

***CULTURE & EXPRESSION***  
**Spring 2013: HUHC 012 & HUHC 014**

**Professors:** Bhogal, Eliot, Frisina, Rashid, Singer, Skulsky, Varisco (Social Science - HUHC 012); Carter, Donahue, Kozol, Krapp, Lorsch, MacCary, Rustici (Humanities - HUHC014)

**Back to Nature: Explorations of the Human Condition in  
Modernity**

As background, Fall C&E adopted a central theme of appetites and contestation, or how, in so many different ways, tests and contests both defined and refined various different appetites or desires in order to achieve a new equilibrium or understanding. Now *Spring C&E 2013* will highlight modernity's attempt to define selfhood in itself and in its relation to external nature. The emergence of Humanism through this period (from Chaucer on) involves a shift away from scholasticism and its focus on the divine and Platonic realms of transcendent ideas and entities, toward empiricism, the scientific observation of nature, and empire, the colonial domination of nature, whether understood in geographical, scientific, political, material and economic terms, or as human nature. The new focus on human potential, on individuals, might exalt human capabilities, but might at the same time reveal troubling complications and limitations: in the spring we will examine how human nature gets defined in different periods and places in relation to an arbitrary Other, such as physical nature or animals, or other gender and races, ethnicities, religions, nations, etc. for purposes of domination and exploitation. Advances in natural science and technology, of our understanding and manipulation of the physical universe, change our historical understanding of human interaction in society and perhaps of human nature itself. With each advance in science and society that allows humans to comprehend and control nature comes as well a new anxiety over how humanity and nature fit together.

**The Strategy**

C&E consists of two related courses in both fall and spring semesters. *HUHC 011* and *012: Social Sciences* have their emphasis on understanding the structures and values of a culture or civilization through the disciplines of History, Sociology, Religion, Anthropology, Psychology, Philosophy, Economics and Geography. *HUHC 013* and *014: Humanities* have their 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, Fine Arts, Architecture and Aesthetics. Faculty on both teams work to develop a reading list and lecture schedule that work in tandem to reinforce the students' insight into and understanding of the ancient world through to the Middle Ages, and then in the spring, the modern world since the Renaissance. Twice weekly faculty lectures set the context for student-based discussion sections that amplify or elaborate, challenge or critique the assigned texts and contexts, and/or the interpretation set forth in the lecture.