

Shimer Great Books School

Required and Suggested Texts

HUMANITIES 111: FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF ART AND MUSIC

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Joshua C. Taylor, Learning to Look

Alberti, On Painting

Josef Albers, Interactions of Color

Svetlana Alpers, Vexations of Art

Susanne Langer, Feeling and Form

Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters on Cézanne

REQUIRED ARTWORKS AND MUSICAL PIECES:

Renaissance paintings illustrating the use of perspective

Paintings by Cézanne and at least one Impressionist

Velazquez, Las Meninas

Bach, Goldberg Variations (Glenn Gould recording)

Mussorgsky, *Pictures at an Exhibition* (piano version and orchestration by Ravel)

SUGGESTED TEXTS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS:

Plato. Ion

Ovid, Metamorphoses

Leo Tolstoy, What is Art?

Boralsky, A Brief History of the Artist from God to Picasso

Vasari, *Lives of the Artists* (e.g., Uccello and Michaelangelo)

Ralph Ellison, Jazz Writings

Alex Ross, The Rest is Noise

Representative compositions from Western classical, jazz and other world musical traditions

Representative works of visual art from a range of artistic traditions

Representative works of aesthetics and fine arts criticism

HUMANITIES 112: LITERATURE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Bible: David narratives

Homer, Odyssey

Sophocles, Oedipus and Antigone

Aristotle, Poetics

Auerbach, Odysseus' Scar

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Enuma Elish

Mahabharata

1001 Arabian Nights

Murasaki Shikibu, The Tale of Genji

Sophocles, Oedipus at Colonus

Other works of premodern literature from various world traditions

HUMANITIES 113: LITERATURE IN THE MODERN WORLD

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Shakespeare, Hamlet, Othello or King Lear (if choosing Hamlet, Grammaticus's Amleth may be used)

Selections from Norton Anthology of Poetry

At least one of the following major novels: Austen, Pride and Prejudice or Emma; Dostoevsky, Brothers Karamazov or Crime and Punishment; Ellison, Invisible Man; Morrison, Beloved or Song of Solomon

At least one of the following works of shorter fiction: Chopin, *The Awakening*; Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*; Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*; short stories by Borges, James, Joyce, Kafka, Melville, or O'Connor

One modern play from the following list: Beckett, Waiting for Godot; Chekhov, Three Sisters; Pinter, The Homecoming; Stoppard, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (to be used only in conjunction with Shakespeare's Hamlet)

HUMANITIES 211: RELIGIOUS REASONING

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hebrew Bible: Genesis, with selected rabbinic literature

New Testament: Gospel of John, selected Pauline Enistle

Qur'an: early Meccan surahs, surahs retelling biblical stories

Augustine, Confessions

Anselm, Proslogion

Julian of Norwich, *Showings* or *Teresa of Avila*, *Autobiography* or *Interior Castle*

Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling (Preface, Exordium, Eulogy on Abraham)

Pascal, Pensées

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Catherine of Siena, letters or *Dialogue of Divine Providence*

al-Ghazali, Deliverance from Error

Maimonides, Guide for the Perplexed (selections)

Upanishads

Bhagavad Gita

Confucius, Analects

HUMANITIES 212: PHILOSOPHICAL REASONING

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Plato, Apology, Phaedo, Phaedrus

Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics

Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy

Locke, Essay on Human Understanding, or Hume, Dialogues on Natural Religion

Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics

Nietzsche, "On the Prejudices of the Philosophers" (Beyond Good and Evil)

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*Beauvoir, *Ethics of Ambiguity*

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta (with commentaries)

Book of Equanimity

Dhammapada

Tao Te Ching

Aristotle, Metaphysics

Ibn Tufayl, Hayy Ibn Yaqzan

HUMANITIES 213: CRITICAL ASSESSMENT IN THE HUMANITIES

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Nietzsche, *Birth of Tragedy* (with music by Debussy and Wagner)

Buber, I and Thou

Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway

Heidegger, *Origin of the Work of Art* (with art by van Gogh)

Harlem Renaissance unit: visual art, jazz, texts by Locke, Schuyler and Hughes

Cone, God of the Oppressed and/or The Spirituals and the Blues (with music)

Sontag, *On Photography* (with photography by Diane Arbus and others)

Butler, Antigone's Claim

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Derrida, Plato's Pharmacy

Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morals

Representative works of criticism on texts in the Humanities curriculum

LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS 121: CLASSICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

"Bits and Bins" (faculty-authored logic problem)

Aristotle, Posterior Analytics

Euclid, Elements, Book 1

Descartes, "Discourse on the Method" and/or "Rules for the Direction of the Mind"

