

Course Syllabus (DRAFT)

Course Information

Literature of Science: The Mismeasure of Man

LIT 3334

Spring 2014

Monday & Wednesday, 1:00-2:15pm

AH2 1.204

Professor Contact Information

Instructor: Sabrina Starnaman, PhD

Email: sabrina.starnaman@utdallas.edu

Office: JO 5.514

Office Hours: TBA

(and by appointment)

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

HUMA 1301 or equivalent

Course Description

This course examines and critiques the ways that American society, science, and culture has tried to quantify and measure humans. People have historically been ranked physically and intellectually in the name of science and progress, though the methods and outcomes were sometimes hardly “scientific” or “progressive.” From the construction of “the normal man” arises the notion of “the abnormal” or “the defective man.” We will explore historical constructions of normality, disability, sanity, madness, and approaches to treatment, eugenics, and reformation.

We will examine historical and critical works, fiction, memoir, and film.

Required Textbooks and Materials (May include)

Building a Better Race: Gender, Sexuality, and Eugenics from the Turn of the Century to the Baby Boom, Wendy Kline. (2001)

The Mismeasure of Man, Stephen Jay Gould. (1981/1996) Selections.

The Disability Studies Reader, 4th ed. (2013) Selections.

Humanity's End: Why We Should Reject Radical Enhancement, Nicholas Agar. (2010) Selections

The Lives to Come, Philip Kitcher. (1997) Selections

Geek Love, Katherine Dunn. (1983)

Depression: Integrating Science, Culture and the Humanities, Bradley Lewis. (2012)

Darkness Visible, William Stryon. (1990)

A Mind that Found Itself, Clifford Whittingham Beers. (1908)
Tomorrow's Children, (1934)
Gattacca, (1997)
Murderball, (2005)

Course Readings on eLearning (may include): TBD

Copies of the texts will be available at Off Campus Books.
 Off Campus Books (located behind Fuzzy's Taco)
 561 W. Campbell Road, #201
 Richardson, TX 75080

Many of these books can be found cheaply at Half Priced Books or used via Amazon.com.

Suggested Course Materials

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition. ISBN#: 1603290249
They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing. ISBN#: 0-393-92409-2

There are online sources for the MLA formatting information you may need. For instance:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
<http://library.williams.edu/citing/styles/mla.php>

Grading Policy

Reading Quizzes (Unannounced. May be given at the beginning, middle, or end of class.)	100 pts.
Midterm Exam To be completed on eLearning	100 pts.
Analytical or Research paper (2400-3000) Topic to be proposed by student and approved by professor	100 pts.
Final Exam To be completed on eLearning	100 pts.
**Attendance is mandatory and excessive absences (2 or more) will result in a loss of points toward your final grade. Active, positive	+/-50 pts.

participation will *add extra* points toward your final grade.

Total points possible

400-450

How to Calculate your Grade:

400+ points = A+

367-399 pts. = A

350-366 pts. = A-

320-349 pts. = B+

290-319 pts. = B

250-289 pts. = B-

220-249 pts. = C+

190-219 pts. = C

150-189 pts. = C-

125-149 pts. = D

< 124 pts. = F

Course & Instructor Policies

As an upper-division literature course, LIT 3334 is a discussion-intensive seminar. Thus, whole group discussions will dominate our class periods, though there will some lectures and small group discussions. Active class participation is very important to the success of the course and to the quality of your experience in this class. If you are present and engaged, our class will be productive and enjoyable. That means everyone needs to come to class **on time** and **be prepared**.

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken and absences will negatively affect your grade. In fact, egregious absenteeism can result in a failing final grade for the semester.

Anyone who uses a laptop, tablet computer, electronic reader, or cell phone for activities not related to our work in class (activities like checking Facebook, sending texts, watching a ballgame, IMing, etc.) will have their behavior identified publicly, recorded, and their grade lowered accordingly. This behavior is disrespectful to your classmates and professor.

You must bring your texts to class. This class may ask you to read more than you are used to reading in other courses. You may find that you need to reread passages multiple times in order to understand them. Start early and give yourself time to enjoy these

books and stories. I wholeheartedly recommend taking notes in your books, flagging important passages, and coming to class with questions or comments about the texts.

No late assignments are accepted (unless arranged with the professor beforehand).

Recent studies suggest that students who bring laptops to class perform worse (on average) than their non-laptop using peers, and are much less likely to pay attention in class. [Feel free to check the research: e.g., <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1078740> or any of the vast literature on the detriments of multitasking for performance.] Laptops and other electronic devices can also be a distraction for other students.

We will use our full course time. (FYI: Packing up early is a pet peeve of mine).

You want to do well in this class?

- Read the syllabus carefully and refer to it often.
- Come to *every* class *prepared*.
- Listen and contribute actively to the conversation.
- Do not be afraid to write in your books and/or take notes while you read.
- Come to class with questions, sections of texts you want to discuss already flagged, and comments to make.
- Know where my office is. Know where the T.A.'s office is.
- Visit us in Office Hours, especially if you have a question or observation that you did not get to make in class.
- Complete every assignment on time.
- Remember the old formula: one hour in class equals *at least* three hours of work outside of class.
- If you have concerns or questions about your paper (at any stage in the process), come see us. We are happy to work with you on your papers before they are due.
- Get the email addresses or phone numbers of a couple of students in case you need to find out what you missed. Consider discussing your papers or reading each other's papers before they are due.
- Take your papers to the Writing Center or find a quality proofreader to edit your papers.
- Come to class on time and do not pack up early. If something comes up and you have to be absent or leave early, please talk to me about it. Life happens.
- If you are having difficulties (in life, class, etc.) talk to me before you get too far in a hole. Everyone has a tough semester.
- If talking aloud in class is difficult for you, meet with me for alternative ways to participate in class.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

Disability Services

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for a course, please discuss it with an OSA staff member and allow at least one week's advanced notice. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion.

The primary functions of the Office of Student AccessAbility are to provide:

- academic accommodations for students with a documented permanent physical, mental or sensory disability
- non-academic accommodations
- resource and referral information and advocacy support as necessary and appropriate.

OSA is located in the Student Services Building, suite 3.200. They can be reached by phone at (972) 883-2098, or by email at disabilityservice@utdallas.edu.

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 demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Scholastic Dishonesty: Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline.

Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. 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).

Please see the section about Avoiding Plagiarism on the UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures page: <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

The information contained in the following link constitutes the entirety of the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.