

## BHP 100: Great Ideas I

**Dr. Linda Materna**

Department of Foreign

Languages and Literature

Fine Arts 379

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Hours: 2:50-4:20 Mondays and Wednesdays;

2:30-3:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays

## Fall 2006

**Dr. Arlene Wilner**

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Fine Arts 315

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Hours: Tues., Thurs.

1:45-3:15

### HUMANITY IN PERSPECTIVE: REPRESENTATIONS OF SELF AND SOCIETY

#### Required Texts:

Lee A. Jacobus (ed.), *A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Bedford)

Sophocles, *Three Theban Plays*, ed. Bernard Knox

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Anchor)

Jaime Salom, *Bonfire at Dawn*, trans. Phyllis Zatlin

In addition, some required readings will be handed out in class.

#### Course Objectives:

To introduce you to **challenging and influential texts**, including fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry, and film, from the cultures of Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas. Reading selections are drawn from the fields of literature, philosophy, political science, and natural science.

To provide a forum for **open academic discussion** of the ideas expressed in these texts and of the personal, societal, and global implications of these ideas.

To provide you, through a series of guided and sequenced assignments, with an opportunity to **sharpen your composing skills and to refine and communicate your ideas** in the form of effectively written academic essays using a variety of rhetorical modes, including description, definition, comparison and contrast, and argument.

To **enhance critical thinking** by means of class discussion and writing assignments that emphasize both close **analysis** of individual readings and **synthesis** of ideas and themes as the course progresses. The syllabus, detailed below, emphasizes the competing and complementary claims of freedom, authority, orthodoxy, and inquiry in the areas of science, religion, and historical process; you will be encouraged to seek out connections among these areas, as well as among the readings within each section. In addition, we will be making explicit connections with ideas and readings in your history class—see below:

#### Learning Community (LC)

This semester, sections J and K (we are K) of BHP 100 will take HIS 150 together in Dr. Anne Osborne's D section. As your instructors we have worked together to coordinate syllabi in ways that will help you make connections among texts and themes. We have also planned some special events to add dimension to our classwork and to get to know each other better. In addition, you will be invited to attend enjoyable co-curricular activities open to all BHP students. We are confident that the LC experience will provide you with a rich introduction to the rewarding possibilities of college life. As you explore these possibilities, we are here not only to challenge you intellectually but also to support and guide you. We are your advisers this year, and we hope you will feel free to chat with us about whatever is on your mind.

Requirements and Grading Criteria:

1-**Attendance** is mandatory. No unexcused absence is considered acceptable, and more than three absences for any reason will be considered grounds for a serious final grade penalty and possibly failure

2-You will write **four formal essays** (including a take-home final) related to readings and class discussion; topics must be those selected or approved by the instructors. For your first paper, you will be asked to submit a draft for review (by peers or instructor) before revising your paper for formal evaluation and grading. This draft, while not graded separately, is considered as part of the writing assignment and will contribute to your classroom preparation grade. Late papers will be penalized at the discretion of the instructors. If you anticipate difficulty with handing a paper in on time, see one of the instructors before the due date; without this prior consultation, no extension will be possible. Criteria for grading of formal papers include depth of insight; focus, coherence, and organization; grammatical and mechanical correctness.

3-Because this class is a seminar based on reading, writing, and conversation, **your attention to daily assignments and participation in class discussion and activities are essential.** Occasional pop quizzes may be given, and you will be asked to do some informal writing (e.g. posing or answering questions, summarizing the results of groupwork) on topics related to assigned readings.

Final grades will be computed as follows:

Paper #1---- 15% Due Tues. 10/10 (Draft due 10/5)

Paper #2---- 20% Due Tues. 10/31

Paper #3---- 20% Due Tues. 11/28 (option to submit before Thanksgiving on 11/21)

Class Participation (including attendance, quiz grades, preparation for and involvement in class discussion, and informal writing) ---20%

Final Essay--25% Due by 1:30 pm on scheduled day of final exam

Drafts and pre-writing exercises need not be typed. However, please bear in mind:

Formal essays submitted for a grade should be

- typed on a word processor (use a font that yields about 300 words per page),
- in compliance with word-count minima specified on assignment sheets
- double-spaced with 1½" margins,
- stapled in the upper left hand corner, and
- labeled on a cover page or at the top of the first page with your name, the course name (Great Ideas I), the date, the essay #, and an engaging title.

