

HUMA 500 – Critical Methods in the Humanities: Representing Love (crosslist: ECS 550)

**Humanities Program, Spring 2005
Professor: Catherine Peebles
TR, 9:40-11:00, Murkland G04
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This course allows students to do extended, in-depth research on one topic throughout the semester. It is designed to help Humanities majors, European Cultural Studies majors, and university students in general master the art of serious paper-writing in the humanities. The Humanities Program also hopes that this course will prepare and encourage more liberal arts students to apply for UROP and IROP grants, which require the submission of a research proposal as part of the application process. Students write a final research paper of 20 pages. Before this, students will also produce an annotated bibliography and a research proposal of five to seven pages. There will also be two in-class exams on the course material, one toward the middle of the semester, and one toward the end. This course will address one main topic, and students will choose the focus of their research from an area within that general topic. For Spring 2005, the course topic is: Representing Love.

We will be investigating representations of love with several major authors who have set forth their understandings of what love is. They are:

1. Plato, *Symposium*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1989.
2. Andreas Capellanus, *The Art of Courtly Love*. New York: Columbia UP, 1990.
3. Immanuel Kant, "Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse," in *Lectures on Ethics*. London: Methuen, 1930. Reprinted in Robert Steward, ed., *Philosophical Perspectives on Sex and Love*.
4. G.W.F. Hegel, from *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1977: 261-289.
5. Jane Austen, *Emma*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003.
6. Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*. New York: Bantam Classics, 1982.
7. Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1989.
8. Luce Irigaray, *I Love to You*. New York: Routledge, 1996.
9. Students should also buy a copy of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, sixth edition.

All books are available at the Durham Book Exchange, on Main Street. The Kant and Hegel excerpts are available on Blackboard, and students should **print them out** and bring them to class on the scheduled days.

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**, which counts for 10% of the final grade. Preparing for this course 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 English Language*) every vocabulary word with which you are unfamiliar. And you are required to bring **formulated questions** to each class meeting. This course is run as a seminar, which means that all of the participants are expected, equally, to contribute to our sessions. Your class preparation grade will be based upon your contribution of salient questions and interpretations, and your ability to respond cogently to questions concerning the assigned readings.

Attendance is required. A student who misses three classes during the semester will lose a full letter grade for each subsequent absence, and is required to make an appointment and discuss the problem with her/his instructor. There is no distinction between "excused" or "unexcused" absences. The penalty scheme for attendance takes into consideration 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.

Exams, proposal, research paper. There will be **two exams** during the semester. The exams will be a combination of short-answer and short-essay in format, so that students will have the opportunity to demonstrate both their thorough knowledge of the texts and their understanding of the works' themes and theoretical problems. **The research proposal** should be five to seven pages in length, and should lay out the proposed thesis and structure of the research paper. The accompanying **annotated bibliography** should include at least eight works, ideally the primary text and at least seven secondary texts (books, book chapters, journal articles). For this course, students are required to find their secondary texts in either books, book chapters, or journal articles. **No more than one on-line secondary source will be accepted.** As their research advances, and changes are made to both proposal and bibliography, students will later turn in a **revised research proposal**, with a revised annotated bibliography. Finally, the **research paper** is due on the last day of class. The paper should be approximately 20 pages in length, and should treat extensively one (or no more than two) major work from our syllabus. For example, a student might write a study of Freud's *The Future of an Illusion* by focusing on Freud's comparison of God and the psychic father. Or one might write a paper comparing the ideals of Capellanus's "courtly love" with ideal love as Jane Austen presents. It. Or again, a student might do an extensive investigation of what it is Luce Irigaray means by ethical love of another being through close readings of key passages in her *I Love to You*. We will discuss students' paper ideas in class; and students should bring up their concerns and ideas frequently, as this is the best way to begin making progress together. The final grade will be an average of the above components, as follows:

Exam 1	15%	revised research proposal	15%
Exam 2	15%	research paper	30%
Research proposal	15%	class preparation	10%

Reading Schedule

T	Jan. 18	Course introduction
R	Jan. 20	Plato, <i>Symposium</i>
T	Jan. 25	Plato, <i>Symposium</i>
R	Jan. 27	Plato, <i>Symposium</i>
T	Feb. 1	Andreas Capellanus, <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i>
R	Feb.3	Andreas Capellanus, <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i>
T	Feb. 8	Andreas Capellanus, <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i>
R	Feb. 10	Andreas Capellanus, <i>The Art of Courtly Love</i>
T	Feb. 15	Kant, "Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse"
R	Feb. 17	Kant, "Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse"
T	Feb. 22	Hegel, from <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i>
R	Feb. 24	Hegel, from <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i>
T	Mar. 1	Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i> 5- to 7-page research proposal due, w/ annotated bibliography of at least 8 sources
R	Mar. 3	Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i>
T	Mar. 8	Review
R	Mar. 10	Exam 1
T	Mar. 15	Spring Break: no class
R	Mar. 17	Spring Break: no class
T	Mar. 22	Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i>
R	Mar. 24	Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i>
T	Mar. 29	Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i>
R	Mar. 31	Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i>
T	Apr. 5	Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i> Revised research proposal due, w/ annotated bibliography
R	Apr. 7	Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i>

T	Apr. 12	Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i>
R	Apr. 14	Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i>
T	Apr. 19	Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i>
R	Apr. 21	Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i>
T	Apr. 26	Review
R	Apr. 28	Exam 2
T	May 3	Irigaray, <i>I Love to You</i>
R	May 5	Irigaray, <i>I Love to You</i> . Research paper due.