

## **Core Humanities 202 The Modern World**

### Wintermester 2019

#### **Number of Credits**

3

#### **Instructor**

Devin J Bray

#### **Catalog Description**

CH 202 is the second course in the Core Humanities sequence and is a graduation requirement for all UNR students. Students are expected to have completed English 102 and CH 201 before taking this class. This course will provide a broad overview of the development of western culture, focusing on the emergence of the Renaissance from the Middle Ages, through our current epoch, concentrating on how ideas have developed and changed throughout this broad period referred to as “modern.” And in addition to this content, the class will emphasize critical thinking, writing and communication skills.

As is necessarily the case with Core Humanities classes, we have an immense amount of ground to cover. The five hundred years covered are the locus of the most accelerated cultural development in human history. Philosophy, art, science, and sociopolitical structures evolved at a dizzying pace – and in too many ways than can be covered in a single class. The goal, therefore, will be to ultimately provide you with a broad-stroke understanding of the crucial developments and events during this period *through* a close examination of carefully selected key texts. With the aid of these key texts, I will be hoping to impart in you a better understanding of these key points, among others:

- The role of science and technology in shaping culture
- The role of philosophy in shaping ideologies
- Tensions between individual and community values
- Changing perceptions of nature and the human condition
- Relationships and conflicts between different peoples (as differentiated by race, religion, gender, social class, etc.)
- The evolution of abstract thought through philosophy and science
- Different conceptions of nationhood

## Required Textbooks/Materials

The following texts are required material in this course:

Trials of Modernity, Stacy Burton & Dennis Dworkin

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing CH 202, students will be able to

- trace the sources and development of European intellectual traditions and cultural institutions, with attention to the diversity of global experiences and voices that shaped them;
- understand how arts, technologies, scientific discoveries, political ideologies, and globalization contributed to modern and contemporary identities;
- connect the beliefs, values, and actions of past generations to contemporary conditions; and
- describe European interactions with other parts of the world and explain how interregional cultural connections, economic ties, and military conflicts shaped ideas, beliefs, and values in the modern and contemporary world.

## First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

*January 2:*

### **The End of the Middle Ages/Reformation/ "Othering" and Attempts to Mitigate it**

Burton & Dworkin: Introduction

John Knox—"The First Blast of the Trumpet Against..."

Elizabeth I—First Speech, Golden Speech

Kramer & Sprenger—*The Malleus Maleficarum* (excerpts)

Machiavelli: *The Prince* (Excerpts)

Martin Luther—*An Open Letter to the Christian Nobility...* (excerpts)

Martin Luther—95 Theses

Watch: "Luther and the Protestant Reformation" from CrashCourse

Christopher Columbus—Letter

Michel de Montaigne—*Essays* (excerpt)

Richard Hakluyt—*The Principle Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques...* (excerpt)

Mary Wortley Montagu—Letters

January 3:

**Philosophical Progress from the 1500s to the 1900s—The rise of empirical science and philosophy as a distinct discipline**

Descartes: *Discourse On Method* (Excerpts)

Margaret Cavendish—*Philosophical Letters & Grounds of Natural Philosophy* (excerpts)

Galileo Galilei—*The Starry Messenger* (excerpts)

Francis Bacon—*Novum Organon* (excerpts)

Baron de Montesquieu—*The Spirit of Laws* (excerpts)

Isaac Newton—*The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* (excerpt)

Immanuel Kant—“What is Enlightenment?”

Charles Darwin—*On the Origin of Species* (excerpts)

Friedrich Nietzsche—*The Gay Science* (“Parable of the Madman” excerpt)

Sigmund Freud: *Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis*

Sigmund Freud—“On Psychoanalysis,” “A Note on the Unconscious in Psychoanalysis”

January 4:

**Enlightenment Political Theory, “Human Nature” and Capitalism**

Burton & Dworkin—Section III Introduction

Thomas Hobbes—*Leviathan* (excerpts) 150-158

Jean-Jacques Rousseau—*Discourse(...)* & *The Social Contract* (excerpts)

John Locke—*An Essay on Human Understanding & Of Civil Government* (excerpts)

Adam Smith—*Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (excerpt)

Ignatius Sancho—Letters (excerpt)

Olaudah Equiano—*The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (excerpt)

David Hume—“Of National Characters” (excerpts)

January 7:

**First Wave Feminism, The Romantic “Turn”**

*Paper #1 Due*

National Assembly—The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen

Olympe de Gouges—The Declaration of the Rights of Woman

Mary Wollstonecraft—*Vindication of the Rights of Women* (excerpts)

Sarah Stickney Ellis—*The Women of England: Their Social Duties...* (excerpts)

Virginia Woolf—*A Room of One's Own* (excerpts)

Edmund Burke—*Reflections on the French Revolution* (excerpts)

Edmund Burke—*A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin...* (excerpts)

Johann von Herder—*Materials for the Philosophy of the History of Mankind* (excerpt)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe—*The Theory of a World Literature* (excerpts)

## Course Details

*Attendance & Participation* (100 points total):

As you no doubt know or have heard, Core Humanities is a demanding series of courses. In 202 you'll find that things move very quickly. Consequently, it is important that you attend regularly and take an active part in discussions. If you miss class you risk losing the continuity of ideas and events examined in the class. Moreover, you are likely to miss important information which may appear on an exam, or you may miss one of the periodic quizzes. Please note that there is no "grace" allowance of absences, and even one unexcused absence will result in a loss of the appropriate percentage of attendance/participation points. Excused absences are those accompanied by a doctor's note or other official documentation only.

*Papers* (600 points total; 3 at 200 points each):

You have three papers of a minimum four-page length due throughout the semester. I will give you a number of paper topics from which you may choose. If you write on an unapproved topic, your paper will not be accepted. I am not expecting any outside research for these papers, but rather that you treat the class texts critically. If you *do* find yourself using outside sources, be sure to cite them according to proper academic standards. If you have questions as to what these are, please consult with me. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and have pages numbered and stapled together. Remember to include your name, my name, the date, and a title. Late papers will be lowered one full letter grade for each day late. Since rewrites should be done before a paper is turned in, post-deadline rewrites are not allowed. I am, however, more than happy to look at a rough draft before the due date.

*Final Exam* (200 points):

The final exam will be given on Thursday, January 18th, from 9am-1pm. This exam will consist of three parts:

- 1) Multiple Choice: You will be asked a series of question and given four answers for each, three of which will be erroneous. You are to identify the correct answer.
- 2) Identifications: You will be given a series of terms, concepts, or names and asked to provide a brief explanation, identifying who or what they are, the approximate date, and the significance (the "so what?"). The IDs will be drawn from readings, and lectures. I am not looking to throw obscure, once-mentioned terms at you. These will be things that have garnered some significant attention in the class.
- 3) Essay: You will be given two broad essay topics, from which you should choose one. Your essay should draw on primary texts as well as historical and cultural contexts provided by the class and the history book. The essays will tend to focus on themes that have been discussed in class.

## Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
Essay #1	200
Essay #2	200
Essay #3	200
Final Exam	200
Attendance & Participation	100
<i>Total</i>	<i>900</i>

The percentage distribution for the course is:

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A	94–100
A-	90–93
B+	87–89
B	84–86
B-	80–83
C+	77–79
C	74–76
C-	70–73
D+	67–69
D	65–66
D-	62–64
F	below 62