

**HUMA 1301-502: Exploration of the Humanities:
“Heroes, Villains, and Antiheroes”
SYLLABUS**

Fall 2014

Mondays/Wednesdays 5:30-6:45pm

Location: JO 4.614

Contact Information:

Dr. Terje Saar-Hambazaza Email: terje@utdallas.edu Office: 5.109 Office hours: Wednesdays 6:45-7:45pm & by appointment Web: www.terjehambazaza.com

Teaching Assistant: Bryan Gillin Email: Bryan.Gillin@utdallas.edu Office: JO 5.310 Office hours: Mondays 4-5:30pm & by appointment

Course Description for HUMA 1301-502:

Subtitled “Heroes, Villains, and Antiheroes,” this section of HUMA 1301 introduces you to the central concepts of the humanities and utilizes interdisciplinary approaches to draw connections between various fields of study, such as literature, music, architecture, theater, visual arts, media, and popular culture. The course investigates the origins of heroism and villainy in the Western tradition as well as the transformations that these concepts have gone through. We will explore the essence of humanism and its interpretation of heroes and villains as a cultural tradition through the study of selected works from Homer’s *The Odyssey* and Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* to Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* and Collins’s *The Hunger Games*. We will explore how the characteristics of heroes and villains have transformed throughout centuries and investigate the relevance of these concepts in contemporary culture. What do heroism and villainy mean historically? What do they mean nowadays? How do heroes become antiheroes? How are these concepts expressed in art, music, popular culture, and media? You are encouraged to draw connections between various fields of studies in the humanities, to investigate various forms of cultural expressions, and to develop skills necessary to interpret complex artistic works in their historical and intellectual contexts. This course is a general education core course.

Catalogue Description for HUMA 1301:

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.

General Education Core Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following core objectives:

- Critical thinking skills – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts and constructing solutions.
- Communication skills – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral and visual communication.
- Social responsibility – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and global communities.
- Personal responsibility – Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequence to ethical decision-making.

HUMA 1301-502 (Fall 2014) Learning Objectives:

Students will learn:

- critical thinking skills to examine and analyze a variety of works from the humanities, particularly those connected to literature and philosophy (assessed via the required response papers)
- communication skills to apply and respond to works in the humanities as an example of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles (assessed via in-class participation)
- social responsibility to analyze and critically evaluate humanistic works in the context of culture and society (assessed via the midterm and final exams)
- personal responsibility to compare and contrast the works with each other in terms of personal ethics and values (assessed via the final exam)

Required Texts:

- Dennis J. Sporre, *Perceiving the Arts: An Introduction to the Humanities*, 11th ed. (Pearson), ISBN: 9780205995110
- Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. E. V. Rieu (Penguin Classics), ISBN: 978-0143039952
- William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Simon & Schuster), ISBN: 978-1451669411
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Penguin), ISBN: 978-0141439471
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Scribner), ISBN: 978-0743273565
- Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*, Book 1 (Scholastic), ISBN: 9788184771695
- A selection of texts will be posted on Blackboard/eLearning as PDF and should be considered as required texts as well.
- You may purchase these required books at the UT Dallas bookstore or Off Campus Bookstore.

Course Requirements and Policies:

UT Dallas Policies and Procedures: <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

Attendance & Participation Policy

Attendance is absolutely crucial to your success in this course. Attendance will be taken during every class meeting and it is your responsibility to make sure that you have signed the attendance sheet collected by the T.A. You are not permitted to sign the name of another student. Falsifying student identities is considered plagiarism and will be dealt with according to the university's policies.

Each student is allowed two (2) excused absences, no questions asked (emergencies will be considered on a case by case basis). Save them for when you really need them; these absences are designed to accommodate such things as family emergencies, illnesses, car troubles, etc. Unexcused absences beyond the first two excused absences will adversely affect your grade.

