

BHP 100 – Great Ideas I (Freshman Honors Seminar) – Fall 2006

J period

Dr. Anne Osborne
Department of History
Fine Arts 226
Phone: 895-5455
E-mail: osborne@rider.edu
Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 1:10 – 2:40;
Other times by appointment

Dr. Anne Salvatore
Department of English
Fine Arts 318
Phone: 895-5569
E-mail: salvatore@rider.edu
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 11:30 - 1:00;
Fri. 11:30-12:00; Other times by
appointment

Required Texts:

- Lee A. Jacobus, ed. *A World of Ideas*; 7th edition; Bedford/St. Martin's [**You may need to keep for 2nd semester--check with next semester's instructors.**]
- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*; Anchor/Bantam/Doubleday
- Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays*; Trans. Robert Fagles; Penguin [**You may need to keep for 2nd semester--check with next semester's instructors.**]
- Other required (short) texts are available as noted on the syllabus.

You can find certain designated texts on "Blackboard" (our course website) under "Course Documents"; these should be printed, read, and brought to class.

To access designated texts, the syllabus, paper assignments, and other course information on "Blackboard," our course website, start with Rider's homepage and click on "Blackboard" or go to: <http://blackboard.rider.edu> Follow directions under "Students." (Our course, BHP 100 J1, may be listed under "English" if it is not under BHP.)

Recommended Texts: In addition to the required texts above, we also recommend a grammar/usage handbook such as Lunsford & Connors, *The New St. Martin's Handbook* or Fowler & Aaron, *The Little, Brown Handbook*, and a good college dictionary.

Course Description: As the first course in the Honors sequence, Great Ideas I introduces you to interdisciplinary perspectives on ideas that suggest cultural assumptions and conflicts, historical movements, philosophies, values, personal identities, and human relationships. Our section is a part of a *Learning Community*. That is, our Great Ideas section will be thematically and textually linked with your HIS 150 D section. In both courses, we will strive to make as many connections as possible among ideas and texts.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce you to challenging, enduring texts that encourage reflection, conversation and debate;
2. To enhance critical and creative thinking about ideas through close analysis of texts, informal writing, and class discussion;
1. To encourage synthesis of ideas through consideration of similar and/or contrasting ideas in multiple texts in both BHP 100 and HIS 150.
2. To encourage intellectual and social connections through working together on common material

3. To enhance writing skills through the drafting, revising, and editing of formal academic papers;
4. To encourage professional collaboration and self-awareness about writing through group discussions and peer review of classmates' writing;
5. To encourage an identification of personal values and cultivation of a personal voice and style in writing.

Required Activities:

1. Complete all class readings by assigned dates.
2. Participate *frequently* in class discussions: Respond to and/or ask questions; agree/disagree with instructors and/or classmates; make connections among readings; point out contemporary applications.
3. Draft, revise, edit, & proofread four formal writing assignments by the due dates listed.
Papers receiving a grade lower than B- must be revised (see grading policy below for more information).
4. Take reading quizzes (or respond to Study Questions, if assigned as alternatives to quizzes).
5. Attend BHP *required* co-curricular or extracurricular activities as assigned (see schedule below).
(An alternate activity may be arranged for students whose class schedule conflicts with the BHP activity.)
6. Keep *photocopies* AND electronic copies of all drafts and final papers at home/dorm; hold all graded papers until course grade is received.
7. There will be no final exam in this course.

Grading Policy:

Formal papers – 20% for each of four papers (Total: 80%) *Note: All four formal papers must be completed in order to pass the course.*

Participation – 20% - includes: quizzes; class participation, class attendance, and two co-curricular or extracurricular events, as assigned. (See point system described below.)

Policy & Point System for quizzes, co/extracurricular activities, class participation, and attendance: Possible total = 100 points:

Quizzes = 50

Extracurricular activities (5 points each) = 15

Participation & Attendance. = 35

--Of the 14 quizzes (perfect score = 5 points for each), your 10 highest scores will be counted.

--The required co/extra-curricular activities are worth a total of 15 points (5 points for *Kiterunner* event and 5 points each for the two films);

--Participation in class discussion and attendance is worth up to 35 points. (Points will be subtracted for infrequent participation and/or for more than two absences.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Quizzes will usually be given at the beginning of the period. Missed quizzes or parts of quizzes due to absence or lateness CANNOT be made up. Since only ten quizzes will be counted, you will be able to drop your five lowest scores, and/or some that you missed on account of absence.

