

SYLLABUS – SPRING 2014
KHC STUDIO 112
MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

I. Welcome to the KHC Studio

Your first year in the Kilachand Honors College introduces you to the modern university and to the intellectual life of metropolitan Boston, emphasizing the creative and multifaceted intellectual community of Boston University and its surrounding environment. The studio complements the other elements of the KHC curriculum by providing you with a structured, curricular setting in which you can develop your abilities in writing and communication and your understanding of research methods and ethics.

II. Writing and Communication Course Overview: “Modernity and its Discontents.”

This course will explore a series of ethical, aesthetic, and social questions through reading important 'modernist' texts. Modernism was a radical shift in thought that emerged in the late-19th and 20th centuries against the backdrop of democratic politics, industrial capitalism, and imperial expansion. Modernist artists and intellectuals responded to profound socioeconomic, political, and technological changes and rebelled against traditional styles, values, and conventions. Although the modernist texts that we will read in this course may seem distant, they raise fundamental questions about what is good, true, beautiful, and normal that shape contemporary intellectual discourse. Furthermore, these texts provide us with the opportunity to examine our own values, assumptions, and conflicts.

III. Course Objectives: Spring Semester

By the end of the Spring semester, students will be able to do the following:

- Acquire familiarity with academic research strategies and library/web resources.
- Conduct advanced library and web research.
- Plan, research, revise and write a research paper, including research prospectus and annotated bibliography.

IV. Required Texts and Materials

These texts are available at Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Kenmore Square. Please purchase a bound copy of each of the required texts in the edition listed below.

- Camus, Albert. *The Plague*. Vintage (May 7, 1991)
- Levi-Strauss, Claude. *Tristes Tropiques*. Penguin Classics; Reprint edition (January 31, 2012)
- Orwell, George. *Road to Wigan Pier*. Mariner Books (October 18, 1972)
- Turabian, Kate. *A Student’s Guide to Writing Research Papers*. University of Chicago. 4th Edition. (April 15, 2010)

V. Supplementary Texts and Materials

Library Reserves: A number of books and articles related to our main texts have been placed on reserve in the Mugar library. Instructions for locating this material can be found here:

<http://www.bu.edu/library/services/reserves/>

VI. Course Web Sites

A Digication has been created for this Studio. It contains a copy of the syllabus, assignments, exercises, and other course information. You can access this site here:

https://bu.digication.com/2012_2013_khc_writing_communication_studios/Home/published

VII. Assignments

You will engage the reading material for this course through class discussion, oral presentations, and written responses. These are designed to allow you the widest opportunity to meet the course goals described above. You will be provided with detailed instructions for each of the following assignments:

E-portfolio: Throughout the semester you will assemble a portfolio of your writings, which you will introduce with an introductory essay and submit for a grade at the end of the course. The portfolio provides you with an opportunity to document and reflect on your development as a reader, writer, and scholar over the course of the semester.

Research Notebook: In one section of your e-portfolio you will compose a weekly entry engaging various questions on research posed by your instructor from Turabian's *A Student's Guide to Writing Research Papers*. Your goal is to understand and develop methods and strategies for writing a research paper.

Research Project: This is a multi-staged assignment designed to guide you through the all stages of research including planning, finding sources, visiting a library, writing a research prospectus and annotated bibliography. You will do this working alone and in groups.

Research Paper: An 10-12 page research paper, with abstract and bibliography, on a topic related to or formed out of one or more of the Studio readings.

Exercises: Students will complete various in-class and take home assignments, including summary and analysis, essay writing, and research skills.

VIII. Grading

Your grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	Percent of Final Grade
Research Notebook	20%
Final Portfolio	20%
Research Project	20%
Research Paper	30%
Participation	10%

Late and Missed Assignments: Unless you make other arrangements with me in advance, papers will be penalized by one-third of a letter grade for each day they are late. If you submit a draft late, I cannot promise to read it in time for my comments to be useful to you. If you do not turn in drafts, you are still responsible for turning in final versions of your papers when they are due.

IX. Course Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is required. If you miss more than one meeting, your course grade may be lowered by 1/3 of a letter grade. I ordinarily do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. If you have a special obligation that will require you to miss several classes (e.g., varsity athletics, religious observances) please talk with me at the beginning of the semester to make special arrangements. Missed conference appointments will be counted as absences.

Participation: Class participation includes arriving on time, preparing and bringing assigned texts (in hard copy for our three books), offering thoughtful contributions to class discussions, listening carefully and responding to what fellow students have contributed, candid participation in peer review sessions, and fulfillment of ancillary obligations, such as exercises, library orientations, office consultations, etc.

