

University Studies 1320: Humanities
Modernism and the Globalization of Culture
Professor Victoria Grieve
Spring 2009, MWF 1:30-2:20am

Classroom: Fine Arts 150

Office Location: Main 321-G

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30am-12:30pm, and by appt.

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Course Description

Many of you may have walked into this course without knowing what is meant by the term “humanities.” You may think of such divergent topics as the Humane Society and Human Anatomy. If we look to the Latin root, *Humanitas* is best understood to mean “human nature” or “humanity.” The study of humanities (*literae humaniores*) is, therefore the study of what makes us human. This leads to a much larger question, which is, of course, what is it that exactly makes us human? As humans, we define ourselves in a variety of ways, but in this class we will concentrate on how humans have sought to understand themselves and their world through the arts, including visual and literary culture.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to survey the development of modernism, particularly in the United States and the ways in which culture translates, transforms, and transcends the world around it.

- Our primary focus will rest with the United States from 1900 to the present.
- Our principal loyalties will be to the personal and intellectual growth that comes of studying and understanding the past.
- Our main goal is to advance your skills in articulating issues centering around historical events and figures, matters which relate to all times and peoples.
- Our central aim is to increase your knowledge of modern cultural developments in the arts and culture.

Required Text

Henry Sayre, *The Humanities: Continuity, Culture and Change, Book 6. Modernism and the Globalization of Cultures, 1900-Present.*

Early Alert Program

USU has developed a new Early Alert program to assist students who are having difficulties in their classes. I have agreed to participate in this program and to submit the names and A numbers of all students who score less than 70 percent on the first exam, but names will also be referred in cases of frequent absence or lateness, or poor paper scores, language skills, and/or writing ability. This is an excellent program designed to assist students in academic success. How it works: My referrals will be reported to the Retention and First-Year Experience Office. Within 24 hours, a representative of the office will contact the student, and offer a meeting to discuss concerns and to suggest appropriate campus resources for the student’s needs. The Retention/FYE Office will conduct ongoing assessment to evaluate student achievement.

Academic Honesty

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course, and will be grounds for a failing grade for the assignment or the course. Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, which includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” (*Code of Policies and Procedures for Students*, Article V, Section 3A.1) The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include “#1) warning or reprimand and #2) grade adjustment” (see: Article VI, Section 1A): Other penalties may also be imposed at the Dean’s discretion. These include probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, referral to psychological counseling, and other appropriate disciplinary actions. Please review “The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University” for more information.

Disability Resource Center

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), which will issue a verification letter. DRC is located in University Inn 101, and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri; 797-2444.

Assignments

- 1.) Nobel Peace Prize – The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to 96 individuals and 20 nations since 1902. Research one recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. See http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/ for possible subjects. What did the recipient do to earn the honor? Do you think he or she deserved the award? What does this tell you about the issues of their time? 500 words and *minimum* of three sources, one of which is NOT on the internet. Due January 21. (20%)
- 2.) Choose one of the following: Read one book or volume of poetry, see one film, or attend one campus musical, theatrical, or dance event and write a review. 500 words. Due March 6. (20%)
- 3.) Go to the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art. Choose one piece of art on exhibit and write an analysis of the work. 500 words. Due April 3. (20%)
- 4.) Midterm Exam (February 25) and Final Exam (April 27) Each worth 20%.

Course Schedule

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1/5 Course Introduction	1/7 Modernism Read: 1317-1333	1/9 The Visual Arts Read: 1318-1344
1/12 Literature and Music	1/14 The Great War Read: 1350-1363	1/16 WWI Literature

1/19 No Classes	1/21 Dada and Surrealism Read: 1364-1380 Nobel Peace Prize Assignment Due	1/23 The Russian Revolution
1/26 Machine Culture in America	1/28 The Harlem Renaissance	1/30 All That Jazz
2/2 The Poetry of Everyday	2/4 New American Painting	2/6 Silent Film
2/9 Berlin in the 1920s	2/11 Writing Workshop	2/13 The Rise of Fascism: Germany, Italy, Spain
TUESDAY 2/17 Stalin and Social Realism	2/18 The Mexican Revolution	2/20 Great Depression Art and Culture
2/23 The Talkies	2/25 MIDTERM EXAM	2/27 World War II
3/2 Existentialism	3 /4 Abstract Expressionism	3/6 Cold War Culture Art Analysis Due
3/9 No Classes	3/11 No Classes	3/13 No Classes
3/16 The Beat Movement	3/18 The Civil Rights Movement in the United States	3/20 Film: <i>Eyes on the Prize</i>
3/23 The Black Arts Movement	3/25 The Culture of Consumption	3/27 Minimalism and Conceptualism
3/30 Vietnam	4/1 1968 Around the World	4/3 Youth Culture Cultural Analysis Due
4/6 Identity Politics	4/8 Architecture: The 80s and Beyond	4/10 No Class
4/13 Pluralism and the Visual Arts	4/15 Postmodern Literature	4/17 The Global Village
4/20 Imaging Islam	4/22 The Hispanic Presence in the United States	4/24 Contemporary Native American Art

FINAL EXAM: Monday, April 27 11:30am-1:20pm		
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