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Aristotle, On Interpretation, Prior Analytics, Topics, Categories, Sophistic Refutations

Euclid, Elements, Book 5

Nicomachus of Gerasa, *Introduction to Mathematics*

Diogenes Laertius, Book 7 of Lives of Philosophers (excerpts on Stoic Logic)

Descartes, "Geometry"

Apollonius of Perga, Treatise on Conic Sections

LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS 122: MODERN FOUNDATIONS OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

"A Little Reasoning about Reasoning and Logic" (faculty-authored essay)

Lobachevsky, Geometrical Investigations on the Theory of Parallel Lines

Newton, Principia

Einstein, Relativity

"On Paradox" (faculty-authored essay)

Nagel & Newman, Gödel's Proof

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Newton and/or Leibniz on fundamental theorems of calculus

Boole, Laws of Thought

Venn, On the Diagrammatic and Mechanical Representation of Propositions and Reasonings

Foundational texts in statistics and probability (e.g., Bayles 1763, Laplace ca. 1820, Fisher 1925)

Cantor on infinite numbers

Dedekind, Essays on the Theory of Numbers

NATURAL SCIENCES (131) PREMODERN SCIENCE AND THE CHEMICAL REVOLUTION

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Aristotle, The Physics

Bacon, The Novum Organum

Shamos, *Great Experiments in Physics* (selections) Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*

Wheelwright, The Presocratics

Black, Lectures on the Elements of Chemistry

Lavoisier, *Memoir on the Calcination of Tin . . ., Elements of Chemistry* (selections)

Macquer, excerpts from A Dictionary of Chemistry, The Theory and Practice of Chemistry

Pascal, Scientific Treatises

Priestly, On Depholgisticated Air

Stahl, excerpts from On Sulfur

Thompson, Source of the Heat Which is Excited by Friction

Du Chatelet, *Dissertation on the Nature and Propagation of Fire*

REQUIRED LAB EXERCISES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

Air and hydraulic pressure

Weight of air

Boyle's law

Latent heat

Mechanical equivalent of heat

"Dephlogistication" (burning) of magnesium

Specific heats of different elements

Supercooling

Calcination of iron

NATURAL SCIENCES 132: EVOLUTION, CLASSIFICATION AND ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lamarck, Zoological Philosophy

Darwin, Origin of Species, Descent of Man

Goodall, The Chimps of Gombe

Lorenz, On Aggression

Tattersall, Masters of the Planet

Aristotle, On the Soul

Cuvier, Revolutionary Upheavals on the Surface of the Globe

Paley, Natural Theology

REQUIRED LAB EXERCISES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

Fastener Lab

Observing and describing variation in

- » Nature
- » Preserved specimens

Observing animal behavior (ape or fish, human) Dominance lab

NATURAL SCIENCES 133: CLASSICAL PHYSICS, MOTION AND LIGHT

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Galileo, *Dialogues Concerning the Two New Sciences*

Newton, Principia: The Central Argument, Opticks

Shamos, Great Experiments in Physics

Newton, Newton's Philosophy of Nature

Descartes, *Optics, On Light, On Refraction* Huygens, *Treatise On Light*

REQUIRED LAB EXERCISES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

Repeat Galilean experiments (pendulum, rolling balls, etc.)

Types and behaviors of waves

Snell's Law

Reflection and refraction of light

Wave tank

Prisms

Diffraction of light (one slit and two slits)

Measurement of distance between rulings in a diffraction grating

NATURAL SCIENCES 231: ATOMS AND ELECTRICITY

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Shamos, Great Experiments in Physics

Avogadro, A Manner of Determining the Relative Masses. . .

Berzelius, excerpts: *Electrochemical Theory, Chemical Symbols and Formulas*

Curie, 1911 Nobel Lecture, *On Radioactivity*

Cannizzaro, Sketch of a Course of Chemical Philosophy

Clausius, On the Nature of the Motion that We Call Heat

Dalton, 1810 extract, Atomic Principles of Chemistry, Letter to Nicholson, 1808 Extract

Dulong, Atomic Weights and Specific Heat

DuFay, The Two-Fluid Theory of Electricity

Franklin, The One-Fluid Theory of Electricity

Faraday, Decomposition of Tin Chloride, On some Points of Magnetic Philosophy...