Your success in this course is a function of your level of engagement. I am interested in the quality of your remarks rather than the quantity. Hence, your thoughtful, attentive, and active participation is essential. If you sleep, engage in non-class-related activities, or interfere with your classmates' ability to learn you will be counted absent for that day. Be on time - class will start promptly. Leaving early will count as an absence. Participation in this course does not include doing work unrelated to this course during class, sleeping in class, or using computers or other personal electronic devices for personal messaging, research, or entertainment.

Late Work

I do not accept late work or schedule makeup exams.

Personal Communication Devices

Electronic devices, such as computers and cell phones, are NOT ALLOWED in class. I will make an exception for e-readers if you have purchased your books in an electronic format. Turn off all cell phones and other personal communication devices before the start of class and do not use them during class.

Classroom Protocol, Decorum, etc.

Please arrive to class on time. Arriving late to class disrupts the flow of the lecture and is distracting to the professor and to your fellow students. Your attendance grade will be affected if late arrivals become a pattern (determined by the professor and the T.A.).

All written work and class discussion for this course must employ gender-neutral, nonsexist language, and rhetorical constructions. Such practice is part of a classroom environment according full respect and opportunity to all participants by all others.

Email use

Please use your UT Dallas email account when contacting the instructor or the TA. The university encourages all official email correspondence be sent only to UT Dallas email accounts. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UT Dallas 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 UT Dallas provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

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 students demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in their scholastic work.

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 catalogue for details).

Course Assignments/Grading:

In-class response papers (6) – 30% (5% each)

Midterm exam – 30%

Final exam – 30%

Class participation (5%)

Attendance (5%)

Grading Policy:

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

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

[All reading and writing assignments are due on the days listed]

Week 1: What Are the Arts?

Monday, 8/25: Introduction + syllabus
Wednesday, 8/27: Sporre, Chapter 1

Week 2: Literature

Monday, 9/1: NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, 9/3: Sporre, Chapter 6

Week 3: Epic Heroes

Monday, 9/8: Homer, *The Odyssey*, pp. 77-210
Wednesday, 9/10: Homer, pp. 211-270

Week 4: Epic Heroes, cont.

Monday, 9/15: Homer, pp. 271-423
Wednesday, 9/17: Homer, pp. 424-485

Week 5: Theater

Monday, 9/22: Sporre, Chapter 7
Wednesday, 9/24: Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Week 6: Heroes and Villains

Monday, 9/29: Shakespeare, cont.
Wednesday, 10/1: Review session for midterm exam

Week 7: Visual Arts: Sculpture

Monday, 10/6: Midterm exam
Wednesday, 10/8: Sporre, Chapter 3

Week 8: Literature and Science

Monday, 10/13: Shelley, *Frankenstein*: Preface & Letters + Chapters 1-17
Wednesday, 10/15: Shelley, Chapters 18-24

Week 9: Music and Dance: Heroes and Idols

Monday, 10/20: Sporre, Chapters 5, 9
Wednesday, 10/22: Popular culture and music (PDF on eLearning)

Week 10: Heroes vs. Antiheroes

Monday, 10/27: Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, Chapters 1-6
Wednesday, 10/29: Fitzgerald, Chapters 7-9

Week 11: Visual Arts and Photography

Monday, 11/3: Sporre, Chapter 2

Wednesday, 11/5: Sporre, Chapter 8

Week 12: Antiheroes

Monday, 11/10: Screening: *Citizen Kane*

Wednesday, 11/12: Screening and Discussion: *Citizen Kane*, cont.

Week 13: Dystopian Heroes, Villains, and Antiheroes

Monday, 11/17: Collins, *The Hunger Games*

Wednesday, 11/19: Collins, cont.

Week 14: Fall Break & Thanksgiving

Monday/Wednesday, 11/24-26: NO SCHOOL

Week 15: Heroes and Antiheroes in Contemporary Culture

Monday, 12/1: Screening: *The Sopranos*

Wednesday, 12/3: Screening: *House, M.D.*

Week 16

Monday, 12/8: Discussion of *The Sopranos* and *House, M.D.*

Wednesday, 12/10: review session for final exam

FINAL EXAM

Final exam: TBA