Approximate letter equivalents for total of point-system scores:

99 – 100 = A+	76 – 78 = C+	60 – 64 = E
94 – 98 = A	74 – 75 = C	0 – 59 = F
90 – 93 = A-	72 – 73 = C-	
86 - 89 = B+	71 = D+	
82 - 85 = B	70 = D	
79 - 81 = B-	65 – 69 = D-	

Special Notes on revising papers AFTER grade for paper is received:

1. Papers that receive a grade below B- MUST be revised.
2. Papers graded with a B- or above MAY be revised.
3. In either of the above cases, if the instructors judge the original submission to be a fully completed, conscientious, and honest attempt to produce an original final draft and if the revision represents real improvement, then the revised paper will receive the higher grade. However, if the original submission does not represent a completed and conscientious attempt, then the two grades will be averaged. (*Academic dishonesty will be treated differently. See note below on plagiarism.*)
4. Deadlines for revisions will be two weeks after the original paper is returned.

Attendance Policy: No more than two absences, excused or unexcused, will be tolerated. More than two absences will most likely lower your participation grade and may even result in a failure for the course. Every three latenesses will be considered as one absence.

Late Formal Papers: You are expected to hand in all assignments on or before the due date. Formal paper drafts or final versions handed in late will receive a grade penalty of one-third grade for every class day of lateness (or calendar day after the semester ends). For example, a B+ would become a B for one class day of lateness. Excuses for lateness can be accepted only in serious cases and only if you contact one of us in advance.

PLAGIARISM POLICY: Plagiarism of any sort (e.g., unacknowledged help, ghost-writing, failure to cite sources for substantive ideas that are quoted, paraphrased, or summarized from another source including the Internet, etc.) will result in a failing grade for the paper and, at the discretion of the instructors, for the course. Please consult *The Source* for definitions of and penalties for academic dishonesty. **IMPORTANT: ALL IDEAS, PHRASES, SENTENCES, ETC. TAKEN FROM THE INTERNET OR OTHER SOURCES AND INCORPORATED WITHIN YOUR OWN SENTENCES OR PARAGRAPHS MUST BE CITED TO AVOID PLAGIARISM. DISREGARD FOR THIS RULE WILL RESULT NOT ONLY IN A FAILURE, BUT ALSO IN A LETTER BEING PLACED IN YOUR FILE AT RIDER.**

E-mail: You are expected to check your **Rider e-mail** daily for class announcements, assignment changes, and any other correspondence regarding this course.

BHP 100 – Tentative Schedule

Readings and writings must be completed on date listed.

WI = *A World of Ideas*; “Blackboard” = Course website

THEME 1: ESSENTIALISM, AUTHORITY, & GOVERNANCE

Week 1:

W 9/6 Introductions; The BHP Program; The Learning Community; Course Policies and Requirements

Creation Myths: “Genesis” – **handout** – read and discuss

Thurs. 9/7: Reception at President Rozanski's house: 5 – 6:30

Week 2:

M 9/11 Creation Myths: “Shinto” from Nihongi **handout**; **QUIZ 1** on *both* creation myths

W 9/13 Plato, “The Allegory of the Cave” (from *The Republic*) – WI, 445-453 **QUIZ 2**

Week 3:

M 9/18 Read 1st half of Sophocles, *Antigone* (pp. 59 – 92 in Fagles’ edition of *The Three Theban Plays* or Lines 1 – 704)

In class: Continue with Plato; introduction to Greek drama and theater

W 9/20 Discuss Paper 1 assignment;

Finish reading *Antigone*, 59 – 128 or Lines 705 to end; **QUIZ 3**

*9/20 **Required**: 4:30-6:45 Summer Reading Discussion and Dinner:
The Kite Runner (all BHP freshmen) – Fireside Lounge, BLC*

Week 4:

M 9/25 Continue with Sophocles;

Discuss Paper 1 assignment; writing an analytical thesis statement

Distribute/discuss examples of plagiarism - packet **handout**

THEME 2: FREEDOM: POLITICAL, PERSONAL, EXISTENTIAL

W 9/27 Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence” - WI, 78-81 **QUIZ 4**

Typed introduction, thesis, & subtopics due for Paper 1

Volunteer needed to bring in draft copy of Paper 1 on Monday, 10/3 for photocopying.

