

HUMANITIES 125: Fall 2008

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CLASS OVERVIEW AND GENERAL POLICIES

1. Rationale: Humanities 125 is an interdisciplinary course designed to enrich students' knowledge and understanding of the cultural influences of ethnic, racial and gender diversity in the shaping of American society—past and present. Its goals is to enable them to speculate critically on American society, culture and values in the future. The course explores the development of commonly held American ideals, attitudes, and institutions and their role in the unique balance between freedom and responsibility.
2. Prerequisites: The assignments and exams in Humanities 125 are designed for students who are eligible for or who have completed English 101. Since the exams require critical thinking, it is strongly recommended that students be proficient at writing college-level essays before enrolling in this class.
3. Course Objectives: Students will develop their critical thinking skills through reading, discussion and writing, and make use of analysis and synthesis to support their views on the strengths and weaknesses of American society and its institutions.
4. Attendance: Four absences (six class hours) will be allowed with no penalty. Any absence beyond these two will lead to the lowering of the student's grade. Attendance may be taken at any time during the class. Any students who leave before the class is dismissed at the end of the evening will be marked absent.
5. Grading: There will be four essay exams during the semester, and each exam is worth 100 points. In addition, there will be several periodic quizzes which will be given worth a total of 40 points. The lowest exam and lowest quiz scores will be eliminated in the calculation of the final grade. There will be no extra-credit assignments.
6. Make-up exams: There will be no make-up exams permitted. If a student misses a test, then that test score (0) will be dropped.
7. Policy on Academic Honesty: Students are encouraged to help one another by studying together, critiquing each other's work, or preparing group charts or other assignments. This does not include taking or giving answers during a quiz or an exam. Students are encouraged to read outside sources and do additional research, but in answering essay questions, students will be required to cite a minimum of four assigned essays, books, videos, plays, or other material listed on the syllabus. The scholars whose ideas are relied upon must be cited in the essay. Any words written by another must be both quoted and cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism. The instructors will hand out several questions the week before each test so that students may develop plans for answering the questions. A student may write a thesis and record the quotes she or he plans to use in answering the question on the back of the sheet on which the questions appear. Students may not bring a pre-written essay to class to submit as their essay. Any student caught cheating, plagiarizing a paper, submitting another's work as his or her own, or copying an essay written out of class will receive a "0" on the assignment, and the student's name may be submitted to the Executive Vice- President for possible further action.

8. Disabled students: Disabled student programs and services are available to those students living with various disabilities and other health concerns. It is the student's responsibility to make any necessary arrangements through the Center for Students with Disabilities in a timely manner.

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TEXTS:

Karen E. Rosenblum & Toni-Michelle C. Travis, The Meaning of Difference, 5th ed. Referred to below as MD

Harvey Weiner and Nora Eisenberg, The American Values Reader. Referred to below as AVR
(Photo copies of the assigned readings are being used in lieu of the actual text. The copies are available for purchase in the school's book store.)

Gish Jen Typical American

Margaret Atwood, Handmaid's Tale

Jonathan Kozol, Savage Inequalities

Dina Temple-Raston, A Death in Texas

ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS LECTURES, READINGS, CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

PART I Discovering and Clarifying Values

Note: For this section you must complete your reading of Typical American by September 18th.

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| Sep. 2 | Introduction to Class: Overview, Books, Assignments, Exams Cultural Identity Survey |
| Sep. 4 | MD, pp. 1-36.
AVR, pp. 1-12
AVR, Curtis, "Leave Ozzie and Harriet Alone," pp. 26-31
AVR, Williams, "Daddy Tucked the Blanket," pp. 32-36
AVR., Coles, "A Lesson from History: On Courage," pp. 97-104
AVR, Sommers, "Ethics without Virtue: Moral Education in America," pp. 145-160
AVR, Healy, "Fighting to Fill the Values Gap," pp. 742-75 3 |
| Sep. 9
11 | Video: <u>My Big Fat Greek Wedding</u> |
| Sep. 16 | Video <u>Skin Deep</u>
MD, Smedley "What Is Race? What Is Ethnicity," pp. 40-49
MD, Davis "Who is Black? One Nation's Definition," pp. 50-59
MD, Garrouette "Real Indians and the Survival of Native America pp. 60-66 |

MD, Espiritu "Asian American Panethnicity . . .," pp.68-79
 MD, Frankenberg "Whiteness as an "Unmarked" Cultural Category," pp. 81-94
 MD, Bonilla-Silva and Glover "'We Are All Americans:' The Latin Americanization of Race Relations in the United States," pp. 97-107
 Discussion: Reactions to readings and discussion of the values involved in your reactions

Sep. 18

Discussion of Typical American
 Handout: Questions for Blue Book exam # I

Sep. 23

PART II Religious Values in America (see assignments below)
& Blue Book Exam #1. You will need a Blue Book, and a pen. You will be required to cite a minimum of four assigned sources in your essay, and one of them must be the assigned book. You may write your thesis statement and specific quotations that you plan to use in your essay on the back of the page on which the questions appear.

