

CULTURE & EXPRESSION

Fall 2011

Professors: Dardis, Doubleday, Duarte, Freitas, Frisina, Rashid, Teehan (Social Science-HUHC 011); Alter, Donahue, Lorsch, Rubey, Rustici, Skulsky, Sulcer (Hum-HUHC 013)

Outward/Inward Bound

Physical and Spiritual Journeys in the Ancient World and Middle Ages

The Fall 2011 C&E discussion will focus on the theme of travel or the journey in the ancient world and Middle Ages as it alternates between a literal representation of physical travel, with its risks, obstacles and rewards, and its figurative representation as an interior development, an inner movement, in terms of emotional and moral growth or of knowledge and understanding. The idea of travel can appear as a quest or conquest, or as a question, as movement through physical space, on the one hand, or as a movement in mind and emotion, on the other, and often the two will coincide, as in the journey or quest for self-knowledge. As always, the C&E theme will not limit the discussion, but instead seeks to open the discussion and provide a focal point to a wide range of interpretive approaches, such as the travel or migration of ideas between cultures; the establishment and the transgression of boundaries, physical and moral or intellectual; the collective journey of a group and its transformation into a community or country; travel for military and economic conquest and colonial domination, or as flight and resistance to the same; the journey as an outward sign of religious devotion or discipline, or as metaphor for spiritual discovery. In these and other approaches, the theme of travel will serve, aptly, as a point of departure for our own journey through the texts of the semester to discover their respective repositories of cultural-historical significance, the obstacles they pose to present understanding and our own diverse responses.

Our longtime colleague in *Culture & Expression*, Professor Dana Brand, scheduled to teach this term, passed away suddenly in May. We dedicate this semester to him: our theme of travel reflects the topic of his unfinished project combining literary research and personal reflections on travel: Dana embodied the spirit of wide-ranging curiosity about the interconnectedness of culture & artistic expression that *Culture & Expression* seeks to inspire in our students, just as he inspired HUHC students in his lectures and classes. We mourn his loss. A celebration of his life and work will take place at Hofstra in November.

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 respective cultures 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.