The Human Event (171)

Dr. Abby Loebenberg
E-mail: Abby.Loebenberg@asu.edu
Office: Sage 169
Hours: by appointment or drop in Tuesday 12-2pm

Catalog Course Description

The Human Event is an intensive, interdisciplinary seminar focusing on key social and intellectual currents in the development of humanity in its diversity. Students examine human thought and imagination from various perspectives, including philosophy, history, literature, religion, science, and art. Coursework emphasizes critical thinking, discussion, and argumentative writing. Exploring texts from earliest recorded history to approximately 1600 C.E., HON171 is the first half of a two-semester sequence that concludes with HON272.

Course Objectives:
1. To improve the student’s ability to reason critically and communicate clearly.
2. To cultivate the student’s ability to engage in intellectual discourse through reading, writing, and discussion.
3. To broaden the student’s historical and cultural awareness and understanding.
4. To deepen awareness of the diversity of human societies and cultures.
5. To instill intellectual breadth and academic discipline in preparation for more advanced study.

Section-specific description and objectives

This course is a chronologically organized seminar course that looks at the intellectual history of the West, and other cultures, from 600 BCE until 1650 CE. The aim of the course is to stretch and strengthen your ability to analyze, draw connections to themes, and understand the historical narrative of these great works. Students are expected to be able to prove these abilities both verbally and in written work.

This should be primarily demonstrated through increasing competency in argumentative essay writing, with the use of appropriate academic conventions, and through depth reading and verbal discussion in the seminar classes.

The core themes we will encounter this semester are:
- How should we live and what is a “good life”?
- How were stories of great adventures meant to inspires and teach and can they offer us anything today?
- What have been the roles and struggles of women throughout historical texts?
- How does belief motivate our deeds?
- How much power does one have over one’s own fate?
• What can texts reveal about different cultural approaches to death and the afterlife?

**List of Texts**

You **must** have the following texts for this class. **You must also buy the version indicated as class members having editions with out-of-sync page numbers makes our discussions more difficult. Kindle versions of books are allowed if they have “real” page numbers, not location numbers.**


These are required texts referenced in the calendar that will be made available in a PDF format on BlackBoard. For seminars where these texts are required, students must **PRINT** and bring hard copies of the text to class or bring an approved electronic device, such as a tablet or fold-down screen-type laptop. I recommend keeping a binder for the purpose of collating notes and readings.

1. The Enuma Elish
2. Prisoner, Dreamer, Martyr: Perpetua of Carthage
3. Plato, Republic (Book 7).
4. Excerpts from St. Augustine.
6. Dante, The Inferno, excerpts.

**Requirements and Grade Breakdown**

The final grade is assessed as follows:

30% (Participation)
5% Participation Log or Skill of the Week Leadership (completion on time is full credit)
10% (Quizzes)
5% Assignment 1 (Take home exam)
20 % Assignment 2 (Paper)
10% Assignment 3 (Paper Revisions)
20% Assignment 4 (Paper)

**No extra credit is offered outside of what is built into assignments.**
Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98.0-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>80.0 - 82.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.0 – 97.9</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>77.0 - 79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.0 - 93.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70.0 - 76.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.0 - 89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>60.0 - 69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.0 - 86.9</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0 - 59.9</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Papers

The writing assignments for this course are two formal papers of between 1000-2000 words in length each (this varies by assignment). The questions will be given out approximately two weeks prior to the due date. Drafts/meetings and re-writes may be offered and attached to grade penalties or additional credit at my discretion. Each paper is designed to test (and build) a specific strength in academic writing. However, all writing consists of essay responses to specific questions. These questions are meant to be answered with clear and cogent arguments overarched by a clear thesis statement. Overly discursive writing that does not address the question specifically will be returned to you without a grade and is considered late work. All formal writing must be cited using the citation system detailed in the ‘citation guide’ provided online. If a citation is not covered in the guide, use the Harvard style of citation. All final papers are due by 5pm on a Monday (specified below) through Blackboard Safe Assign. Hard copies are also required for feedback and should be turned in outside my office, also by 5pm. For the final paper of semester, a hard copy is not required. Late work is penalized by a grade letter per day and is not accepted (0) 72 hours after the due date and time.