Academic Conduct: You are expected to abide by the Kilachand Honor Code at all times including time spent in the Studio classroom. In addition to this code, you are also expected to follow Boston University's Academic Conduct Code regarding "academic misconduct" - "...conduct by which a student misrepresents his or her academic accomplishments, or impedes other students' opportunities of being judged fairly for their academic work. Knowingly allowing others to represent your work as their own is as serious an offense as submitting another's work as your own." Examples include cheating on exams, falsifying data, theft of examinations, and plagiarism. Please review this code here: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>.

Email: Please feel free to contact me by e-mail with questions or comments. I will generally respond within 24-48 hours.

Technology in the Classroom: Laptops and tablets are permitted for taking notes and other classroom-related matters. On some occasions, I may ask you to bring in your laptop for class work. At other times, I may ask you to put away your laptop. Use of technology for reasons unrelated to the course may result in you being marked absent.

X. The CAS Writing Center

The Arts & Sciences Center for Writing is located at 100 Bay State Road, 3rd Floor. Here you will find the Writing Program's Administrative Offices, most faculty offices, and student study space. The web address of the Writing Program is: <http://www.bu.edu/writingprogram>.

The Writing Center also offers a Writing Studio where students enrolled in WR courses can receive one-on-one consultations about their writing with well-trained undergraduate and graduate-student tutors who are familiar with WR assignments. The Center and Studio's hours are Monday

through Thursday 9:00 am to 7:30 pm and Friday 9:00 am to 5:15 pm. While the Writing Studio accepts walk-in visits, you are strongly encouraged to make an appointment in advance. Because of the high demand for consultations, students are limited to one reservation per week. You may schedule a session online at: <http://www.bu.edu/writingprogram/the-writing-center/>

You may also schedule a session in person at the Arts & Sciences Writing Center or by calling 617-358-1500. Cancellations must be made at least 12 hours in advance.

XI. Class Schedule

Theme: Representation and Resistance

Week 1

Classwork: Class Information & Examination of Picasso Guernica
Discussion of Syllabus & All Assignments

Week 2

Classwork: Discussion of Picasso's *Guernica*; Thinking About Research
Homework due:

- Read "Picasso's Guernica"
- Read Turabian, Chapter 1

Theme: Class and Consciousness

Week 3

Classwork: Discussion of *Road to Wigan Pier*; Formulating a Research Question
Homework due:

- Read *Road to Wigan Pier*, Part I
- Read Turabian, Chapter 2

Week 4

Classwork: Discussion of *Road to Wigan Pier*; Answering A Research Question
Homework due:

- Read *Road to Wigan Pier*, Part II
- Read Turabian, Chapter 3

Students must watch *Rules of the Game* before the next class meeting, either on their own or at one of the scheduled showings.

Week 5

Classwork: Discussion of *Rules of the Game*
Homework due:

Read: "Jean Renoir's Rules of the Game" & Second Source

- Read Turabian, Chapter 4
- Complete "Source Assignment"

Theme: Collaboration and Resistance

Week 6

Classwork: Discussion of *The Plague*; Engaging Sources

Homework Due:

- Read *The Plague*, Parts 1-2
- Read Turabian, Chapter 5

Week 7

Classwork: Discussion of *The Plague*; Engaging Sources Continued.

Homework Due:

- Read *The Plague*, Parts 3-5
- Read “Albert Camus on Doublespeak”

Theme: The “Modern” and the “Primitive”

Week 8

Classwork: Discussion of *Tristes Tropiques*; Finding Sources

Homework Due:

- Read *Tristes Tropiques*, Parts 1-3

Week 9

Classwork: Discussion of *Tristes Tropiques*; Engaging Sources

Homework Due:

- Read *Tristes Tropiques*, Parts 4-6

Week 10

Classwork: Discussion

Homework Due:

- Read *Tristes Tropiques*, Parts 7-9
- Read Turabian, Chapter 6

Week 11

Classwork: Library Visit

Homework Due:

- Preliminary Research Proposal & Notebook Notes
- Read Turabian, Chapter 9

Week 12

Classwork: Abstracts and Annotations

Homework Due:

- Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography Due

Week 13

Classwork: Workshop

Homework Due:

- First Draft Due
- Read Turabian, Chapter 7

Week 14

Classwork: Presentations

Homework Due:

- Read Turabian, Chapter 8

Week 15

Classwork: Concluding Discussion

Homework Due:

- Final Research Paper Due