SYLLABUS – SPRING 2013

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. In the writing and communication component of the course, students develop their abilities in written, visual, and verbal communication, as well library research skills. In the quantitative component, students will work to develop quantitative reasoning skills through exposure to social scientific problems and methods, in addition to continuing to develop their research competence.

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. The qualitative portion for the Spring of 2013 runs for seven weeks. During this time we will examine four works, two books, a painting, and a film: George Orwell’s Road to Wigan Pier, Albert Camus’s The Plague, Pablo Picasso’s Guernica, and Jean Renoir’s Rules of the Game. Course assignments will foster independent reading, analysis, discussion, and research skills that are essential to college coursework and to participation in the Kilachand Honors College community.

III. Course Objectives

By the end of this two-semester course sequence, students will be able to do the following:

- Converse thoughtfully about complex ethical, aesthetic, and social problems.
- Recognize, understand, and analyze diverse genres.
- Craft substantive, motivated, balanced academic arguments.
- Write clear, correct, coherent prose.
- Respond productively to the writing of others.
- Acquire familiarity with academic research strategies and library/web resources.
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.
- Orwell, George. Road to Wigan Pier. lulu.com (June 29, 2008).

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
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You will engage the reading material for this course though 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 present selected writing assignments and other works to serve as artifacts to document and reflect on your development as a reader, writer, and scholar over the course of the semester. The essay is a 5-page introduction to your portfolio in which you present what you learned about conceptual problems and methods of writing, using your artifacts as evidence for your claims. Your introductory essay also explains the organizing principle of your portfolio to help the reader navigate through all the sections and artifacts contained within.

**Reading Notebook:** In one section of your e-portfolio you will compose a weekly entry of at least 500 words reflecting your evolving understanding of each Studio text. Your goal is to explore difficult texts independently, using a variety of genres in order to connect the interpretive processes of reading with those of writing and to prepare for class discussions. You will read the entries of other students, commenting or responding to them in your own entries. You will assemble these at the end of the semester with an introduction for grading.

**Research Project:** This is a multi-staged assignment designed to guide you through the all phases of research including planning, finding sources, and visiting a library. You will document your progress through a variety of writing assignments, totaling 12-15 pages. These include reviews and abstracts of Studio texts and related secondary literature; a research prospectus
and annotated bibliography that describes a research topic and provides related and supporting sources, and a research report that details each stage of your research. You will do this working alone and in groups.

IX. Grading

Your grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Notebook</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Portfolio</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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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.

X. 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/](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.

XI. 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.

XII. Important Dates to Remember
- First Day of Classes For Spring 2013: Wednesday, January 16, 2013
- Martin Luther King Holiday: Monday, January 21, 2013
- Payment date for Spring 2013 for new students: Thursday, January 31, 2013
- President's Day Holiday: Monday, February 18, 2013
- Follow a Monday schedule of classes: Wednesday, February 20, 2013
- Spring Recess: Sat., March 9-Sunday, March 17
- Patriot’s Day Holiday (Marathon Monday): Monday, April 15, 2013
- Follow a Monday schedule of classes: Thursday, April 18, 2013
- Final exams/last day of classes starts: Friday, May 3, 2012
- Final exams/last day of classes ends: Thursday, May 9, 2013
XIII. Class Schedule

Introduction:

Week 1
Classwork: Class Information
Discussion of Syllabus & All Assignments

Theme 1: War, Class, and Consciousness

Week 2
Classwork: Discussion of Picasso’s Guernica.
Homework due:
- Read Road to Wigan Pier, Part I (pp. 1-72)

Week 3
Classwork: Discussion
Homework due:
- Read Road to Wigan Pier, Part II

Students must watch Rules of the Game before the Next Class. You may attend a scheduled screening or watch it on your own.

Week 4
Classwork: Discussion of Rules of the Game
Homework due:
- Read The Plague, Parts 1-2

Week 5
Classwork: Discussion
Homework due:
- Read The Plague, Parts 3-4

Theme 2: Theory and Practice

Week 6
Classwork: Workshops & Discussion
Homework Due:
Read The Plague, Part 5

Week 7
Classwork: Presentations and Discussions
Homework Due:
- Research Project Report and e-portfolio due.