

## **HUMANITIES 401 – *Revenge: Killing the Killers***

University of New Hampshire, Humanities Program, Fall 2006. TR 2:10 -3:30, HS 127.

Instructors: Catherine Peebles (section 1), David Richman (section 2)

Office Hours:

Peebles: MTW, 12-1:30 and TR, 3:30-4:40, and by appointment. Murkland G19. catherine.peebles@unh.edu, 862-3638

Richman: W, 3:10-4:30 and R, 9:30-11:00, and by appointment. PCAC M317. dmr@cisunix.unh.edu, 862-2218

**Humanities 401** takes as its subject this semester: *Revenge*. Our “entry text” is William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. As we take up several important works that deal with how humans understand, practice, justify, or are caught up in revenge, we will often circle back to our entry text, asking repeatedly what acts of vengeance meant in former times, and what such acts mean to us today, and how our further readings change our understanding of Shakespeare’s play and the questions it poses. The primary requirement for this course is intellectual curiosity and a willingness to take your role as student seriously.

### **REQUIRED READINGS, SCREENINGS AND PLAY ATTENDANCE:**

**Books to be bought (in bold type) are available at the Durham Book Exchange, on Main Street.**

1. Steven Spielberg, *Munich* (2005) (on reserve in the media room of Dimond Library from August 28 through September 7. Scheduled screenings in multi-media room: Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at noon, 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.)
2. **William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (1603-4)**
3. Francis Bacon, “On Revenge” (1625) (print out from Blackboard)
4. Excerpt from *The Gospel of Luke* (late 1<sup>st</sup> century C.E.) (print out from Blackboard)
5. Excerpt from *Paul’s Letter to the Romans* (circa 57 C.E.) (print out from Blackboard)
6. **Aeschylus, “Agamemnon” (456 B.C.E.) (in *The Oresteia*)**
7. Sigmund Freud, “Thoughts for the Times on War and Death” (1915) (print out from Blackboard)
8. Freud and Albert Einstein, “Why War?” (1932) (print out from Blackboard)
9. **Freud, *The Future of an Illusion* (1927)**
10. **Gabriel García Márquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1981)**
11. **Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem, A Report on the Banality of Evil* (1963)**
12. *The Trial of Adolf Eichmann* (1997 PBS Documentary film, edited by Benno Schoberth) (on reserve in the media room of Dimond Library. Scheduled screenings in multi-media room: Monday, Nov. 6 at 3pm and Tues., Nov. 7 at 11am)
13. **Sophocles, *Electra* (409 B.C.E.)**
14. **Euripides, *Orestes* (408 B.C.E.)**

*Note: Blackboard texts are found under the “course documents” rubric of the course’s Blackboard website. Students are required to print them out.*

*Films are on reserve in the Media room of the library, and students are required to view them at least once, preferably twice, outside of class, prior to the date they are set for discussion, either during one of the arranged screenings, or on your own.*

**In addition to these readings and viewings, students are required to attend a performance**

**of *Hamlet* during its production here at UNH.** The cost for student tickets is \$10.50, and performances take place in the Johnson Theater (in PCAC). Production dates and times are as follows:

Wed. Nov. 8, 2006•7pm	Sat. Nov. 11, 2006•7pm
Thurs. Nov. 9, 2006•7pm	Sun. Nov. 12, 2006•2pm
Friday Nov. 10, 2006•7pm	

We also encourage students to attend the productions of Sophocles' *Electra* and Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, which will be performed next semester, in February:

*Electra*: Feb. 21, 2007•7pm; Feb. 22, 2007•7pm; Feb. 25, 2007•2pm  
*Agamemnon*: Feb. 24, 2007•7pm

### **Suggested Further Readings/Viewings:**

**Freud, Sigmund.** Excerpt from the "Typical Dreams" section of *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900) dealing with Oedipus and Hamlet (on Blackboard)

**Lacan, Jacques.** "Desire and the Interpretation of Desire in *Hamlet*" (1959) (on Bb)

**Reeve, Simon.** *One Day in September: the full story of the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and the Israeli Revenge Operation 'Wrath of God'* (2000) (on reserve)

**Macdonald, Kevin.** *One Day in September* (1999) (documentary, on reserve)

**Jonas, George.** *Vengeance: the True Story of an Israeli Counter-terrorist Team* (1984) (on reserve)

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Coming to class prepared**, having done the assigned reading or viewing and made extensive notes on it, and having carefully reviewed lecture notes. This course involves a relatively heavy reading load, and students should budget their out-of-class work time accordingly. Students are expected and required to devote a minimum of six to eight hours per week to class preparation. Preparing for this class involves reading and rereading (or viewing and re-viewing) the assigned work carefully, underlining important passages, making notes in the margins, and making notes in your notebook. Your own notes should range from copying significant sections of a text and definitions of new vocabulary words, to writing down specific questions you have, to formulating critical responses and interpretations. You are required to look up in a good desk dictionary (such as *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* or *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* or *New World Dictionary of the American Language*) every vocabulary word with which you are unfamiliar. And you are required to bring formulated questions to each meeting. Your class preparation grade will be based upon your contribution of salient questions and interpretations.