There is also one take home exams that will be introduced in a writing workshop will build the writing skills needed for Human Event papers. These will be due in the class immediately following. Students receiving a grade lower than an A- in a take home exam will need to meet with a TA for a review session to clarify the concepts and go over their paper.

Use of TAs

TAs are here to help you get the most out of this course. The TA assigned to your class works with me to assess participation, prepares quizzes and logs your participation. I use this data to assign you a participation grade. TAs do not grade or see your grades. Your TA is available through email appointment and will hold regular “office hours” to give paper consultations and discuss any queries you would rather bring to them rather than me. These may or may not be mandatory depending on the assignment. Please respect their time (as you would mine) and hold to your appointments. TAs will share feedback with me.

Professor Availability

I am always available in the office hours listed above unless I post a notice to Blackboard that states otherwise. These are drop-in hours for most of the semester. Close to essays being due
it may be necessary to make 10-minute sign up slots. I will notify you through Blackboard if this is the case. I am also available at some other times for special appointments. Please contact me via email if you would like to make an appointment. I am not available on Mondays. I prefer to answer questions through email if possible. I respond to emails in normal business hours, so expect that emails sent over weekends and late at night will not receive a response until the next day and/or Monday.

Read this:

https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087#.hp1ll8ou4

**Electronic Device Policy**

Electronic devices including cellphones, tablets and laptops are not permitted to be used during class time as a general rule. This includes break-out or group discussion time.

I do permit e-readers, tablets and laptops with fold-down screens on PDF reading days as an alternative to printing only. This permission includes smart phones. However, if I see you texting on your phone at any time I will blanket ban you from using your phone for the rest of semester.

If you are seen to be using your phone to text or check Facebook at any time, your participation grade will be 0 for that day.

**Email Communications**

All email communication for this class will be done through your ASU email account. You should be in the habit of checking your ASU email regularly as you will not only receive important information about your class(es), but other important university updates and information. You are solely responsible for reading and responding if necessary to any information communicated via email. For help with your email go to: http://help.asu.edu/sims/selfhelp/SelfHelpHome.seam?dept_pk=822 and file a help desk ticket by clicking on “My Help Center.”

**Technical Requirements**

In addition to in-class activities you will be accessing discussions, documents, audio and video files in various formats on Blackboard. All documents/readings on Blackboard will be available in pdf format so you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can download Adobe Acrobat Reader free at: http://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=BUIGO

**Blackboard:**

This course makes extensive use of Blackboard—an online portal that provides access to course materials, assignments, discussions, and announcements. Blackboard is only accessible to registered students, the instructor, and the administrators. The Blackboard announcements board is our official means of communication in this course. All updates and notices in this course will be posted to Bb so get into the habit of checking it on a daily basis.
If you are new to Bb or have any technical questions contact the ASU Help Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at: 1-855-ASU-5080 (1-855-278-5080).

You can also live chat with the Help Center at:
http://help.asu.edu/sims/selfhelp/SelfHelpHome.seam;jsessionid=C7F45EEBCEBE5DBCE8D0939BA4DD8CB2.node1?cid=26575#

A detailed set of tutorials and information is available at:

Please note, I do not have access to your login information nor can I walk you through Blackboard access issues. You will need to contact the ASU Help Center for all IT questions.

Participation

The Human Event aims to develop critical thinking and mature writing skills. Taught in seminar style, this honors course is an intensive reading, writing, and discussion experience. Active student participation in each class, therefore, is absolutely essential. The participation grade is judged both on frequency and quality of class contributions. If you do not actively participate in each class, you cannot achieve an A for this component. Participation is your responsibility, take it and speak up, contribute to your break-out groups and use the opportunities for presentation.

