

LSH 151L, Introduction to Western Humanities (Antiquity)

Section 2 Fall 2016

Course information, contact information, office hours:

- Dr. Vanita, Director, Liberal Studies
- This class fulfills the Gen Ed lower-division writing requirement and the lower-division Literature requirement. It is also a required introductory course for the Liberal Studies major
- Tuesday, Thursday, 9.30-10.50 a.m. Room: LA 244.
- 4 credits
- Office: Liberal Arts 101-A.
- Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu
- Mailbox in the Liberal Studies Program Office, LA 101
- Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30; Thursday usually 11 to 12 but some Thursdays (when I have chairs' meetings) 2.00-3.00, and by appointment.

Texts (all required):

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, translated Robert Fitzgerald (NY: Vintage, 1990)
- *Love Songs of Sappho*, translated Paul Roche (Berkeley: U of Cal. Press, 1958)
- Plato, *The Symposium*, translated Gill
- Euripides, *Medea* (translated Rex Warner)
- *The Bible* (Authorized King James' Version with Apocrypha) ed. Robert Carroll and Stephen Prickett (Oxford World Classics)
- Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Oxford World Classics)
- St Augustine, *The Confessions* (translated Rex Warner)

Please ensure that you have the translations prescribed above. No other translations are to be used. Your grade will suffer if you quote other translations. Other sections use other translations, and sometimes they get mixed up on the shelves in the bookstore so be careful when making your purchase. If any text is not available at the bookstore, order it immediately from Amazon or other online bookstores.

Learning Outcomes:

- To introduce you to some major trends of thought and some major texts in the modern Western world.
- To develop your writing skills, and improve your writing by a process that will allow me to measure your improvement.

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes regularly. More than three absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and class participation, and more than five absences will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations (preferably in advance of the absence) must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in writing and accepted by me.
- (b) attend Thursday plenary lectures regularly as these constitute the fourth credit (see lecture schedule at the end of this syllabus).
- (c) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in discussion;
- (d) bring to class a **typed** question/comment on the text that we are reading for that class, use it in discussion and give it to me at the end of class. Handwritten questions will not receive credit. If you are ever unable to hand in a question, it is your responsibility to tell me this and to have yourself marked present.
- (e) write two papers
- (f) edit and rewrite whichever of the two papers gets a lower grade. The rewritten paper must follow guidelines provided by me. **You are strongly advised to meet me during office hours to discuss your paper before you rewrite it.**
- (g) take the mid-term exam, all tests and quizzes, and complete all assignments. Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class; they may be given according to schedule or unexpectedly. **Quizzes can be made up within the week (not more than twice in the semester), but not later.** To make up a quiz, contact me in person or on email to make an appointment.
- (h) **Check UM email regularly**, especially the day before class. I send out notifications and changes by email. UM policy forbids me to write to you on any email address other than the UM one. The best way to communicate with me is by email.

Grades

The papers and the rewritten paper will be worth 10% each (total 30%), class attendance and participation 20%, typed questions/comments 10%, quizzes 20%, the mid-term exam 20%. Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) and adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax.

Please note that the rewritten paper will be graded on the thoroughness of the rewriting. If, for example, you get a B for a paper, and your rewritten version of it shows hardly any changes, you will not get a B again. You are likely to get a C.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties such as expulsion from the University (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

- Quizzes will be given at the start of class. Therefore, you need to be on time to take them. Quizzes may contain both multiple-choice type questions and short-answer questions and are designed to test (a) whether you have read the prescribed texts (b) whether you remember basic facts about the author and the text, (c) whether you remember information communicated in class lectures and in plenary lectures.
- Topics for papers will be given in class. Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade. The final paper must be on time, as I will be leaving the country soon after; late papers will not be accepted.
- If you take this course to fulfill General Education requirements or for the Liberal Studies major, you cannot take it Credit/No Credit, and you must earn a C minus to pass.
- If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

“Trigger Warning”

Please note that every text we read in this class is likely to deal with difficult issues and thus may make someone uncomfortable. Literature that lulls us into a state of comfort is rarely worth the name of literature.

Reading Schedule:

This schedule is tentative. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with any changes and to obtain any hand-outs given in class in her/his absence. Readings indicated for a certain class are to be read in advance of that class, e.g. come to class on August 30, having read *Genesis* 1-5.

August 30

- Explanation of syllabus, and introduction to the course and to the Bible.

September 1

- Read *Genesis*, chapters 1-5; notes on pages 321-326 (in OUP edition), “The Ancient Israelites: A Timeline” (photocopy), and *Metamorphoses*, pp.1-6.

September 6

- Continue discussion of *Genesis* and *Metamorphoses*

September 8

- Read “Tanakh and Old Testament” (photocopy); *Leviticus* chapters 16-21; notes on pp. 332-33 and 369-71.

