

# **CULTURE & EXPRESSION**

**Fall 2009: HUHC 011 & HUHC 013**

Professors: Cobb, Duarte, Eliot, Frisina, Rashid, Slitt (Social Science-HUHC 011);  
Donahue, Lorsch, Marchesi, Naymark, Rubey, Skulsky (Humanities-HUHC013)

## **Individualism, Citizenship, and Community**

These concepts take on very specific meanings as they develop in Europe and the Middle East during the ancient and medieval periods. Those meanings continue to influence the way we understand ourselves today. The Fall 2009 Culture & Expression will examine tensions in these ideas, and the various struggles to resolve them in, specifically, Greek and Roman, Hebrew, Christian, and Islamic materials from the ancient and medieval periods. The texts (or visual and verbal artifacts) range from narrative poetry and drama to philosophical dialogue, historiography and biography to cosmogonies and redemption narratives, as well as sculpture and architecture, painting and illustration. Special C&E events on campus and excursions off campus will aid our inquiries. Such an exploration brings to light and to life the changing notion of the individual, reflected in verbal and visual portraits, as the individual interacts with others in changing configurations of a community. We will look at how laws and ideas of justice define and hold together these communities, as well as notions of leadership and its limits, of gender and class, custom and tradition, of friendship and the Other. Further, we will examine practices of inclusion and exclusion based on language and religion, kinship or conquest, travel and commerce, amity and enmity. All of these materials project in some way an ideal community, which we hope to excavate, illuminate and articulate: sometimes as the object of a quest, a goal for the future; sometimes as a great and mythic past. The theme will not reduce or limit our understandings of these works, which are all rich and multilayered, but rather provide us with a common point of reference in drawing comparisons of each to all. The Common Reading for the Class of 2013 focused on the first 100 days of President Obama's administration in relation to the first 100 days of President Franklin Roosevelt's administration during the Great Depression in the 1930s. We will examine these ancient and medieval works with an eye toward what they tell us about how we should understand our individuality, our place as citizens, and the communities in which we live.

## **The Strategy**

C&E consists of two related courses in both fall and spring semesters. HUHC 011 and 012: Social Sciences has its emphasis on understanding the structures and values of a culture or civilization through the disciplines of history, sociology, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, religion, economics and geography. HUHC 013 and 014: Humanities has its emphasis on artistic expressions of the cultures under examination through the disciplines of literary analysis (e.g. English, Classics, Romance and Comparative Literatures), linguistics, music, drama, dance, the visual arts, architecture and aesthetics. Faculty on both teams work to structure a reading list and lecture schedules that work in tandem to reinforce a student's understanding of the ancient world through to the Middle Ages and the modern world since the Renaissance. Twice weekly faculty lectures set the context for student-based discussion sections.

Honors College

## Culture & Expression

Fall 2009

Professor Neil H. Donahue

HUHC 013, H10

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Office hours: M-F 9-5 by appointment.

Honors College, 037 Axinn Library. Tel. x5442

**Texts:** The textbooks are available at the University Bookstore. See the attached Book and Assignment List. Some assignments can be found in Blackboard or on e-reserve.

### General Requirements:

Attendance will be taken at Lecture and in Section: more than 4 absences can cost a letter grade. *Make sure I see you at lecture and in class -Give a wave!*

Attendance without the text (book or printout) will count as ½ absence.

Participation in section, which includes first 1 page writing assignment

Completion of reading assignments: bring book to class!

Three (3) short writing assignments (3-5 pages)

Individual meeting (after paper #2): bring papers and class/lecture notebook.

Midterm and final exams (short answer and essay)

### Grading Policy:

Writing assignment +/- counts toward participation

Paper #1	10%
Paper #2	15%
Paper #3	20%
Midterm / Final exams	20%
Participation	15%

Includes individual meeting on your writing to date

The first writing assignment (as opposed to Paper #1) will be a one-page exercise that will count toward participation and help toward the completion of the subsequent three papers. Please bring corrected papers to required individual meeting with instructor. Attendance includes the assigned texts, which must be brought to class! Attendance without the text will count as only partial 1/2 attendance. We will consult the book frequently and closely. Midterm and final exams will be based on the readings, section discussion and the lectures: you are responsible for terms, dates, characters, etc. that appear in discussion and lecture or in the readings.

**Academic Dishonesty** - Please be aware that you are responsible for knowing and understanding what constitutes plagiarism (or cheating of any kind). Any work submitted in this class is understood to be your own work only. In case of any uncertainty, discuss the matter with the professor. You are not allowed to use anyone else's ideas and wording without proper acknowledgment and citation. Of course this includes anything taken from books, articles, lectures and from electronic / Internet sources. Any instances will get reported, following University policy, to the Provost's Office. Plagiarism is a serious offense and, upon second incident, can cause expulsion from the university. All students are expected to abide by the University's Policy on Academic Honesty as stated in the Hofstra University Bulletin. Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Students at Hofstra University are detailed in Faculty Policy Series #11 (rev. 2004.) for undergraduates.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have any documented disability-related concerns that may have an impact upon your performance in this course, please meet with me within the first two weeks of the current semester, so that we can work out the appropriate accommodations on an individualized, as-needed basis after the needs, circumstances and documentation have been evaluated by Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). SSD is located in 212 Memorial Hall and can be reached at 516-463-7075 or [ssd@hofstra.edu](mailto:ssd@hofstra.edu).

