

**Humanities 401 - Introduction to the Humanities:
Marriage in Drama, Poetry, Fiction, and History
University of New Hampshire, Humanities Program, Summer 2009
MTWR 10:10 - 12:10 PCAC M-119. Professor: David Richman
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Office hours: TWR, 9:10 to 10:00 and by appointment, PCAC, M-317.**

Humanities 401 takes as its subject this summer: 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 most 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 Texts

With the exception of the Blackboard materials, 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. STUDENTS TAKING THE COURSE AT A DISTANCE ARE ADVISED TO HAVE THE MATERIALS IN FRONT OF YOU AS YOU LISTEN TO THE LECTURES. It will not be sufficient to read the texts on-line.

Marriage, A History, by Stephanie Coontz. 2005.

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruling, November 18, 2003. Hillary Goodridge & others vs. Department of Public Health & another (Available on Blackboard).

Oral arguments in "Loving versus Virginia," 1967 (available on Blackboard).

"Medea," by Euripides; adapted by Robinson Jeffers, 431 B.C.

"The Clerk's Tale," taken from *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer, 1380 (version in modern English - available on Blackboard).

"The Taming of the Shrew," by William Shakespeare, 1592.

Mansfield Park, by Jane Austen, 1814.

A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, by Mary Wollstonecraft, 1792 (dedication, Introduction, and Chapters 1 and 2 - available on Blackboard).

"A Doll's House," by Henrik Ibsen, 1879.

"The Lady from the Sea," by Henrik Ibsen, 1888.

The Amateur Marriage, by Anne Tyler, 2004.

Excerpt from *The Audacity of Hope*, by Barak Obama, 2008 (Available on Blackboard).

On library reserve--recommended but not required:

Public Vows; A History of Marriage and the Nation, by Nancy F. Cott, 2000.

Course Requirements

Coming to class prepared, having done the assigned reading and made extensive notes on it, and having carefully reviewed class notes. Students are expected and required to devote a minimum of twelve 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. If a student misses a class, she or he is responsible for getting notes and any other relevant information from a fellow student or students. Recall that these are two-hour classes, so to miss one class is to miss a significant portion of the course. (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 couple of classes, so that you may contact them later if necessary.)

Note-taking. It is your responsibility to take good, thorough notes during classes. Class 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 class, be sure to ask for clarification.**

THESE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY WITH EQUAL OR GREATER FORCE TO THOSE TAKING THIS COURSE AT A DISTANCE. YOU MUST READ EACH WORK CAREFULLY BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER YOU LISTEN TO THE LECTURE. YOU MUST TAKE NOTES AND BE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND DIFFICULT WORDS AND DIFFICULT IDEAS.

Assignments

1. You must actively participate in class.

A. I will call upon you by name and ask you "know-it-or-you-don't" questions. If you have done the reading, you will be able to answer these questions quite easily.

B. I will also expect you to bring to each class questions, comments, responses to that day's reading; I will call upon you, again by name, to share your questions or comments with the class at any time.

C. Finally, I will expect you to speak up in class with comments and reactions both to the readings, and to what I tell you about them. We are dealing with controversial subjects about which you will have questions and views. Commonly accepted conventions of civility and mutual respect will be observed at all times in these classes.

THESE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY WITH EQUAL OR GREATER FORCE TO THOSE TAKING THE COURSE AT A DISTANCE. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO POST, EVERY DAY, A CONTRIBUTION, CONSISTING OF AT LEAST A PARAGRAPH, TO THAT DAY'S MATERIAL. YOU MUST DO YOUR DAILY POSTING AFTER YOU

HAVE READ THE MATERIAL CAREFULLY AND LISTENED TO THAT DAY'S LECTURE. DURING THE LECTURE, I MAY CALL ON YOU BY NAME TO ANSWER A "KNOW-IT-OR-YOU-DON'T" QUESTION. YOU MUST POST YOUR ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION AS PART OF YOUR DAILY POSTING. YOU MUST POST EVERY DAY THE CLASS IS IN SESSION. AS WITH LATE PAPERS, LATE POSTINGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Your class participation, in all three areas, will be judged as below-par, adequate, or excellent. At any time, *EXCEPT DURING CLASS TIME*, you may ask me for an assessment of your class participation.

2. You must write one short paper, approximately two pages, for each of the first three weeks - three short papers in all.
3. You must write one medium-length paper, approximately ten pages, at semester's end.

EACH WEEKLY PAPER IS DUE BY FRIDAY NOON.

THE FINAL PAPER IS DUE BY NOON ON FRIDAY, JUNE 26. TOPICS FOR THESE PAPERS WILL BE DISCUSSED. PAPERS MUST BE TURNED IN BY EMAIL:
dmr@cisunix.unh.edu

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Final grade breakdown, by percentage:

Class participation, 40%; Three short papers: 30%; Final paper: 30%.

Academic Honesty. I take the UNH Academic Honesty policy seriously, since trust is essential to any intellectual community, whether a whole college, a large class course, or a small seminar group. 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 text is listed.**

Tuesday, May 26: Course Introduction.

Wednesday, May 27: Coontz, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2; Obama: Excerpt from *The Audacity of Hope*.

Thursday, May 28: "Medea," through Jason's first exit; Coontz, Chapters 3 and 4.

Monday, June 1: "Medea," in its entirety; Coontz, Chapters 5 and 6.

Tuesday, June 2: Chaucer, "Clerk's Tale," and Coontz, Chapters 7 and 8.

Wednesday, June 3: Shakespeare: "The Taming of the Shrew," first two acts.

Thursday, June 4: Shakespeare: "The Taming of the Shrew," in its entirety, and Coontz, Chapters 9 and 10.

Monday, June 8: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* at least through chapter 20.

Tuesday, June 9: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* at least through chapter 30; and Coontz, Chapter 11.

Wednesday, June 10: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* in its entirety; Coontz, chapter 12.

Thursday, June 11: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*; Mary Wollstonecraft: selection from "Vindication," and Coontz, chapter 13.

Monday, June 15: Henrik Ibsen, "A Doll's House."

Tuesday, June 16: Henrik Ibsen, "A Doll's House," and Coontz, chapters 14 and 15.

Wednesday, June 17: Henrik Ibsen, "The Lady from the Sea."

Thursday, June 18: Henrik Ibsen, "The Lady from the Sea," and Coontz, chapters 16 and 17.

Monday, June 22: Anne Tyler: *The Amateur Marriage* at least through chapter 5.

Tuesday, June 23: Anne Tyler: *The Amateur Marriage* in its entirety; and Coontz, Conclusion.

Wednesday, June 24: Loving argument; and the Massachusetts Court Ruling.

Thursday, June 25: Loving argument; and Massachusetts Court ruling.