

CULTURE & EXPRESSION

(Fall 2014: HUHC 011 & HUHC 013)

Professors: Alryyes, Bennington, Duarte, Frisina, Huber, Limnatis, Singer (Soc Sci-HUHC 011);
Donahue, Kozol, MacCary, Marchesi, Powell, Rubey, Smith (Humanities-HUHC 013)

Friending, Texting, Sexting and Love in Ancient and Medieval Cultures

In the context of contemporary issues of connectivity, this fall's C&E syllabus will address thematically a mix of very diverse cultural reflections and representations of intimacy (and its opposite) and affection (and its opposite) in ancient and medieval worlds. At the center of our inquiry will be the concept of friendship and the various gradations of interpersonal familiarity covered by that term extending to the beloved, the lover, the partner or mate or spouse, to the full range of familial relations. In their full variety and complexity, such relations of intimacy define who we are as individuals and as a society and culture, and are in turn constructions of a given society and culture at a given historical moment. Though we might like to assume that such bonds constitute historical constants of human nature, the classical scholar David Konstan, in his work on *Friendship in the Classical World* (1997), reminds us that, on the contrary, even intimacy, whether as friendship or love, is an "historical variable." Thus, at all turns the course will query the normative constructions of what is deemed 'natural' in terms of its social-historical contexts, and review how those constructions take shape in scientific, historical, philosophical or theological treatises. Also implicit in the title by extension is the question of how such thoughts and emotions between individuals in intimacy get mediated, if not electronically as in our own day, then by what medium? And how does the medium of the message interact with or alter its content? And then further, how do those relations find artistic representation in word and image as myth, epic, legend, story, drawing, painting or play. As an extension of our C&E syllabus, Honors College will co-sponsor a symposium on Friendship.

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 develop a reading list and lecture schedule 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.

Culture & Expression

Honors College

HUHC 013, H13 12:15-1:10, Starr 301

Fall 2014

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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 and Grading Policy:

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. **10%** Includes September assignment on research methods related to Faculty Research Day and individual meeting on your writing in November.

Completion of reading assignments: bring book to class!

Four lecture reviews (2 pages - no more, no less), with brief oral presentation **5% each = 20%**

Two (2) short writing assignments (4 pages each, no less-no more: **15% each = 30%**)

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

Midterm and final exams (short answer and essay): **20% each = 40%**

Vocabulary quizzes are mandatory but only count as **extra credit: 5%**

Please bring corrected papers to required individual meeting with instructor. Attendance includes the assigned texts, which must be brought to class! 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.

Schedule of General Lectures and Section Meetings Tuesdays and Thursdays (T R)

LECTURE (Monroe 142: 11:10-12:05)

SECTION *Humanities* Discussion (HUHC 013, H13; Roosevelt Hall 112, 12:15-1:10)

Week 1	T 9/2	Convocation at 11:20-12:35 (Playhouse) with lunch reception Lecture: Professor Bennington on the Birth of Symbolic Thought (lecture at 1:15-2:10 in Monroe 142). No section meetings.
	R 9/4	Lecture: Professor Rubey on the epic of Gilgamesh (18th C BCE) Section discussion of symbolic thought and <i>Gilgamesh</i>
Week 2	T 9/09	Lecture: Professor Smith on Homer's <i>The Iliad</i> Section discussion of <i>Gilgamesh</i> and Homer
	R 9/11	Lecture: Professor Alryyes on Homer's <i>The Iliad</i> Section discussion of Homer's <i>Iliad</i>
Week 3	T 9/16	Lecture: Professor Huber on <i>Song of Songs</i> Section discussion on Homer
	R 9/18	Lecture: Professor MacCary on Sappho Section discussion on Sappho
Week 4	T 9/23	Lecture: Professor Singer on <i>The Book of Job</i> Section discussion on Sappho; assignment due from Faculty Research Day
	R 9/25	Classes not in session
Week 5	T 09/30	Lecture: Professor MacCary on Thucydides Section discussion on Thucydides
	R 10/02	Lecture: Professor Duarte on Heraclitus Section discussion on Thucydides
Week 6	T 10/07	Lecture: Professor Kozol on Aristophanes <i>Lysistrata</i> Section discussion on Aristophanes <i>Lysistrata</i>
	R 10/09	Lecture: Professor Smith on Plato's <i>Symposium</i> Section discussion on Aristophanes <i>Lysistrata</i>
Week 7	T 10/14	Lecture: Professor Singer on Plato's <i>Symposium</i> Section discussion on Plato's <i>Symposium</i>
	R 10/16	Lecture: Professor Limnatis on Aristotle's "On Friendship" Section Discussion on Plato's <i>Symposium</i>
Week 8	T 10/21	Lecture: Professor Donahue on Lucretius <i>On the Nature of Things</i> Section discussion on Lucretius <i>On the Nature of Things</i> (50 BCE)
	R 10/23	Lecture: Professor Bennington Lucretius <i>On the Nature of Things</i>

Section discussion on Lucretius *On the Nature of Things* (50 BCE)

