

HUMANITIES: 401 – INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES: SEX AND LOVE IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY

University of New Hampshire, Humanities Program, Spring 2009

Lectures: TR 11:10 - 12:30, HS 127

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Office hours: TR, 12:45-2:15 p.m., and by appointment, Murkland G19

Humanities 401 takes as its subject this semester: Sex and Love in Literature and Philosophy. What is sex, and what is love? Are they related, and if so, how? In what way do our understandings of these phenomena define what it means to be human? Artists and thinkers from Sophocles in ancient Greece to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts have given different, sometimes conflicting, answers to such questions, and we will be examining the ways in which responses define a culture, an age, a gender, an individual.

REQUIRED TEXTS

With the exception of the Blackboard materials and the film, all works are available at the Durham Book Exchange, on Main Street. Students should **print out the Blackboard materials**, and bring them to class on the scheduled days. It will not be sufficient to read the texts on-line.

Sophocles, “Oedipus the King” in *The Three Theban Plays*. New York: Penguin, 2000.

Plato, *Symposium*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1989.

Andreas Capellanus, *The Art of Courtly Love*. New York: Columbia UP, 1990.

William Shakespeare. *The Taming of the Shrew*. New York: Washington Square Press, 2004.

Immanuel Kant, “Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse,” from Kant, *Lectures on Ethics*. London: Methuen, 1930. Reprinted in Robert Steward, ed., *Philosophical Perspectives on Sex and Love*, Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995: 140-143. (Available on Blackboard.)

Jane Austen, *Emma*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003.

Prosper Mérimée, *Carmen*. Oxford UP, 1999.

Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*. New York: Bantam Classics, 1982.

Simone de Beauvoir, from *The Second Sex*. New York: Knopf, 1953. (Available on Blackboard.)

Sigmund Freud, essays in *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*. New York: Touchstone, 1997.

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling, November 18, 2003. Hillary Goodridge & others [FN1] vs. Department of Public Health & another. [FN2] SJC-08860. Available at: <http://f11.findlaw.com/news.findlaw.com/hdocs/docs/conlaw/goodridge111803opn.pdf> (Available on Blackboard.)

Steven Soderberg, *Sex, Lies, and Videotape*. Miramax Pictures, 1990.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Coming to class prepared, having done the assigned reading and made extensive notes on it, and having carefully reviewed lecture notes. 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 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. Remember: reading well at the university level takes a significant amount of time, and you should budget your time accordingly.

Attendance is required. Exam questions will be based on lectures. If a student misses a lecture, she or he is responsible for getting notes and any other relevant information from a fellow student or students. (In case you do end up having to miss a class, be sure to write down two or three classmates' names, e-mails, and phone numbers during the first weeks of class, so that you may contact them later if necessary.)

Note-taking. It is your responsibility to take good, thorough notes during lectures. Lecture notes will not be posted on Blackboard, since taking adequate notes is, in fact, one of the important skills students need to hone in this course. **If you do not understand something during lecture, be sure to ask for clarification during the question period at the end of each class session.** As noted above: exam questions will be based on the lectures.

EXAMINATIONS, ORAL QUESTIONS, BLACKBOARD QUIZZES

There will be two examinations. Both examinations will be in multiple choice format. Each exam will be preceded by a comprehensive review session and a study day, during which students should meet together in groups outside of class to prepare for the exam. The first exam counts for 30% of your final grade, and the second exam counts for 50%. The second exam will be comprehensive, but will be weighted heavily toward the readings from the second half of the semester.

Nota Bene: THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS IN THIS COURSE. If you know you will need to travel on one of the two exam dates (Thursday, March 12 and Thursday, April 30), DO NOT ENROLL in this course.

In addition to the exams, students will also be expected to answer questions during class. I will call on several students by name during each class session, asking “know-it-or-you-don’t” kinds of questions to make sure that we are all keeping pace with the reading. Students receive a “plus,” “check,” or “minus” in my grade book based on their response to these questions (“plus” for an excellent answer, “check” for an adequate answer, and “minus” for an inadequate answer, or absence). If a student has a “minus” average by the end of the semester, his/her final grade will decrease by one percentage point; a “check” means no change in the final grade; and a “plus” means an increase of two percentage points in the final grade. (Thus, for example, someone who had a “minus,” because of either incorrect answers or absences, and whose raw percentage average at the end of the semester was 80%, would end up with a final grade of 79% – a C+ instead of a B-. Conversely, someone who had a “plus,” and a raw final average of 89%, would wind up with a final grade of 91% – or an A- instead of a B+.)

