University of Central Florida

HUM 3255
Modern Humanities

Instructor: Bruce Janz
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Course Website & Resource Website: http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~janzb/courses/
Office Hours: Announced early in the course

Term: Spring 2004
Room: CL1 308
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This course will chart the rise of modernism from the Renaissance and Reformation to the middle of the 20th century (although we will mainly focus on the period after about 1750). We will engage in a thematic history which will address such areas of human experience and expression as art, architecture, literature, music, philosophy and religious thought, and social theory. The central themes of the course will be: Inhabiting the modern: the rise (and fall?) of the modern conception of the self; Engineering the modern: the rise of science and technology and its impact on human society; Constructing the modern: art, landscape, space, and cartography; Living in the modern: Social organization in the modern age; and Representing the modern: Representations of the human spirit.

Texts:
Chris Rodriguez and Chris Garratt, Introducing Modernism. Icon/Totem Books
Aldous Huxley, Brave New World and Brave New World Revisited. Perennial Books
Goethe, Sorrows of Young Werther. Viking.
Web-Based Readings and Resources, on the course website.

Requirements

Readings: Each assigned reading must be completed prior to the class meeting. This is to facilitate class discussion. Please bring your textbooks to class - it is difficult to refer to a passage or an image if you don’t have them in front of you. Other readings may be assigned during the course, and may be included in any quizzes or tests.
Quizzes (15%): There will be periodic quizzes on the readings. These quizzes will tell me whether you have read the reading for the week (including the weeks previous to any particular quiz). These quizzes will not necessarily be announced, and if you are not present on the day of a quiz, you cannot take it at another time.

Midterm (20%): Monday, Feb. 23, in class. Both the midterm and the final will be comprehensive, covering as much material as the syllabus indicates we have covered. “Material” includes lectures, readings, films, guest speakers, or web-based resources that are part of the course. The midterm and final will test your ability to think as well as your ability to remember or recognize elements of modern culture. More will be said about the midterm and final in class.

Modernity Assignment (15%): Due Friday, Feb. 6. Write a five page (1000-1200 word) paper which introduces a concept, a person, an artifact (such as a work of art, a building) or a practice in the context of the modern world. Specifically, you are to answer the question “What is modern about...?” In other words, you should think about your example in terms of what contributes to or typifies modernity. You should not choose an example which we spend a great deal of time on in class (so, not Freud or The Sorrows of Young Werther, for example).

One option for this assignment will be to assess a visit to a museum. For those who want to go, we will be joining another class to visit the Dali Museum in Sarasota. This will likely be a trip on a Saturday in late February or early March. There will be a cost associated with the trip (we are renting a bus to go, and there is the entry fee for the museum), but this should not be too onerous. As the due date for the assignment is prior to the museum visit, those who choose this option will have a later due date for the assignment. If you miss the earlier (Feb. 6) date, you have to do the museum visit with the class, or forfeit this portion of the grade. You may do the earlier assignment and still opt to come along for the visit. If you choose the museum visit to write about, there will be instructions as to the format closer to the time.

Final Paper (20%): Due April 12; Prospectus due March 15. 8-10 page (2000-2500 word) thesis defense research paper on an aspect of the course. A prospectus is due a month earlier than the paper - this is simply a statement on what you intend to write about, the position you intend to take on your topic, and the resources you will use. The prospectus will be taken into account in the overall grade for the paper.

A thesis defense research paper is one in which you state a position on some topic and present evidence to defend that position. It is not a topic, nor is it a question (although you cannot have a thesis without having a question - the thesis is the answer to the question). The evidence you present is gathered through research in scholarly sources. Examples of topics will be given in class, but part of the exercise will be for you to work on a topic yourself. The topic must relate to the material and themes of the course.
Final Exam (30%): Wednesday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.