(We will discuss the draft & make constructive suggestions on Wed., 10/5.) **REWARD**

for volunteer: 5 FREE quiz points!!! – AND help with revision, smiles of appreciation from class & instructors!!!

Week 5:

10/2 Vietnamese Declaration – on Blackboard **QUIZ 5**

10/4 Discussion of volunteer’s Paper 1 draft

Week 6:

M 10/9 **Paper 1 due, along with instructors' comments on thesis/intro.**

Stanton & Mott, "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" – WI 164-168 **QUIZ 6**

Background lecture on Social Context for modern Chinese literature

W 10/11 Lu Xun, "The New Year's Sacrifice" – on Blackboard **QUIZ 7**
[Distribute Sartre & Barash handouts]

Week 7:

M 10/16 Finish discussing "The New Year's Sacrifice"
Sartre, "Existentialism" - **handout QUIZ 8**
Barash, "What Would Sartre Say?" – **handout**
Discussion of Paper 2 assignment

10/16 Required: Film screening/discussion: 4:30 BLC Theater – An Inconvenient Truth – (Al Gore Film on Global Warming)

W 10/18 **Typed introduction, thesis, and subtopics due for Paper 2**
Finish discussing Sartre/Barash; class discussion of some intro/theses
[Distribute Baldwin]

10/18 Strongly Encouraged: Advising Party for Spring Pre-registration:
TLC (Science Building), Room 310/311 – 4:30 (Snacks/beverages;
faculty explain spring courses; permission slips must be signed
for priority BHP registration)

Week 8:

M 10/23 **Typed draft due for Paper 2 – bring 3 copies**
Peer Review of drafts

W 10/25 Analysis of sample drafts

Week 9:

M 10/31 Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" – **handout – QUIZ 9**

W 11/2 **Paper 2 due, along with instructor's comments on intro/thesis**
Discuss Paper 3 assignment; finish discussing Baldwin

Week 10

M 11/6 King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" – WI, 173 – 189 – **QUIZ 10**

W 11/8 **Typed introduction, thesis, & subtopics due for Paper 3**
Finish discussing King

If time: Discuss some intro/theses

[Th 11/9] Strongly encouraged: By Special Invitation to BHP students:
 Preview performance of Urinetown (Musical Play) – 7:00
 Yvonne Theater (Fine Arts, first floor)
 Reception before the performance – time to be announced

THEME 3: JUSTICE & OPPRESSION; MATERIALISM; HISTORICAL CHANGE

Week 11

M 11/13 Marx, “The Communist Manifesto” – WI 356 – 376 – **QUIZ 11**
 [Distribute Faulkner]

W 11/15 Faulkner, “Barn Burning” – **handout** – **QUIZ 12**
 Finish discussing Marx; Begin discussing Faulkner

Week 12

M 11/20 **Paper 3 due with instructors' comments on intro/thesis**
 Finish discussing Faulkner
 Begin reading Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
 Background lecture on Achebe

W 11/22 NO CLASS: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! [Finish reading Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*]

Week 13

M 11/27 Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* **QUIZ 13**

W 11/29 Continue discussing Achebe
 Discuss Paper 4 assignment
 [Distribute Wilford & Diamond handouts]

11/29 Required: Film screening/discussion: 4:30 BLC Theater –
Crash

Week 14

M 12/4 Wilford, “Discovering Columbus” – **handout** – **QUIZ 14**
 Diamond, “Collision at Cajamarca” - **handout**
 Discuss Paper 4 assignment

W 12/6 **Introduction, thesis, and subtopics for Paper 4 due for in-class peer review and discussion**

Course evaluations

Please note: There is no in-class final exam in this course. SEE NEXT PAGE for Paper 4 instructions.

PAPER 4, along with graded papers 1, 2, & 3, due on official exam date—TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH by 1:30 p.m.

(Please bring separate copies to each instructor's office—Dr. Osborne: FA 226; Dr. Salvatore: FA 318; graded papers should be attached to Dr. Salvatore's copy.) *If you wish, you may hand in Paper 4 ahead of time.* In any case, you are responsible for keeping a paper and electronic copy at home/in your dorm until course grade is received.

IMPORTANT for BHP 150: Find out whether your instructors will be using *A World of Ideas* and *The Three Theban Plays* next semester; if so, do NOT sell these books. (Drs. Callahan/Salvatore's class will use these books.)