Maxwell, On Action at A Distance (Faraday's Point of View), On Ether

REQUIRED LAB EXERCISES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

Simple quantitative analysis: Percent acid in a mixture by weight using titration

Coin lab

Measurements of specific heats of elements Atomic motion (TBD)

Observation of elements and qualitative descriptions of metals and non-metals

Electrostatics

Mapping of electromagnetic field

Measurement of electromagnetic induction

Precipitation of tin

The properties of electromagnetic waves

NATURAL SCIENCES 232: TWENTIETH CENTURY REVOLUTIONS IN PHYSICS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Shamos, Great Experiments in Physics

Feynman, The Character of Physical Law, QED: The Strange Theory of Light and Matter

Einstein, Relativity

Gamow, Thirty Years that Shook Physics

Snow, The Two Cultures

Planck, 8 Lectures on Modern Physics

Einstein, The Photoelectric Effect

Millikan, A Direct Photoelectric Determination of Planck's h. and The Electron

Bohr, The Structure of the Atom

DeBroglie. The Initial Idea of Wave Mechanics

Schrödinger, Four Lectures on Wave Mechanics, Fundamental Idea of Quantum Mechanics

Davisson, Are Electrons Waves?

REQUIRED LAB EXERCISES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

Blackbody radiation

Photoelectric effect

Electron diffraction

Mass/charge of electron

Observation of spectral lines

Bragg reflection (with microwaves)

NATURAL SCIENCES 233: MODERN BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Mendel, Experiments in Plant Hybridization

Hardy, Hardy-Weinberg Law

Chetverikov, On Certain Aspects of the Evolutionary Process. . .

Dobzhansky, Genetics and the Origin of Species

Schrödinger, What is Life?

Dyson, Origins of Life

Nusslein-Volhard, Coming to Life

Crick, The Structure of the Hereditary Material, On Protein Synthesis

Selected works on Molecular Biology, The Genetic Code, and Epigenetics

REQUIRED LAB EXERCISES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

Calculations of population genetics/Punnett squares

Simulation of Dyson's toy model

DNA Extraction

Microscope viewing (mitosis)

Miller experiment

SOCIAL SCIENCES 141: SOCIETY, CULTURE, AND PERSONALITY

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Benedict, Patterns of Culture

James, Psychology: The Briefer Course

Durkheim, Suicide

Freud, Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis, New Introductory Lecture #XXXI, and at least one analytic case study

Piaget, Moral Feelings and Judgments Gilligan, In a Different Voice

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Conklin, Consuming Grief

Texts on moral development by Kohlberg and Chodorow

SOCIAL SCIENCES 142: THE WESTERN POLITICAL TRADITION

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Plato, Republic

Aristotle, Politics

Machiavelli, The Prince

Hobbes, Leviathan

Locke, Second Treatise on Civil Government

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Human Inequality, Social Contract*, and/or selections from *Émile*

Smith, Wealth of Nations

Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Women

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics

Aquinas, selected writings on politics

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*

Spinoza, Theological-Political Treatise

SOCIAL SCIENCES 143: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

REQUIRED TEXTS:

American State Papers, including *United States*Declaration of Independence; United States

Constitution; The Federalist; and additional
selections from The People Shall Judge, Volume
1 Part 1

de Tocqueville, On Democracy in America

At least two Supreme Court cases

Selections from Schneir, Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings

Douglass, Story of My Life

DuBois, Souls of Black Folk

King, Letter from Birmingham Jail

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Mann, writings on public education

Thoreau, Civil Disobedience

Douglass, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?

Lincoln, selected speeches

Alexander Stephens, Cornerstone Speech

SOCIAL SCIENCES 241: MODERN THEORIES OF SOCIETY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit and/or Philosophy of Right

Marx, Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 and Manifesto of the Communist Party

Weber, Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Marx, selections from one of more of the following works on economics: Wage Labor and Capital, Grundrisse, or Capital; selections from Theses on Feuerbach and/or German Ideology

Mill, On Liberty and/or On the Subjection of Women

Marshall, selections from *Principles of Economics*Selections from Hayek and Keynes on Economics
Galbraith, *The Inevitability of Planning*

Sen, Equality of What?