Finally, students are also required to take **three quizzes on Blackboard** during the semester. The first quiz, lasting 10 minutes, will include five basic questions and will be available on Blackboard from Thursday, February 5 at 12:30 p.m. until Friday, February 6 at 11:00 p.m. The second Blackboard quiz (also five questions, with a 10 minute limit) will be available on Blackboard from Thursday, March 5 at 12:30 p.m. until Friday, March 6 at 11:00 p.m. The third Blackboard quiz (10 questions, with a 20 minute limit) will be available on Blackboard from Thursday, April 23 at 12:30 p.m. until Friday, April 24 at 11:00 p.m. The Blackboard quizzes are worth 5, 5, and 10 percent of your final grade, respectively, and will draw on materials presented in the lectures as well as in the readings. If a student fails for any reason to take one of the Blackboard quizzes, then the student receives a grade of “zero” for that quiz. There is no second chance to take a Blackboard quiz.

Nota Bene: there are no make-up exams in this course. If you know you will need to be away from Blackboard during any of the three Blackboard quiz times (Feb. 5-6; March 5-6; or April 23-24), DO NOT ENROLL in this course.

Final grade breakdown, by percentage:

Exam #1 (in class)	30%	Bb quiz #2 (Bb)	5%
Exam #2 (in class)	50%	Bb quiz #3 (Bb)	10%
Bb quiz #1 (Bb)	5%		

In-class oral questions: plus two or minus one percentage point after final grade calculated.

- + = plus two percentage points
- √ = no percentage change
- = minus one percentage point

Academic Honesty. I take the UNH Academic Honesty policy seriously, since trust is essential to any intellectual community, whether a whole college, a large lecture course, or a small seminar group. Cheating results in a failing grade for the course. I refer any instance of academic dishonesty to the student’s college dean and recommend dismissal from the university as the most appropriate penalty.

TIME-TABLE / READING SCHEDULE

Each reading is to be completed by the *first* day it is listed. In-class oral questioning begins on first day a text is listed.

T	Jan. 20	Course introduction.
R	Jan. 22	Sophocles, “Oedipus the King”
T	Jan. 27	Sophocles, “Oedipus the King”
R	Jan. 29	Sophocles, “Oedipus the King”
T	Feb. 3	Plato, <i>Symposium</i>
R	Feb. 5	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> (<u>Take Blackboard quiz #1 any time between 12:30p.m. today and 11:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6.</u>)
T	Feb. 10	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> , Andreas Capellanus, <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i>
R	Feb. 12	Andreas Capellanus, <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i>

TIME-TABLE / READING SCHEDULE (CONT.)

Each reading is to be completed by the *first* day it is listed. In-class oral questioning begins on first day text is listed.

T	Feb. 17	William Shakespeare, <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
R	Feb. 19	William Shakespeare, <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
T	Feb. 24	Immanuel Kant, "Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse"
R	Feb. 26	Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i>
T	Mar. 3	Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i>
R	Mar. 5	Recapitulation and review (<u>Take Blackboard quiz #2 any time between 12:30 p.m. today and 11:00 p.m. Friday, March 6.</u>)
T	Mar. 10	Study day (outside class: study groups)
R	Mar. 12	Exam #1
T	Mar. 17	Spring Break: no class
R	Mar. 19	Spring Break: no class
T	Mar. 24	Prosper Mérimée, <i>Carmen</i>
R	Mar. 26	Prosper Mérimée, <i>Carmen</i>
T	Mar. 31	Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i>
R	Apr. 2	Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i>
T	Apr. 7	Sigmund Freud, "'Civilized' Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness"
R	Apr. 9	Sigmund Freud, "'Civilized' Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness," "Female Sexuality"
T	Apr. 14	SICK DAY: CLASS CANCELLED
R	Apr. 16	Sigmund Freud, "Female Sexuality"
T	Apr. 21	Simone de Beauvoir, from <i>The Second Sex</i> (on Blackboard)
R	Apr. 23	Finishing deBeauvoir, and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling: full text available on Blackboard and at: http://f11.findlaw.com/news.findlaw.com/hdocs/docs/conlaw/goodridge111803opn.pdf (<u>Take Blackboard quiz #3 any time between 12:30 p.m. today and 11:00 p.m. Friday, April 24th.</u>)
T	Apr. 28	Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling, and Recapitulation and review
R	Apr. 30	Exam #2
T	May 5	Film screening: Steven Soderberg's "Sex, Lies, and Videotape"
R	May 7	Finishing film screening, oral questions, and discussion in context of the entire course.

