

HUMN 123 Literature and Social Change (4)

These courses present issues of social justice and cultural change through the lenses of comparative literature from the United States in conversation with other world traditions. The common theme for each topic is how literature can give voice to underrepresented groups and serve as catalyst for social change, challenging authority and becoming authoritative itself. Introduction to the industries and social structures governing literary education, production, dissemination, performance, awards, translation and preservation as they relate to individual and group identity and expression. Specific focus is how literature addresses instances and patterns of social injustice within and among cultures, specifically addressing race, ethnicity and gender.

HUMN 221 The Golden Age of Athens (4)

All works read in English. Great works of Greek literature, history, and philosophy from the 5th and early 4th centuries B.C., one of the most remarkable periods of intellectual, artistic, and political activity. Authors read include Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes, and Plato.

HUMN 222 Literature of the Western World: Medieval to Modern (4)

Great books of the post-classical Western tradition which have had a lasting influence on Western literature and thought, covering a variety of genres (epic, drama, poetry, prose fiction) and several nationalities and historical periods. All works read in English, but qualified students may do some reading in the original language.

HUMN 223 Literary Traditions (4)

Reading of major representative works from the literatures of three or four contrasting cultures, with specific reference to the societies that produced them. The individual units, which may vary greatly according to the instructor's areas of interest and expertise, are chosen to ensure that students come into contact with traditions both past and present, of both Western and non-Western provenance, and of both dominant and minority groups, and will touch on a variety of literary genres. Some background readings in anthropology and sociology as needed.

HUMN 300 Topics in Humanities (4)

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HUMN 300A Reading Biblical Women (4)

An exploration of the Bible as sacred text, cultural document, and literary masterpiece, with special attention to the women of scripture. In addition to close readings of texts such as Genesis, Exodus, The Song of Songs, the Gospels and Revelation, class members will become acquainted with a range of techniques of biblical and literary analysis, from historical and textual criticism to mysticism and feminist theory. In the final unit of the course, students will explore, as interpreters and creators, artistic responses to scripture (the study or creation of translation, stained-glass, theatre, poetry, mystical writings, prose fiction, etc., based on the biblical text). Cross-listed with THEO 309C.

HUMN 300B Biblical Exegesis and Literary Criticism (4)

Study of the exegetical traditions of the Jewish and Christian faiths, concentrating on narrative concerns such as voice, form, quotation, and authority. Readings in critical theory, concentrating on essays which interpret the nature of language or which interpret works in which sacred stories, themes, or forms appear. Exploration of how these traditions of interpretation respond to important stories in our cultures, and how they help shape the ways we understand human experience.

HUMN 300C Medieval Literature in Translation (4)

Introduction to the medieval European culture and society through the reading of major literary masterpieces in translation. Emphasis on the vernacular literature of continental Europe.

HUMN 327 Classical Mythology (4)

The mythological view of the world as presented in tales of gods and heroes. Myth as an explanation of cosmic and natural forces and of human life. Its role in art and literature.

HUMN 369 East Asian Literature in Translation (4)

A study of Japanese, Chinese, and other East Asian literary traditions.

HUMN 376 Topics: European Civilization (4)

An in-depth study of a particular theme, region, or time period in European Civilization. The precise subject to be studied will be announced prior to registration.