September 13

- Read *I Samuel* chapter 15; *Hosea* chapters 1, 2, 13; *Book of Susannah*. **Quiz on Genesis, Metamorphoses and plenary lectures.**

September 15

- Read *Book of Judith* and notes on pp. 384-85; 392-93

September 20

- Read “Ancient Greece: A Timeline,” and “The Greek/Roman Gods” (photocopy); *Metamorphoses*: “Narcissus,” pp. 60-66; “Pyramus and Thisbe,” pp. 76-79; “Hermaphroditus,” pp. 83-85; “The Rape of Proserpine” and “Arethusa,” pp. 109-118. **Quiz on Bible texts read so far (excluding Genesis) & plenaries.**

September 22

- Read *Metamorphoses*: “Icarus,” 176-78; “Philemon and Baucis,” pp. 190-93; “Tereus, Procne and Philomela,” pp. 134-42; “Venus and Adonis,” pp. 241-48; “Midas,” pp. 252-55.

September 27

- Read “*Odyssey*: Background and Summary”; *Odyssey*, Book IX. **Quiz on Metamorphoses and plenary lectures.**

September 29

- Read *Odyssey*, Books X, XI, XII, XIII. **Paper due in class.**

October 4

- Read *Odyssey* Books XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII

October 6

- Read *Odyssey* XIX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV **Quiz on Odyssey IX-XIII**

October 11

- Review **Quiz on *Odyssey* XIV-XXII, & plenaries**

October 13

- **Mid-term exam**

October 18

- Read *Love Songs of Sappho*, pp. 51-67; 85-110.

October 20

- Read *Love Songs of Sappho*, pp. 68-84; 111-141.

October 25

- Read *Medea*, pp. 1-15 (end of Choric Song).

October 27

- Read *Medea*, pp. 15-34.

November 1

- Film “A Dream of Passion.”

November 3

- Election Day

November 8

- Film continued. Read *Medea*, pp. 35-47. **Quiz on *Medea*, and Plenaries**

November 10

- Read *Symposium* pages 3-27.

November 15

- Read *Symposium* pages 28-47

November 17

- Read *Symposium*, pages 48-64. **Paper due in class**

November 22

- Read *Metamorphoses*: “The Doctrines of Pythagoras,” pp. 354-360. The Early Church: A Timeline” (photocopy), and *Luke*, chapters 1-6; pp. 408-410 (notes).
Quiz on Symposium & plenaries

November 24

- Thanksgiving

November 29

- Read Luke, chapters 7-24.

December 1

- Read *Romans* 1-3; 10-11; *First Corinthians*, chapters 7, 11; notes on pp. 419-20.
Quiz on Luke & plenaries

December 6

- Read *The Confessions*, Books I, II, III; IV; Book V: chapters 8 and 9; Book VI: chapters 2,12, 13, 14, 15. **Rewritten paper due in class**

December 8

- Read *The Confessions*; Book VII: chapters 12-17; Book VIII: chapters 6-8, 11-12; Book IX: chapters 8-13. **Quiz on Confessions**

There is no final exam

Plenary Lecture Schedule:

Plenary lectures are given on Thursdays from 11.00-11.50, in McGill 210.

Sep 1 Introduction	Dr. Vanita, Professor, Liberal Studies
Sep 8 Introduction to Hebrew Bible	Dr. Nathaniel Levtow, Associate Professor, Liberal Studies
Sep 15 Prophets and Prophecy	Dr. Levtow, Associate Professor, Liberal Studies
Sep 22 Wisdom Traditions	Dr. Mark Hanson, Lecturer, Liberal Studies
Sep 29 Greek Civilization	Dr. Matthew Semanoff, Associate Professor, Classics

Oct 6 Hero and Anti-Hero in Homer Dr. Stewart Justman, Professor Emeritus, Liberal Studies

Oct 13 Sappho and Greek Lyric Dr. Vanita, Professor, Liberal Studies

Oct 20 Greek Tragedy (extracts from Tyrone Guthrie's film *Oedipus Rex*, with commentary by Dr. Semanoff, Associate Professor, Classics)

Oct 27 Plato Dr. Paul Muench, Associate Professor, Philosophy

Nov 3 Gospels and Christian Bible Dr. Levtow, Associate Professor, Liberal Studies

Nov 10 Literature of the Roman Empire Dr. Barbara Weinlich, Visiting Associate Professor, Classics

Nov 17 Paul Dr. Hanson, Lecturer, Liberal Studies

Nov 24 Thanksgiving

Dec 1 Early Christian art Dr. Paul Dietrich, Professor, Liberal Studies

Dec 8 Augustine Dr. Dietrich, Professor, Liberal Studies