

# **HUMANITIES 401 – MARRIAGE**

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*University of New Hampshire, Humanities Program, Fall 2007. TR 2:10 -3:30, Murkland 202.*

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

Office Hours:

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

Richman: W, 3:10 to 4:30; R, 9:30 to 11:00, and by appointment. PCAC M317.

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**Humanities 401** takes as its subject this semester: Marriage – the most intimate of relations, the most public of institutions. Why and whom do we marry? Who is allowed to marry, and who is not? To what extent does marriage decrease and fetter our humanity? To what extent does marriage make us more fully and richly human? What are our obligations toward those we marry, and what may we reasonably expect of our chosen partners? And are those partners in fact freely chosen? We will be examining these and related questions through a handful of the thousands of works produced through the ages on this most vexed of subjects.

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

**Books to be bought (in bold type) are available at the Durham Book Exchange, on Main Street. The exception is Bergman’s *Scenes from a Marriage* screenplay. Students must purchase this screenplay on their own. Copies are available, for example, at Amazon.com and alibris.com. Be sure to order the screenplay, which includes an Introduction by Bergman, and is published by Bantam Books.**

1. ***Marriage, A History***, Stephanie Coontz. 2005
2. Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling, November 18, 2003. Hillary Goodridge & others v. Department of Public Health & another. (Available on Blackboard)
3. ***Medea***, Euripides; adapted by Robinson Jeffers. 431 B.C.
4. ***The Taming of the Shrew***, William Shakespeare. 1592
5. ***Mansfield Park***, Jane Austen. 1814
6. ***A Vindication of the Rights of Woman***, Mary Wollstonecraft (dedication, Introduction, and Chapters 1 and 2 – available on Blackboard). 1792
7. ***A Doll’s House***, Henrik Ibsen. 1879 (Note: the two Ibsen plays are in one book.)
8. ***The Lady from the Sea***, Henrik Ibsen. 1888 (Note: the two Ibsen plays are in one book.)
9. “‘Civilized’ Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness,” Sigmund Freud. 1908  
(Available on Blackboard)
10. ***Scenes from a Marriage***, Ingmar Bergman (screenplay and film). 1973 (Note:

students must buy the screenplay as noted above, and see the film, which is on reserve, and will be screened in the Media Room of Dimond Library, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Screening date/time: Monday, Nov. 26, 3 p.m. If you cannot make the screening, you must view the film on your own time.

11. ***On Chesil Beach***, Ian McEwan. 2007

12. In addition to these readings and viewings, students are required to attend a performance of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* 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:

Wednesday, October 10 through Saturday, October 13: 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 14: 2:00 p.m.

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

*The film is on reserve in the Media Room of the library, and students are required to view it at least once, preferably twice, outside of class, prior to the date it is set for discussion, either during the arranged screening, or on their own.*

## **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.** Exam 1 will be short-answer and essay in format and students will take it on Blackboard. Exam 2, which is cumulative, will be in essay format. Students will turn in one short (3-page) paper (a character study based on either *A Doll's House* or *Medea*), 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 paper and 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%
Exam #2:	15%		

**“Make-ups”**

There are no “make-up” exams in this course. 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.

Students needing disability accommodations should contact UNH Disability Services for Students, 118 Memorial Union Building, (603) 862-2607, as soon as possible. All information regarding disabilities is confidential.

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

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

T	Sept. 4	Introduction to the course
R	Sept. 6	Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> , Coontz, Introduction and chapter 1
T	Sept. 11	Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> , Coontz, chapters 2 and 3
R	Sept. 13	Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> , Coontz, chapters 4 and 5
T	Sept. 18	Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> , Coontz, chapters 6 and 7
R	Sept. 20	Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> , Coontz, chapters 8 and 9
T	Sept. 25	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
R	Sept. 27	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>

**TIME-TABLE / READING-VIEWING SCHEDULE (cont.)**

T	Oct. 2:	Shakespeare, <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , <b>Character study due</b>
R	Oct. 4	Shakespeare, <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
T	Oct. 9	Shakespeare, <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
R	Oct. 11	Recapitulation and Review
T	Oct. 16	<b>Exam #1: students take exam on Blackboard; no class session.</b>
R	Oct. 18	Austen, <i>Mansfield Park</i>
T	Oct. 23	Austen, <i>Mansfield Park</i>
R	Oct. 25	Austen, <i>Mansfield Park</i>
T	Oct. 30	Austen, <i>Mansfield Park</i> , <b>Paper abstract due</b>
R	Nov. 1	Wollstonecraft, from <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> , Coontz, chapters 10 and 11
T	Nov. 6	Ibsen, <i>Lady from the Sea</i>
R	Nov. 8	Ibsen, <i>Lady from the Sea</i>
T	<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>No Class: Classes follow Monday schedule</b>
R	Nov. 15:	Freud, "Civilized Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness" Coontz, chapters 12 and 13
T	Nov. 20	Simone de Beauvoir, from <i>The Second Sex</i> , <b>Polished draft of final paper due</b>
R	<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
M	<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>Film screening: <i>Scenes from a Marriage</i> at 3 p.m. in the Media Center's screening room (second floor of Dimond Library). Screening starts promptly at 3, and lasts until shortly before 6 p.m.</b>
T	Nov. 27	Bergman, <i>Scenes from a Marriage</i> , Coontz, chapters 14 and 15
R	Nov. 29	Bergman, <i>Scenes from a Marriage</i> , Coontz, chapters 16 and 17

**TIME-TABLE / READING-VIEWING SCHEDULE (cont.)**

T Dec. 4 McEwan, *Chesil Beach*  
R Dec. 6 McEwan, *Chesil Beach*

T Dec. 11 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling in Goodridge et al.  
v. Department of Public Health

R Dec. 13 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling in Goodridge et al.  
v. Department of Public Health

**Final paper due.**

**Final exam handed out: take-home.**

**Final exam due: Tuesday, December 18.**

**Professor Richman's students: e-mail exams to [dmr@unh.edu](mailto:dmr@unh.edu)**

**Professor Peebles' students: put exams in Blackboard's  
"digital dropbox."**