SOCIAL SCIENCES 242: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION AND SOCIAL REALITY

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Mannheim, Ideology and Utopia

Arendt, The Human Condition

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* or *History of Sexuality*

Geertz, Interpretation of Cultures or Local Knowledge

Berger and Luckmann, Social Construction of Reality

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Huxley, Brave New World

LeGuin, The Dispossessed

Laing and Esterson, *Sanity, Madness, and the Family*

SOCIAL SCIENCES 243: METHOD AND CRITIQUE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Durkheim, Rules of Sociological Method and/or Elementary Forms of Religious Life

Weber, essays on methodology, preferably including *Objectivity in the Social Sciences* and/ or *Social Psychology of World Religions*

de Beauvoir, The Second Sex

Selections on feminism and methodology, including at least two essays by Haraway, Harding, and Flax and/or selections from Keller, Feminism and Science

Milgram, Obedience to Authority

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

Zimbardo, Stanford Prison Experiment: A Simulation Study of the Psychology of Imprisonment

Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities

Ghandi, selected writings

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 451: ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA TO CLASSICAL ATHENS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth

Hebrew Bible: Exodus, Song of Songs

Homer, The Iliad

Sappho, poetry

Aeschylus, Agamemnon and Eumenides

Selections from Herodotus and/or Thucydides

Aristotle, On the Heavens

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Other Biblical selections not read elsewhere in the core

Hesiod, Theogony or Works and Days

Aeschylus, Libation Bearers

Plato, *Republic* (selections not used elsewhere in core)

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (selections not used elsewhere in the core)

Relevant scholarly works, such as the following:

- » Jan Assmann, The Price of Monotheism
- » Judith Plaskow, Standing Again at Sinai
- » Nicole Loraux, The Divided City
- » Simone Weil, "The Iliad" or The Poem of Force

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 452: CLASSICAL ROME TO MIDDLE AGES

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Virgil, Aeneid

Selections from at least one Roman historian (e.g., Tacitus, Seutonius, Josephus)

New Testament: Gospel of Luke

Ptolemy, Almagest

Augustine, City of God

Selections from the Qur'an, including Surah 2 (*The Cow*)

At least one work of Islamic theology or philosophy (such as al-Ghazali, *Deliverance from Error* or ibn Tufayl, *Hayy ibn Yaqzan*)

The Lais of Marie de France

Dante, Inferno

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Works of Roman Stoicism

New Testament: Acts of the Apostles or other texts not assigned elsewhere in the core

The Martyrdom of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

A work of medieval mysticism not used elsewhere in the core

ibn Ishaq, The Life of Muhammad

Bede, Ecclesiastical History of the English People

Beowulf or another work of medieval imaginative literature

Dante, Purgatorio and/or Paradiso

Relevant scholarly works, such as the following:

- » Theodore W. Jennings, Outlaw Justice
- » Asma Barlas, Believing Women in Islam
- » Carolyn Walker Bynum, *The Body of Christ* in the Later Middle Ages
- » Ernst Kantorowicz, Dante's Two Suns" and/or Pro Patria Mori in Medieval Political Thought

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 453: RENAISSANCE, REFORMATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Arabian Nights

Geoffrey Chaucer, Canterbury Tales

Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*

Christine de Pizan, Treasure of the City of Ladies

Selections from Luther

Copernicus, On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres

Galileo, The Starry Messenger

Kepler, The Epitome of Copernican Astronomy

John Milton, Paradise Lost

Aphra Behn, Oroonoko

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Boccaccio, Decameron

Calvin, selections

Cervantes, Don Quixote

Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly* or writings against Luther on free will

Galileo, Concerning the Use of Biblical Quotations in Matters of Science

Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Leibniz, Monadology or Theodicy

Moliere, any play

Montaigne, Essays

More, Utopia

Petrarch, poetry

Pico, Oration on the Dignity of Man

Rabelais, Gargantua and Pantagruel

Racine, any play

Voltaire, Candide

Aimé Césaire, A Tempest

Relevant scholarly works, such as the following:

- » Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, The Inconstancy of the Native Soul
- » Silvia Federici, Caliban and the Witch

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 454: ROMANTICISM TO THE WORLD TODAY

REQUIRED TEXTS:

J. W. von Goethe, Faust, pt. 1

David Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*

Immanuel Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals

A significant novel by a woman, such as: George Eliot, *Adam Bede*, Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood*, Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

Modern visual art/architecture, with relevant readings

A significant work of music, with relevant readings

A work on contemporary cosmology, such as the following:

- » Hubble, Explorations in Space
- » Riess and Turner, The Expanding Universe

A work on 20th century history

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

Rousseau, any work that is not required in Social Sciences 2

Goethe, Faust, Part II

Hegel, Introduction to Philosophy of History

Nietzsche, Use and Abuse of History

Engels, Condition of the Working Class in England

Dickens, Hard Times

Marx, Eighteenth Brumaire

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (also known as *If This is a Man*)

Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem

A significant graphic novel or film

Relevant scholarly works, such as the following:

- » C.L.R. James, The Black Jacobins
- » Susan Buck-Morss, Hegel and Haiti
- » Groys, The Total Art of Stalinism

Poems by William Blake, John Keats, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Wislawa Szymborska

