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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: 16 weeks.

Course ID: ENGL 3003

Course Title: Humane Letters IV

College: College of Social Sciences & Humanities

Prerequisites: ENGL 2133 or ENGL 1133 or ENGL 1113

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and

availability.

Course Description

This course aims to cultivate the minds and hearts of students into more humane individuals; that is, more intellectually, morally, and aesthetically alive humans by directing them in the pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty through Socratic investigation of the great works of Western literature, history, and philosophy. While training students in the art of reading, listening, speaking, and writing, this course also looks at history as taught through the chronology of the texts. It is important to keep in mind, however, that even though the course spans from Rome to modernity and is particularly concerned with developing the idea of "the West", it is not a "Western Civ" class. Rather, it is a course centered around the seminar, and concerned with the art of thinking well.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is x hours per week.

Course Materials

Required and optional textbooks for this course are as follows:

The Prince by Machiavelli, trans. Mansfield (ISBN: 978022650047)

Selected Essays by Montaigne, trans. Screech (ISBN: 9780140446029)

Macbeth or King Lear by Shakespeare (ISBN: 9780743477109 and

9780743482769)

Meditations on First Philosophy or Discourse on Method by Descartes, trans.

Cress

(ISBN: 9780872204201)

Brothers Karamazov by Dostoevsky (ISBN: 9780374528379)

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

- 1. Describe major themes in classical texts from Rome to Modernity.
- 2. Evaluate competing interpretations of classical texts from Rome to Modernity to determine which interpretations are better aligned to the meaning of the text.
- 3. Evaluate claims made between texts on the nature of truth and the human good, to determine the relative merits of the competing claims.
- 4. Synthesize textual interpretation into coherent essays defending a particular interpretation of the text.

Late Work

None accepted.

Extra Credit

None accepted.

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.

SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. MST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS

Aim

When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn

When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply

When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, guizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1



☐ Machiavelli's *The Prince:* Students begin this semester with another Florentine: Machiavelli. *The Prince* offers a jarring contrast to the Roman and Christian conception of a good and just state founded by the cooperative effort between man and divinity. Rather, Machiavelli presents a radically pragmatic and amoralist view of statesmanship



☐ **Read** Machiavelli's *The Prince*

MODULE 2:



• **Montaigne's** *Essays*: After reading Machiavelli's *The Prince*, students move west to early modern France and a few decades further into the 16th century for a reading of selections from Montaigne's *Essays*. *The Essays* cover a variety of topics from education to cannibalism to drunkenness, but human nature and the nature of philosophy are never far from Montaigne's mind.



☐ **Read** Montaigne's *Essays*

MODULE 3:



☐ **Shakespear's** *King Lear* or *Macbeth*: While both Shakespeare's Macbeth and King Lear offer much more than an account of a king ruling his kingdom, both posit questions regarding the nature of leadership.



☐ **Read** Either Shakepeare's *King Lear* or *Macbeth*

MODULE 4:



□ Descartes's *Meditations on First Philosophy* or *Discourse on Method*:

While Augustine's self-knowledge depended upon his knowledge of God, the subjective epistemology of Descartes reverses this notion. The certainty of the self, for Descartes, serves as the beginning for all other knowledge—even the knowledge of God. Descartes' philosophy clearly illustrates the shift to modern

∜ Learn

□ **Read** Descartes's *Meditations on First Philosophy* or *Discourse on Method*

Apply

 \square Essay for Module 4

thought.

o Points: 100

MODULE 5:



Dostoevsky's Brothers Karamazov: Students conclude their final year with Dostoevsky's masterpiece: The Brothers Karamazov. Like Milton, Dostoevsky engages with the complex philosophical questions through the dramatic events surrounding of Dmitri, Ivan, and Alyosha. Dostoevsky both captures the modern mind while also inviting the reader to observe varying ideologies at work in the choices of his characters. Among the many ideas discussed in the novel, several prominent ones include human suffering, freedom, and responsibility. Dostoevsky's interest in ethics, insistence on the unity of humankind, and representation of Christianity alongside competing modern philosophy completes the trajectory of thought observed throughout the twelfth grade. Aside from satisfying the philosophical, theological, and political questions traced throughout Western thought, Dostoevsky's novel uniquely engages the hearts of students by exhorting them to live in accordance with the charity of brotherhood.



☐ **Read** Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*

Apply

☐ Essay for Module 5

o Points: 100

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Module 4: Essay

Description

[]. Essay on Shakespeare's *Macbeth* or Descartes *Meditations*.

Format:

- Use MLA (Modern Language Association) format for your paper.
- Ensure proper formatting for the title page, headers, margins, font size, and citations according to the chosen style.

Word Limit:

 The paper should be at minimum 750 words in length, excluding the title page and bibliography.

Citations:

- Provide in-text citations whenever you use information or ideas from external sources.
- Follow the citation style (MLA) consistently throughout the paper.

*Remember to consult the specific requirements outlined by your instructor and adhere to the chosen citation style diligently throughout the paper.

Total Possible Points

[]. 100

Grade Weight

 $\lceil \rceil$. 1

Module 5: Essay

Description

[]. Essay on Dostoyevsky's Brothers Karamazov.

Format:

- Use MLA (Modern Language Association) format for your paper.
- Ensure proper formatting for the title page, headers, margins, font size, and citations according to the chosen style.

Word Limit:

 The paper should be at minimum 750 words in length, excluding the title page and bibliography.

Citations:

- Provide in-text citations whenever you use information or ideas from external sources.
- Follow the citation style (MLA) consistently throughout the paper.

*Remember to consult the specific requirements outlined by your instructor and adhere to the chosen citation style diligently throughout the paper.

Total Possible Points

[]. 100

Grade Weight

[]. 1

Midterm: Seminar Evaluation

Description

[]. Seminar on the Machivelli's *The Prince*, Montaigne' *Essays*, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and Descartes *Meditations*. Topics to include the contrast in the understandings of justice in the pre-Christian and post-Christian world, the nature of evil, and other topics selected by your teachers.

Students will be evaluated according to the GH Seminar Rubric.

Total Possible Points

[]. 100

Grade Weight

[]. 1

Final: Seminar Evaluation

Description

[]. Seminar on Dostoyevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*. Topics to include the nature of evil, the contrast between a scientific and a religious explanation of natural events, and the right way to know truth, as well as other topics to be assigned by the classroom teacher. Students will be evaluated according to the GH Seminar Rubric.

Total Possible Points

[]. 100

Grade Weight

[]. 1

Appendix A

[Insert appendix as needed.]