No folders or plastic covers, please.

A note on sources and plagiarism: As this is not a research-writing course, you will not be asked to use secondary sources other than assigned course texts. All written work will be based on class readings as specified in assignment handouts. Plagiarism— using the words or ideas of others to produce the illusion that they are your own—is a serious offense that will result in suitably harsh penalties. You are responsible for reviewing the section on academic dishonesty in The Source as well as the class handout on plagiarism and for requesting clarification of any points you do not fully understand.

Dr. Linda Materna Dr. Arlene Wilner

**BHP 100: Fall 2006**

Note: Texts marked with an asterisk (\*) are required of all BHP 100 students

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

WEEK 1:	<b>9/7</b> Introduction; THEME OF COURSE: <b>Existentialism vs. Essentialism</b> ; Robert Frost, "Design" (handout) <b>5-6:30 Reception at Dr. Rozanski's house (or Rec Center Lobby in case of rain)</b>
WEEK 2: <b>Theme 1: Essentialist World Views</b> <b>9/12</b> Genesis* excerpt /introduce <i>Popul Vuh</i> (handouts)	<b>9/14</b> <i>Popul Vuh</i> ; introduce Plato, "Allegory of the Cave,"* p. 443.
WEEK 3: <b>9/19</b> Plato/introduce Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> *	<b>**9/20 4:30-6:30 Discussion of The Kite Runner plus dinner, Fireside Lounge in Luedeke Center**</b> <b>9/21 Theme 2: Freedom, Authority, and Historical Change</b> <i>Antigone</i>
WEEK 4: <b>9/26</b> Jefferson, Declaration of Independence,* p. 75	<b>9/28</b> Jefferson/Stanton, "Declaration of Rights and Sentiments,"* p. 161. <b>Assignment for Paper #1 distributed</b>
WEEK 5: <b>10/3</b> King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail, *p. 171; video excerpt from "Eyes on the Prize"	<b>10/5</b> <b><u>Draft of Paper #1 Due</u></b>
WEEK 6: <b>Paper #1 Due</b> <b>10/10 Theme 3: Existential Freedom and Individual Responsibility</b> Sartre, "Existentialism"* (handout)	<b>10/12</b> Lu, "The New Year's Sacrifice"*; Nafisi ch. 15--18 (handouts)
WEEK 7: <b>**10/16 4:30 pm, BLC Theater: View "An Inconvenient Truth"***</b> ..... <b>10/17</b> Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues"* (handout) <b>10/18: Pre-reg. advising party. TLC 310/311</b>	<b>10/19 Theme 4: Science, Materialism and Transcendentalism</b> Darwin, from "Descent of Man" and the debate on "intelligent design"/materialism vs. transcendentalism <b>Assignment for Paper #2 distributed</b>
WEEK 8: <b>10/24</b> Gould, "Nonmoral Nature," p. 597.	<b>10/26</b> Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> *, p. 353.
WEEK 9: <b>10/31 Paper #2 due</b> Marx, cont'd. Film clip: <i>Modern Times</i>	<b>11/2</b> Begin Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> *
WEEK 10: <b>11/7</b> Achebe, cont'd ..... <b>11/9 5:30- Dinner buffet in Yvonne Theater lobby, Director's talk, preview of "Urinetown"</b>	<b>11/9</b> Achebe, cont'd. Bill Moyers interview.
WEEK 11: <b>11/14</b> Friedman, excerpt from <i>The Lexus and the Olive Tree</i> (handout) plus <i>The World is Flat</i> web lecture.	<b>11/16</b> Friedman, cont'd, plus current-events connections <b>Assignment for Paper #3 distributed.</b>
WEEK 12: <b>11/21 (Option to hand in paper #3)</b> Wilford, "Discovering Columbus" * (handout)	<b>11/23 THANKSGIVING</b> Plan to view film, TBD, for class discussion on 12/5
WEEK 13: <b>11/28</b> "Collision at Cajamarca" (ch. 3 of <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> ) plus video excerpts if time <b>Paper #3 Due</b> <b>11/29: Screening of CRASH, 4:45-7:00, including food and discussion (attendance encouraged)</b>	<b>11/30</b> Jaime Salom, <i>Bonfire at Dawn</i>
WEEK 14 <b>12/5</b> Discuss previewed film (see 11/23)	<b>12/7</b> Preparation for final