Note: For this section you must complete your reading of Handmaid's Tale by October 16th.

Sep. 25 Video The Reformation: Age of Revolt. Discussion of video

Sep. 30

Video Hutterites. Discussion of video
 AVR, Roosevelt, "Going to Church," pp. 461-464
 AVR, Carter, "Prayer and the Civic Religion," pp. 464-467
 AVR, Bennett, "Revolt against God: America's Spiritual Despair," pp. 468-481
 AVR, Stack, "Temple Wars: When Values Collide," pp. 482-487
 AVR, Joseph, "My Husband's Nine Wives," pp. 519-522

Oct. 2

AVR, Gould, "Dolly's Fashion and Louis's Passion," 579-589
 AVR, Gunsalus, "Rethinking Unscientific Attitudes about Scientific Misconduct," pp. 601-608
 AVR, Herzog, "Human Morality and Animal Research: Confessions and Quandaries," pp. 609-622

Oct. 7
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Video The Crucible followed by discussion

Oct. 14

Video Sister Aimee
 MD, Fausto-Sterling "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough" pp. 112-117
 MD, Kimmel "The Gendered Society" pp. 117-126
 MD, Abramson and Pinkerton "Is Homosexual a Noun?" pp. 155-158
 AVR, Schiffen, "Gay Marriage, an Oxymoron," pp. 545-552

Oct. 16

Discussion of Handmaid's Tale
 Handout: Questions for Blue Book Exam #2

Oct. 21

PART III Educational Values in America (see assignments below)
& Blue Book Exam # 2. You will need a Blue Book, and a pen. You will be required to cite a minimum of four assigned sources in your essay, and one of them must be the assigned book. You may write your thesis statement and specific quotations that you plan to use in your essay on the back of the page on which the questions appear.

Note: For this section you must complete your reading of Savage Inequalities by November 13th

- Oct. 23 Video A Class Divided followed by discussion
- Oct. 28 Video Its Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School followed by discussion
 AVR, Rose, "I Just Wanna Be Average," pp. 105-118
 AVR, Adams, "Letter to John Adams (14 August 1776)," pp. 119-122
 AVR, Steele, "Indoctrination Isn't Teaching," pp. 123-126
- Oct. 30 MD, Cruz-Janzen "Ethnic Identity and Racial Formations: Race and Racism American-Style and a lo Latino" pp. 372-378
 MD, Richardson, "Gender Stereotyping in the English Language," pp. 444-449
 AVR, King, "Should English Be the Law?" pp. 317-328
 AVR, McGrath, "Giving Saturday Morning Some Slack," pp. 668-674
 MD, French, "'Can You See the Rainbow? The Roots of Denial,'" pp 320-326
 MD, Zweig "What's Class Got to Do with It pp. 131-134
- Nov. 4 Video Stand and Deliver
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- Nov. 11 AVR, Harper, "'They Treat Girls Differently, Don't They,'" pp. 127-133
 AVR., Malcolm X, "Prison Studies," pp. 134-139
 MD, Larew, "Why Are Doves of Unqualified Kids Getting into Our Top Colleges? Because Their Dad's Are Alumni," pp. 300-305
- Nov. 13 Discussion of Savage Inequalities
 Handout: Questions for Blue Book Exam # 3
- Nov. 18 **PART IV Social Values** (See assignments below)
 & Blue Book Exam #3. You will need a Blue Book, and a pen. You will be required to cite a minimum of four assigned sources in your essay, and one of them must be the assigned book. You may write specific quotations that you plan to use in your essay on the back of the page on which the questions appear.
- Note:** Complete your reading of A Death in Texas by December 11th
- Nov. 20 Identifying Social Problems—a group survey
 MD, "Thirteen Key Supreme Court Cases," pp. 383-409
 MD, Brown, et. al. "The Bankruptcy of Virtuous Markets: Racial Inequality, Poverty, and 'Individual Failure'" pp. 418-423
 MD, Skrentny "The Minority Rights Revolution" pp.410-416
 MD, Wu "The Model Minority: Asian American 'Success' as a Race Relations Failure" pp. 426-432
- Nov. 25 Video Fighting Back followed by discussion of the video
- Dec. 2 Video Crash
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- Dec. 9 Discussion of video
- Dec. 11 Discussion of A Death in Texas
 Handout: Questions for Blue Book Exam #4
- Dec. 16 Final essay – **8:00 a.m.**