CC 201, Fall 2001 Humanities III Core Curriculum – The Renaissance

Professors and Seminar Times
Jodi Cranston (Art History) - B6 TR 2:00-3:30 pm, CAS B27
Timothy Markey (English) - B2 TR 11:00-12:30 pm, CAS 227
Christopher Martin (English) - B9 W 3:00-6:00 pm, CAS B27
Stephanie Nelson (Classics) - B3 TR 9:30-11:00 pm, STH B22
John Newton (English) - B7 TR 3:30-5:00 pm, CAS B05B
Christopher Ricks (Editorial Institute) - B1 MWF 11:00-12:00 pm, CAS 132

Reading List

Petrarch, Selections from the ‘Canzoniere’ and Other Works, tr. Mark Musa (Oxford University Press)
François Rabelais, Gargantua and Pantagruel, tr. J. M. Cohen (Penguin)
Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Don Quixote, tr. J. M. Cohen (Penguin)
William Shakespeare, King Lear, ed. Russell Fraser (Signet)
Michel de Montaigne, Selections from the Essays, tr. Donald Frame (Crofts Classics)
René Descartes, Discourse on Method and Meditations, tr. Laurence J. Lafleur (Macmillan)
John Milton, Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained, ed. Christopher Ricks (Signet)

All books required for the course are available at the Barnes and Noble in Kenmore Square. Some lecturers will provide additional readings for particular lectures.

Your seminar instructor determines your final grade, based on a combination of written work, examinations, and participation, as follows: Seminar Papers 55%, Mid-term Exam 15%, Attendance and Participation 10%, Final Exam 20%.

Attendance at lectures and seminar discussions is essential to the course. It will be very difficult to succeed in the course if you miss more than two seminar classes or lectures. Exams will cover material from all components of the course, with particular emphasis on content delivered in the lectures. Seminar papers will treat themes from the readings. Both the midterm and the final will be taken in common.

Refer to the Core website for a regularly updated Calendar of Events for announcements, recommended lectures, performances, and film, as well as images and music used in this course (www.bu.edu/core).

Course Description: The third semester of the Humanities Core continues our multidisciplinary survey with some of the most significant literary, artistic, and philosophical works from the Renaissance, an era in which the foundations of the modern world were laid. The semester will carry us from the early fourteenth century through the late seventeenth century. In addition to drama, poetry, and philosophy, we will study the art of the great Renaissance painter and sculptor Michelangelo and the music of J. S. Bach.
CC 201 Lecture Series and Reading Assignments
Lectures each Tuesday at 12:30 in SMG 105

Tuesday, 9/4/01: Plague, Rebirth, and the Idea of the Renaissance
Reading: Petrarch (1304-1374), "The Ascent of Mount Ventoux," from Selections from the Canzoniere and Other Works, pp. 11-19

Lecture: Professor Christopher Martin

Tuesday, 9/11/01: Petrarch's Poetry
Readings: Petrarch, Selections from the Canzoniere: Poems 1, 2, 3, 16, 17, 35, 52, 61, 90, 126, 129, 132, 189, 264, 310, 319, 365.

Lecture: Professor Lino Pertile (Harvard University)

Tuesday, 9/18/01: Rabelais and the Context of Religious Crisis
Reading: François Rabelais (c. 1494-1553), Pantagruel, pp. 165-278

Lecture: Professor James Johnson

Tuesday, 9/25/01: Michelangelo and Renaissance Visual Art

Lecture: Professor Jodi Cranston
(Please begin reading Don Quixote, Part I)

Tuesday 10/2/01: Jousts with Reality: Cervantes
Reading: Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616), Don Quixote Part I (pp. 21-248)

Lecture: Professor Alan Smith

Tuesday 10/9/01: Cervantes
Reading: Cervantes, Don Quixote, Part I (pp. 248-461); Part II (pp. 926-40)

No lecture (Monday Schedule)

Tuesday, 10/16/01: Shakespeare, King Lear
Reading: William Shakespeare (1564-1616), King Lear

Lecture: Professor Christopher Ricks

Tuesday, 10/23/01: Midterm Exam
Reading: King Lear

Tuesday, 10/30/01: Renaissance Music and Lyric
Reading: selections to be distributed
Lecture: Professor Laurence Breiner

Tuesday, 11/6/01: The Essayist: Michel de Montaigne
Reading: Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592), from Essays: "To the Reader" (p. 3); "Of Repentance" pp. (75-91); "Of Husbanding Your Will" (pp. 92-100); "Of Experience" (pp. 106-36)

Lecture: Professor Susan Jackson

Tuesday, 11/13/01: Renaissance Philosophy: Descartes and Rationalism
Reading: René Descartes (1596-1650), Meditations (Bks. 1-5, pp. 67-126)

Lecture: Professor Aaron Garrett
Recommended reading for the lecture: Descartes, Discourse on Method (Bks. 1-3, pp. 3-23)

Wednesday, 11/14/01: Bach and the Baroque, A Performance / Lecture
7:00 p.m. The Castle, Professor Johnson, pianist and lecturer

Tuesday, 11/20/01: Bach and Baroque Music

Lecture: Professor Julian Wachner (McGill University)

Thanksgiving Holiday, 11/21/01-11/25/01

Tuesday, 11/27/01: John Milton (1608-1674), Paradise Lost
Reading: Paradise Lost, Books 1-4 (pp. 45-148)

Lecture: Professor Ricks

Tuesday, 12/4/01: Paradise Lost
Reading: Paradise Lost, Books 9-10 (pp. 235-97)

Lecture: Professor Martin

Tuesday, 12/11/01:
Conclusion to the Semester: John Milton between the Past and the Future
Lecture: Professor Roger Shattuck

Monday, 12/17/01: FINAL EXAM, 12:30-2:30 pm