

August 2007

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

HUM 101- 102

CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS I, II (4 + 0 + 0) 4

An interdisciplinary Humanities Survey introducing students to cultures east and west, ancient and modern which have, over time, impacted and interacted with their own culture. The course is designed to create a space for reflecting critically on this wider cultural heritage, focusing primarily on philosophy, literature, arts, political thought, science and religion. Students are introduced to a variety of primary and secondary materials and encouraged to analyze, compare and contrast ideas, paradigms, world views.

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| HUM 101 | From Ancient and Classical Civilizations to the End of the Middle Ages |
| HUM 102 | From the Renaissance Era to the Present |

HUM 101 (13 weeks)

Weeks 1,2 : First lecture: introduction to the course

The Ancient Near East

Egypt / Mesopotamia (including Babylonian astronomy) / Persia
Anatolian Civilizations

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Gilgamesh: (The Flood Story is later to be compared with parallel stories in the Bible and the Koran)
ancient creation myths, mystery and orgiastic cults of the Near East,
the mother goddess and the year spirit/dying god (Kybele & Attis,
Astarte & Tammuz /Adonis, Isis & Osiris)

Weeks 3,4,5,6:

Archaic and Classical Greece

the polis /political thought and practice / philosophy / scientific thought /
the arts and literature, plus the Hellenistic World

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The Iliad: Hector's farewell to his wife&son, his encounter with Achilles
The Odyssey (all or at least selections including the Cyclops episode, to
be compared with Tepegoz in Dede Korkut)

Plato: Selections from the Socratic dialogues and The Republic (the
allegory of the cave, poets are liars, and on the equality of women)

Hesiod: excerpt from Histories (Xerxes crosses the Hellespont)

Thucydides: Pericles' Funeral Oration

a play : Prometheus Bound, Medea, Oedipus the King, Antigone,

The Bacchae or Lysistrata

Aristotle: excerpts from Politics, Poetics or Ethics

*Virtual tours and *a second visit to the Archeological Museum

Weeks 7,8: Rome

Roman law, citizenship, engineering, the arts and literature

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- Cicero: excerpt from On the Laws
- Ovid: excerpt from Metamorphoses
- Boethius: excerpt from Consolation of Philosophy
- Catallus: a few love lyrics
- Horace: "The Country Mouse and the City Mouse" (short satire)
- Virgil: excerpt from The Aeneid
- * Virtual tour of museums and monuments

Week 9, 10:**The Rise of Monotheism**

Judaism, Christianity and Islam (including the schisms and doctrinal disputes as well as mysticism)

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excerpts from the Old and New Testaments, and the Koran (including parallel narratives)

St. Augustine: excerpts from City of God or Confessions

St. Thomas Aquinas: The End of Man (from Summa Contra Gentiles Bk. III)

Peter Damiani: The Monastic Ideal (from Opuscula Varia)

Fariduddin Attar : from Conference of the Birds

John of Damascus : from "On Holy Images" and "The Fount of Wisdom" (defense of icons)

-3-

Weeks 11,12,13:**The Medieval World**

Feudalism / medieval European politics / the medieval church: kings and popes / Medieval Islam and the Crusades / the rise of towns / trade across Europe and with the East (including Venetian trade relations with the Mamlukes and Turks, resulting in cultural exchanges) / the philosophic, scientific, literary and artistic legacy of Islam / the rise of universities / the 12th century Renaissance

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Robert de Sorbonne: Statutes for a College

William, Archbishop of Tyre: from A History of deeds Done Beyond the Sea. Bk. I, chapters 22-26 (Peter Martyr fights Kılıç Arslan near Nicaea)

Usamah Ibn-Munquidh: From the Memories

Ibn Khaldun: from The Incoherence of the Incoherence (defends Aristotle against Ghazali and reconciles philosophy with Islam)

Roger Bacon: “A Plea for the Study of Languages” and “Experimental Science” (both from the Opus Majus)

Chanson de Roland: an excerpt

Moorish poetry in translation

A few troubadour lyrics

Chaucer: One of the naughtier fabliaux from the Canterbury Tales

* 10 minutes of French medieval monophonic music

* exposure to examples of Romanesque and Gothic architecture,

* stained glass, * illuminated manuscripts, * Mamluke, Moorish and

Seljuk artifacts and architecture

Marc Bloch :secondary source

Fuat Köprülü: “Bizans Müesseselerinin Osmanlı Müesseselerine Tesiri”