**Attendance** is required. A student who misses three classes during the semester (lecture or discussion) will lose a full letter grade for each subsequent absence, and must make an appointment to discuss the problem with her/his section leader. There is no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. The penalty scheme for attendance takes into account the occasional emergency or illness. Accordingly, students are allowed three absences with no penalty. After that, each absence lowers the grade by one letter-grade.

**Assignments.** The two exams in this course will be taken on Blackboard at designated times. Exam 1 will be short-answer and essay in format, and exam 2, which is cumulative, will be in

essay format. Students will turn in one short (3-page) paper (a character study based on *Hamlet*), and one 5- to 7-page paper that will be a close reading based on *one* of our texts. Papers for Professor Richman should be e-mailed to him at [dmr@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:dmr@cisunix.unh.edu) as Word documents before the start of class on the day they are due. Papers for Professor Peebles should be turned in at the beginning of class the day they are due. All papers should be typed, double-spaced, use Times New Roman, size 12 font, and follow MLA style. For examples of proper citation format, go to: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/examples/about.html> or to another of the sites listed by the UNH library at <http://www.library.unh.edu/reference/citation.shtml>.

**Grading** (breakdown by percentage of final grade):

Class participation:	20%	Paper: abstract:	5%
Character study:	10%	Paper: polished draft:	15%
Exam #1:	15%	Paper: final draft:	20%
Final exam:	15%		

**“Make-ups”**

There are no “make-up” exams in this course. Do not register for the course if you will be away on one of the two exam days: Thurs., Oct. 5 or Tues., Dec. 12. No late assignments will be accepted. If you must be absent the day something is due, make arrangements to get the assignment turned in (by having a classmate bring it, or by e-mailing it as an attachment to the professor, for example). Late assignments will earn a grade of zero.

**TIME-TABLE / READING-VIEWING SCHEDULE**

Readings and screenings are to be completed by the first day they are listed.

T	Aug. 29	Introduction to course
W	Aug. 30	<b>Screenings of <i>Munich</i> in the library multi-media room (level 2) today at noon, 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. Or, view film on your own before tomorrow.</b>
R	Aug. 31	Steven Spielberg, <i>Munich</i> (on reserve)
T	Sept. 5	Steven Spielberg, <i>Munich</i> (on reserve), and William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> , Act I, Scenes i and ii
R	Sept. 7	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i>
T	Sept. 12	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i>
R	Sept. 14	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i>
T	Sept. 19	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> ; Francis Bacon, “On Revenge”; excerpts from <i>The Gospel of Luke</i> , <i>Paul’s Letter to the Romans</i> (Print out Bacon, Luke, and Paul from Blackboard)
R	Sept. 21	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> ( <b>3-page character study due</b> , 10% of final grade)
T	Sept. 26	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>
R	Sept. 28	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>

T	Oct. 3	Review session
R	Oct. 5	<b>Exam #1:</b> on Blackboard 2:10 to 3:40 p.m. (15% of final grade)
T	Oct. 10	NO CLASS (Classes follow Monday schedule)
R	Oct. 12	Sigmund Freud, “Thoughts for the Times on War and Death”; Freud and Albert Einstein, “Why War?” (Blackboard)
T	Oct. 17	Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i>
R	Oct. 19	Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i>
T	Oct. 24	Gabriel García Márquez, <i>Chronicle of a Death Foretold</i>
R	Oct. 26	Gabriel García Márquez, <i>Chronicle of a Death Foretold</i>
T	Oct. 31	Hannah Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i>
R	Nov. 2	Hannah Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> <b>Paper abstract due:</b> one paragraph (no more than one page, double-spaced) identifying the passage you will treat and the central question you will ask in your paper. (5% of final grade)
<b>M</b>	<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Screenings of <i>The Trial of Adolf Eichmann</i> in the library multi-media room <u>today at 3 p.m., and tomorrow, 11/7, at 11 a.m.</u> Otherwise, view film on your own before Thursday’s class.</b>
T	Nov. 7	Hannah Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> (See <i>Hamlet</i> this week.)
R	Nov. 9	Arendt, and film, <i>The Trial of Adolf Eichmann</i> (on reserve)
T	Nov. 14	Sophocles, <i>Electra</i>
R	Nov. 16	Sophocles, <i>Electra</i> ( <b>Polished draft of paper due</b> , 15% of final grade)
T	Nov. 21	Sophocles, <i>Electra</i> and begin Euripides, <i>Orestes</i>
R	Nov. 23	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Holiday
T	Nov. 30	Euripides, <i>Orestes</i>
R	Dec. 2	Euripides, <i>Orestes</i>
T	Dec. 5	Review session
R	Dec. 7	Class symposium. ( <b>Final draft of paper due</b> , 20% of final grade)
<b>T</b>	<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>Final exam</b> on Blackboard, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (15% of final grade)