Week 9	T 10/28	Lecture: Professor Marchesi on Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> Section discussion on Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i>
	R 10/30	Lecture: Professor Frisina on Paul Section discussion on Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i>
Week 10	T 11/04	Lecture: Professor Donahue on Ovid's <i>Art of Love</i> Section discussion on Ovid's <i>Art of Love</i>
	R 11/06	Lecture: Professor Frisina on Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> Section discussion on Ovid's <i>Art of Love</i> and Augustine's <i>Confessions</i>
Week 11	T 11/11	Lecture: Professor Rubey on Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> Section discussion on Augustine's <i>Confessions</i>
	R 11/13	Lecture: Professor Alryyes on <i>Arabian Nights</i> Section discussion on <i>Confessions</i> and <i>Arabian Nights</i>
Week 12	T 11/18	Lecture: Professor Powell on <i>The Legend of St. Alexis</i> Section discussion on <i>Arabian Nights</i> and <i>The Legend of St. Alexis</i>
	R 11/20	Lecture: Professor on Huber on <i>St. Bernard of Clairvaux</i> Section discussion on <i>Arabian Nights</i> and <i>The Legend of St. Alexis</i>
Week 13	T 11/25	Lecture: Professor Kozol on Hildegard of Bingen Section discussion on Hildegard of Bingen
	R 11/27	Thanksgiving Classes not in session
Week 14	T 12/02	Lecture: Professor Limnatis on <i>Abelard and Heloïse</i> Section discussion on Hildegard of Bingen
	R 12/04	Lecture: Professor Powell on <i>Ami and Amile</i> Section discussion on <i>Ami and Amile</i>
Week 15	T 12/09	Lecture: Professor Marchesi on Boccaccio's <i>The Decameron</i> Section discussion on Boccaccio's <i>The Decameron</i>

Review Session on Reading Days (12/11 and 12/12);

Final Exam Monroe Lecture Hall (unless otherwise indicated by instructor)

T 12/16 HUHC 013 C & E Humanities 1:30-3:30 pm

T 12/18 HUHC 011 C & E Social Science 10:30-12:30 am

HCLAS General Education Learning Goals and Objectives
(for Liberal Arts Distribution credit)
Applicable to HUHC Culture & Expression

Goal 1. Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically and creatively.

Learning Objectives:

- 1.a Clearly and accurately summarize and evaluate the facts, presumptions, viewpoints, values, and arguments presented in a text or creative work.
- 1.b Gather and assess relevant information, and apply appropriate cognitive methods in solving problems or answering questions raised in a text or creative work.
- 1.c Construct well-reasoned solutions or conclusions; test and defend conclusions against relevant criteria and standards.
- 1.d Critically analyze one's own thinking by identifying one's presumptions, values, and viewpoints as well as problems, inconsistencies, and unanswered questions.
- 1.e Conceive and defend alternative hypotheses and viewpoints; offer and explain reasons for provisionally rejecting or accepting them.

Goal 2. Students will apply analytical reasoning across academic disciplines.

Learning Objectives:

- 2a. Read with comprehension, and critically interpret written work in discipline-specific contexts.
- 2b. Critically interpret and analyze aesthetic qualities of works in literature and the fine or performing arts.
- 2c. Apply quantitative, inductive, and deductive reasoning.
- 2d. Apply abstract thinking and conceptual modeling.
- 2e. Apply the methods of humanities ethically to investigate and analyze modes of expression.
- 2f. Describe, comprehend, and analyze the role of philosophical ideas, historical movements, or ethical debates in the development of civilizations.

Goal 3. Students will demonstrate proficiency in written communication.

Learning Objectives:

- 3a. Compose grammatical sentences.
- 3b. Use various sentence forms to effectively modulate style and tone.
- 3c. Compose a sequence of paragraphs that develop a point.
- 3d. Summarize, quote, and respond to reliable texts to support and develop claims; apply relevant standards for citation.
- 3e. Write an effective argumentative essay.
- 3f. Respond to writing assignments using appropriate style, structure, and voice.
- 3g. Apply editing, proofreading, and revising strategies.

Goal 4. Students will demonstrate proficiency in oral communication.

Learning Objectives:

- 4a. Demonstrate skill in oral communication for purposes such as informing, persuading, and/or defending.
- 4b. Compose and deliver effective, audience-appropriate oral presentations that develop and support a point; or participate in formal debates; or lead or participate in collaborative discussion of a question or a text.
- 4c. When appropriate, use visual, auditory, and/or technological aids.

Goal 5. Students will develop an awareness of and sensitivity to global issues.

Learning Objectives:

- 5a. Provide and understand information on simple concrete subjects in a language other than English in both oral and written form.
- 5b. Demonstrate knowledge of the intellectual, social, political, economic, or cultural practices of at least one of the peoples in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, or of the indigenous peoples of the Americas and Australia.

Goal 6. Students will demonstrate information literacy.

Learning Objectives:

- 6a. Conduct research using the variety of information sources available to them.
- 6b. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate the relevance and utility of different sources.
- 6c. Integrate sources effectively and ethically through proper citation.

Goal 7. Students will demonstrate technological competency.

Learning Objective:

- 7a. Demonstrate the ability to use general or discipline-specific technologies to identify, retrieve, analyze, and communicate ideas and information.