Schedule, Modern Humanities HUM 3255

Introduction: What Does “Modern” Mean?
Week 1: Jan. 5, 7, 9 Reading: Rodriguez & Garratt, Introducing Modernism

Inhabiting the Modern: rise (and fall?) of the modern conception of the self.
Week 2: Jan 12, 14, 16 Reading: Feldman VVE, Ch. 1

Week 3: Jan. 19, 21, 23 Reading: Goethe, Sorrows of Young Werther; Feldman, VVE Ch. 6

Week 4: Jan. 26, 28, 30 Reading: Freud, Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis; Feldman, VVE Ch. 7

Engineering the Modern: the rise of science and technology and its impact on human society
Week 5: Feb. 2, 4, 6 Reading: Feb. 6: Modernity Assignment Due

Week 6: Evening meeting, to watch a movie. This will be arranged at the beginning of the term.

Living in the modern: Social organization in the modern age.
Week 7: Feb. 16, 18, 20 Reading: Huxley, Brave New World

Week 8: Feb. 23, 25, 27 Reading: Feldman, VVE Ch. 2 Midterm Exam Feb. 23

Week 9: Mar. 1, 3, 5 Reading:

Constructing the Modern: art, landscape, space, and cartography.
Week 10: Mar. 15, 17, 19 Reading: Feldman, VVE Ch. 4, 5 Prospectus for final paper due March 15.

Week 11: Mar. 22, 24, 26 Reading: Feldman, VVE Ch. 8, 9, 10

Week 12: Mar. 29, 31, Apr. 2 Reading: Feldman, VVE Ch. 3, 13

Representing the modern: Representations of the human spirit.
Week 13: Apr. 5, 7, 9 Reading: Feldman, VVE 11, 12

Week 14: Apr. 12, 14, 16 Reading: Feldman, VVE 14, 15 Final paper due April. 12

Week 15: Apr. 19 - Review
The Fine (but Important) Print

STANDARDS FOR PAPERS: I expect papers to be typewritten, in essay form (that is, not point form). They should be in 12 point Times New Roman font, with one inch margins, and double-spaced. Pages must be numbered, and the paper should be single-sided (that is, do not use both sides of the sheet of paper when printing). There should be a title page which includes the title of the paper, the name of the author, the date, the course, and the name of the professor. I will be taking grammar, spelling, and structure into account - good ideas cannot be communicated with poor form. If the grammar or structure in a paper is severely flawed, I reserve the right to give a paper back to the student for revision without a grade (or with a reduction in grade), or fail the paper. As for citation style, I will be using the MLA format. I am open to other recognized formats (e.g., Chicago, Turabian), but whatever format you use must be used consistently. Note that the library has obtained a site license for a number of good citation programs, such as Endnote and Procite, which can aid in proper citation form. See the library’s home page for these. For information on documentation styles, see http://www.uwc.ucf.edu/Writing%20Resources/writing_resources_home.htm#documentation

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF PAPERS: It is possible to submit your paper electronically to me. It should be sent to janzb@mail.ucf.edu as an attachment. The paper needs to be in Word or WordPerfect format. You will receive typed comments on the paper, and it will be returned electronically. Do not include .exe files or anything that might contain a virus, and please scan your document with a virus program before you send it. Please identify yourself and the course in the subject line of the message (e.g., “John Doe, Modernity Paper for Modern Humanities 3255”)

ATTENDANCE: I expect regular and prompt attendance from members of the class. If you cannot be at a class, let me know before-hand. I reserve the right to not accept assignments from students either if attendance has been a problem, or if a paper is seriously late without a legitimate (in my opinion) reason. This includes any paper or graded activity in the course, including the final paper and the final exam. I will only inflict this measure after having given a warning; however, if you simply never come to class, do not expect to get much sympathy at the end of the term when you want to hand in assignments.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: We will discuss the nature of academic honesty in class, but a note here is warranted. Basically, your work should be your own, and when you are drawing on the words, images, or ideas of others, this should be properly noted. What should be avoided?

• Handing in an identical (or substantially similar) paper to another person in the class.
• Using a paper from another student or source (e.g., a former student, or a paper from an internet paper mill).
• Using any information from a book or an internet site without proper referencing.

If you are unsure about how to properly complete an assignment, please see me.

WITHDRAWAL: It is the student’s responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course if there is an unavoidable conflict or if the need should arise for another reason. Students who fail to drop before the deadline established in the curriculum catalogue will receive an F for the course. The withdrawal deadline for the Spring 2004 session is Feb. 27.