guesswork in Sherlock Holmes and *House*” (55-71)

Quiz #3 (*Gulliver's Travels*, *A Study in Scarlet*)

7 November: *House* – “Sleeping Dogs Lie” and discussion

Week 12

12 November: *Brave New World*

14 November: *Brave New World*

Week 13

19 November: *Brave New World*

21 November: *Brave New World*

Response Paper #2 Due!

Week 14

26 November: FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)

28 November: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)

Week 15

3 December: "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale"

Quiz #4 (*Brave New World*)

5 December: "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale" (finish)

Week 16

10 December: Review for Final Examination

Analytical Essay Due!

Week 17

15 December: **Final Examination (5:00-7:45pm)**

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change at the professor's discretion. The professor will announce any changes made to the schedule in class as early as possible.

Grading Policy

Attendance/Participation: 10%

Quizzes (a total of four): 10%

Response Paper #1: 15%

Response Paper #2: 15%

Analytical Paper: 20%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

Course & Instructor Policies

Students are responsible for turning in assignments and taking exams on the dates indicated on the syllabus. Therefore, I will only grant make-up exams or the late submission of assignments in the case of an emergency (medical or family) verified by appropriate documentation. I will not accept a copy.

Before submitting assignments, students must staple their papers, and their papers must be written in a 12-pt. font (not courier) and include page numbers. If any of these requirements are missing, points will be deducted from the assignment grade.

For information on the policies of the university regarding Academic Integrity, Scholastic Discipline, et al., please visit the following website: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>