Things that will raise your participation grade are as follows:

- Preparing notes for each class and bringing your text to class.
- Speaking up.
- Connecting previous readings to current ones.
- Asking questions and engaging other students.
- Being respectful of the classroom, the discussion, your instructor, your TA and your fellow students’ opinions.

Things that will lower your participation grade are as follows:

- Failure to bring your text to class.
- Use of phones or laptops when not sanctioned.
- Sleeping or lack of focus.
- Chattering or having side conversations that are not invited by the instructor.
- Over-dominating discussion.
- Negative or defensive body language.

The participation grade is graded on a four-point scale in every class where there is a reasonable opportunity for you to participate. This will likely include any class where any type of discussion
or presentation is held, but none where writing workshops are part of the class plan. Good participation (4/4) includes meeting all of the above positive criteria and none of the negative. Average participation (3/4) includes meeting some of both category or meeting only some of the positive criteria. Poor (2/4) participation includes meeting none of the positive and none of the negative criteria or meeting more negative criteria than positive. Absences will score 1/4. You will receive a regular “check-in” grade for your participation. You are always welcome to discuss participation with me and receive an update on your score.

You will be self-accountable to check yourself on participation against the skill of the week each class. Using your notebook, Post-it or tablet, mark each time you speak in the main discussion group. Add any additional comments or notes you would like to and upload this (or a screenshot of it) to Dropbox or Google Drive. The easiest way to do this is to take a picture on your phone and upload it. Share your Dropbox/Google folder with your TA. It must be timestamped and dated.

v

Quizzes

Other graded work will consist of ten quizzes on the week’s readings (10 points each – lowest score is dropped). If you prepare for class by reading and note-making, you will need to perform minimal extra preparation for this component. These will be due at midnight the night before the class, through Blackboard. This will usually be a Thursday. Late submissions will receive a 0 for these components. Quizzes will not be re-opened, so mark your calendars by using the *’s in the calendar below as your guide. You can also use the notification center in Blackboard’s settings to check the box for Blackboard to email you when a test is posted.

Attendance

You are allowed 2 excused or unexcused absences per semester. Further absences will affect your overall grade in the class, by a grade letter per absence. If you are absent 6 times (or more) you will fail. Please discuss conflicts with me in advance as a courtesy. Excessive tardiness (more than 10 minutes) will be noted as an absence. Regularly arriving after the start of class time will affect your participation grade negatively. Exceptions to this policy for University sanctioned events and religious practices are listed in ACD 304-02 and -04.

Writing Center

The Barrett Writing Center is available to assist Barrett Honors College students with their papers for all their classes. Directed by BHC faculty and staffed by BHC writing tutors who themselves have completed both HON 171 and 272, the Barrett Writing Center offers individual tutoring on writing papers for the Human Event and your other courses. Its goal is to help you improve your lifelong writing and critical thinking skills, so please take advantage of its services. For more information, go to the BWC website: http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/barrett-writing-center/

I recommend consulting with this syllabus and making appointments well in advance of the due
Student Conduct and Academic Regulations

Students must conduct themselves according to the ASU policies posted online at http://www.asu.edu/studentlife/judicial. These include the ASU Student Code of Conduct and the Student Academic Integrity Policy. For information on BHC policies for grievances and grade complaints, go to the BHC web page at http://honors.asu.edu and follow the links for Prospective and Current Students, then Advising and Honors Curriculum, then Academic Advising Office, then Student Academic Grievance Procedures. Disruptive, threatening or violent individuals will be handled in accordance with SSM 104-02.

Academic integrity is essential to all values upon which a university is founded. A student with a documented case of academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism or cheating) in an honors class will receive the grade of E for the course. The case will be referred to the Student Conduct Committee for the University and may result in expulsion. Ask questions if you are unsure of how to cite others’ work. All work is electronically scanned through plagiarism software.