## Schedule of Common Lectures and Section Meetings for HUHC 013, H10

	HUHC 013, H10	HUHC 011, H __
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>9:05</b>	<b>10:10</b>
W 9/2	Section: <b>Review of syllabus</b> <b>Gilgamesh</b>	<b>Lecture: Professor Rubey</b> <b>Gilgamesh</b>
F 9/4	Section discussion <b>Gilgamesh</b>	Section discussion <b>Gilgamesh</b>
<b>Week 2</b>		
M 9/7	<b>Labor Day – Classes not in session</b>	
W 9/9	section discussion <b>Gilgamesh</b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Frisina</b> <b>Genesis / Exodus</b>
F 9/11	Section discussion <b>Genesis / Exodus</b>	Section discussion <b>Genesis / Exodus</b>
<b>Week 3</b>		
M 9/14	<b>Lecture: Prof. Lorsch</b> <b>Genesis / Exodus</b>	Section discussion
W 9/16	Section discussion <b>Homer <i>The Odyssey</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Donahue</b> <b>Homer <i>The Odyssey</i></b>
F 9/18	Section discussion <b>Homer <i>The Odyssey</i></b>	Section discussion
<b>Week 4</b>		
M 9/21	<b>Lecture: Prof. Eliot</b> <b>Plato <i>Gorgias</i></b>	Section discussion
W 9/23	Section discussion <b>Homer <i>The Odyssey</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Naymark</b> <b>Visual Culture #1-Ancient World</b>
F 9/25	Section discussion <b>Homer <i>The Odyssey</i> / Visual Culture</b>	Section discussion
<b>Week 5</b>		
M 9/28	<b>Classes not in session</b>	
W 9/30	<b>Conversion Day – Monday Schedule</b> <b>Lecture: Prof. Duarte</b> Plato <i>Apology</i> and <i>Crito</i>	Section discussion Plato <i>Apology</i> and <i>Crito</i>
F 10/2	Section discussion <b>Homer <i>The Odyssey</i></b>	Section discussion Plato <i>Apology</i> and <i>Crito</i>
<b>Week 6</b>		
M 10/5	<b>Lecture: Prof. Donahue</b> <b>Aeschylus <i>The Oresteia</i></b>	Section discussion
W 10/7	Section discussion <b>Aeschylus <i>The Oresteia</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Eliot</b> <b>Herodotus Selections – <i>Histories</i></b>
F 10/9	Section discussion <b>Aeschylus <i>The Oresteia</i></b>	Section discussion

**Week 7**

M 10/12	<b>Lecture: Prof. Skulsky</b> <b>Aeschylus <i>The Oresteia</i></b>	Section discussion
W 10/14	Section discussion <b>Aeschylus <i>The Oresteia</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Cobb</b> <b><i>New Testament: Gospel of John</i></b>
F 10/16	Section discussion <b>Aeschylus <i>The Oresteia</i></b>	Section discussion

**Week 8**

M 10/18	<b>Lecture: Prof. Marchesi</b> <b>Virgil <i>The Aeneid</i></b>	Section Discussion
W 10/20	Section discussion <b>Virgil <i>The Aeneid</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Cobb</b> <b>Martyrs</b>
F 10/22	Section discussion <b>Virgil <i>The Aeneid</i></b>	Section discussion

**Week 9**

M 10/26	<b>Lecture: Prof. Duarte</b> <b>Boethius <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i></b>	Section discussion
W 10/28	Section discussion <b>Virgil <i>The Aeneid</i></b>	<b>Day of Dialogue:</b> 10:10 event tba (Wed. lecture on Friday)
F 10/30	Section discussion <b>Virgil <i>The Aeneid</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Naymark</b> <b>Visual Culture #2 - Rome</b>

**Week 10**

M 11/2	<b>Lecture: Prof. Rashid</b> <b>Qur'an</b>	Section discussion
W 11/4	Section discussion <b>Qur'an</b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Rashid</b> <b>Qur'an</b>
F 11/6	Section discussion <b>Qur'an</b>	Section discussion

**Week 11**

M 11/9	<b>Lecture: Prof. Frisina</b> <b>Ibn Sina/Ibn Rushd</b>	Section discussion
W 11/11	Section discussion <b><i>Song of Roland</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Rubey</b> <b><i>Song of Roland</i></b>
F 11/13	Section discussion <b><i>Song of Roland</i></b>	Section discussion

**Week 12**

M 11/16	<b>Lecture: Prof. Slitt</b> <b>Geoffrey of Monmouth</b>	Section discussion
W 11/18	Section discussion <b><i>Song of Roland</i></b>	<b>Lecture: Prof. Frisina</b> <b>Thomas Aquinas</b>
F 11/20	Section discussion <b>Dante <i>The Inferno</i></b>	Section discussion

**Week 13**

M 11/23	<b>Lecture: Prof. Marchesi</b>	Section discussion
	<b>Dante <i>The Inferno</i></b>	

W 11/25	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
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F 11/27	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
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**Week 14**

M 11/30	<b>Lecture: Prof. Slitt</b>	Section discussion
	<b>Dante <i>The Inferno</i></b>	

W 12/2	Section discussion	<b>Lecture: Prof. Skulsky</b>
	<b>Dante <i>The Inferno</i></b>	<b><i>Gawain and the Green Knight</i></b>

F 12/4	Section discussion	Section discussion
	<b><i>Gawain and the Green Knight</i></b>	

**Week 15**

M 12/7	<b>Lecture: Lorsch</b>	Section discussion
	<b>Chaucer <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (selection)</b>	

W 12/9	Section discussion	<b>Lecture:</b>
	<b>Chaucer <i>The Canterbury Tales</i></b>	

**Review Session in Reading Days: TBA****Final Exam Monroe Lecture Hall (unless otherwise indicated by instructor)**

<b>W 12/16</b>	<b>HUHC 011</b>	<b>C &amp; E Social Science</b>	<b>8:00-10:00 am</b>
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<b>F 12/18</b>	<b>HUHC 013</b>	<b>C &amp; E Humanities</b>	<b>8:00-10:00 am</b>
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