Weeks 1,2,3,4**The Renaissance Era**

The Impact of the Printing Press
 European Overseas Expansion
 Otoman Conquests: conflict and encounter
 Humanism
 Renaissance Classicism
 The Renaissance in Italy and Northern Europe (literature /
 thought / arts / architecture / music)
 Reformation and Counterreformation
 Political Thought and Practice
 Scientific Thought

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Machiavelli: excerpts from The Prince
 Castiglione: excerpts from The Courtier
 Sir Thomas More: Bk. II, Utopia
 Dante: Cantos 3-5 from The Inferno
 Boccaccio: a tale from the Decameron
 Petrarch: two sonnets
 Montaigne: “Of Cannibals”
 Shakespeare: two sonnets, a play (Macbeth, Tempest...) and later a film
 Hobbes: Chapters 13, 14 and perhaps 11, 15, 18 from the Leviathan
 Locke : excerpt from The Second Treatise of Civil Government
 : excerpt from “An Essay on Human Understanding”
 Hakluyt : from the Principle Navigations (XXX and XLVII)
 Evliya Çelebi : from The Travels (Vienna)
 Leo Africanus :from The Description of Africa.(Timbuktu)
 Copernicus : excerpt from Revolutions
 Galileo : excerpt from Dialogues Concerning the Two Chief

World Systems

virtual tours: *architecture / * artifacts / * paintings / *maps

*10 minutes of madrigals and Elizabethan lute songs

Weeks 5,6,7

17th-19th Centuries

The Scientific Revolution

The Enlightenment (philosophy, political and economic thought)

The Revolutions of 1688, 1776 and 1789

Neo-Classicism

Literature, Music, Art and Architecture in the 17th and 18th Century

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Descartes: "Discourse on Method"

Newton: Preface to the Principia

Leibniz: "best of all possible worlds" from Discourse on Metaphysics

Voltaire: Candide

Montesquieu: excerpt from Spirit of Laws

Hume: "Scepticism Against Dogmatic Religious Beliefs"

Rousseau: excerpts from A Discourse on Equality and The Social

Contract

The Petition of Right (1628) and the 1689 Bill of Rights

Declaration of Independence

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen

Kant: "Answering the Question: What Is Enlightenment?"

* some Baroque music (Vivaldi, Bach)

*virtual tours

Weeks 8,9:**The 19th Century**

The Industrial Revolution

Social Transformations

Romanticism, Nationalism, Colonialism

Philosophical Thought

Literature and the Arts

Science and Technology

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John Stuart Mill: excerpts from “On Liberty”

Mary Wollstonecraft: excerpt from “Vindication of the Rights of Women”

Mary Shelley: FrankensteinAdam Smith: excerpt from The Wealth of NationsEdmund Burke: excerpt from Reflections on the Revolution in France
and maybe an excerpt from A Philosophical EnquiryInto the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the BeautifulNietzsche: excerpt from The Birth of Tragedy OR from Thus SpakeZarathustra OR from Beyond Good and Evil

Chekhov: a short story or play

* virtual tours

*Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky

Week 10**Evolution and Revolution**Darwin: excerpts from The Voyage of the Beagle, The Descent of Man
or On the Origin of SpeciesMarx: excerpts from The Communist ManifestoFreud: excerpts from Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Civilization and Its
Discontents, essay on Macbeth (psychoanalytic literary criticism)

-7-

Weeks 11,12,13**The 20th Century**

The Great War and Its Aftermath
 Dictatorship and Democracy Between the Two World Wars
 The Second World War and Its Aftermath
 Science and Technology (from Einstein to genetics and the digital revolution)
 Literary and Artistic Movements in the 20th Century(including film)

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Kafka: The Trial OR The Castle OR Metamorphosis

Camus: The Stranger

Simone de Beauvoir: excerpt from The Second Sex

Einstein: from Ideas and Opinions (essays on atomic energy, human rights, education, government) and from his own popular writings on his work Relativity

Crick and Watson: The Double Helix (to show students how science is done, mostly through trial and error)

Maynard Keynes: excerpt from The Economic Consequences of Peace and/or “Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren”

George Orwell: 1984

*virtual tours

*diversity in music(Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Shostakovic, Glass, Copland, Gershwin, the Beatles)

*diversity in the arts (from Picasso to Andy Warhol)

* films