ASU policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or retaliation on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and veteran status. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employees or expulsion of students. Contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (480-965-6547) if you feel another student is harassing you based on any of the factors above; contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion (480-965-5057) if you feel an ASU employee is harassing you based on any of the factors above.

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at http://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs/students.

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed below:
- Arizona Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter V – Campus and Student Affairs: Code of Conduct http://www.azregents.edu/policymanual/default.aspx,
- ACD 125: Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd125.htm, and

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the
class. If a student is disruptive, an instructor may ask the student to stop the disruptive behavior and warn the student that such disruptive behavior can result in withdrawal from the course. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process under USI 201-10 (http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi201-10.html).

Multiculturalism Statement

Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University, is committed to creating a multicultural learning environment, which is broadly defined as a place where human cultural diversity is valued and respected. Barrett courses integrate multicultural and diversity issues in ways that are designed to enhance students’ honors experience and promote learning goals. We hope that our students will contribute their unique perspectives to this effort by respecting others’ identities and personal life histories and by considering and raising issues related to multiculturalism and diversity as appropriate to individual course content.

Additional Notes:

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course calendar during the semester. The student agrees to this by registering and remaining in the course. Classes should not be recorded unless you have a disability statement that indicates it is necessary. To request this, or other accommodations, please register with the Disability Resource Center and submit appropriate documentation to me. Some students may deem some of this course’s content offensive. If you have concerns in this regard please contact me, or, if you prefer Dr. Lynch the faculty chair.

CALENDAR DATES WILL BE REVISED ACCORDING TO SEMESTER.

Calendar and Reading Assignments  (* = Quiz due the night before that class)

Please note that when "page range" is noted this is a minimum reading requirement. You may need to read beyond this to effectively answer certain essay questions

Week 1 Introduction

Week 2 Aug 23/25
i) The Enuma Elish
ii) The Odyssey: Selections from Books 1-6 (pp 77-106 and pp 142-167 and pp 172-178)

Week 3 Aug 30/Sep 1
*ii) The Odyssey Books 16, 21, 22  (skim read Book 13 prior if you have time)

Week 4 Sep 6/8
i) Ramayana (Prologue to Chapter 4) Alternate Format (we will discuss what this means)
ii) Writing Workshop/Skills
Week 5 Sep 13/15

**Monday September 11 5pm Assignment 1 (Take Home Exam) Due**

*i) Ramayana (Chapter 5-Epilogue)*  
i) Sita’s Ramayana

Week 6 9/20/22  
*i) Sita’s Ramayana*  
i) Hippolytus (Introduction to P 35 line 775)

Week 7 9/27 9/29

*i) Hippolytus (to end)*  
*i) Plato’s Bk 7 Republic ( extract of PDF – link through BB)*

**Week 8**

i) Venus and Adonis (Ovid) PDF – *Alternate Format*
   
*i) Lucretius PDF*

**Friday October 6th 5pm Assignment 2 (Paper) Due**

Week 9 10/11 10/13  
*i) Perpetua (PDF)*  
i) Writing Conferences

Week 10 10/18 10/20  
*i) Writing Conferences*  
i) St. Augustine (PDF)

Week 11 10/25 10/27  
*i) Conference of the Birds (Page Range TBC)*  
*i) Conference of the Birds (Page Range TBC)*

Week 11/1 11/3  
*i) Conference of the Birds (Page Range TBC)*  
i) The Inferno (PDF page selections)

**Wednesday November 8 Assignment 3 Due (Paper Revisions) In class turn in.**

Week 13 11/8  
*i) Anthony and Cleopatra –(Act 1,2)*  
i) No Class – Veteran’s Day

Week 14 11/15 11/17  
*i) Anthony and Cleopatra (Act 3)*  
i) Anthony and Cleopatra  (Act 4,5)

Week 15 11/22/11/24  
*i) Writing Workshop*  
i) No class (Thanksgiving)

Week 16 11/29 12/1  
*i) Writing Workshop*  
i) Final Feedback/Class
December 4th Assignment 4 (Paper) Due 5pm.