

Humanities 117: Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities

Section no. 1. Mon. and Wed., 1:30–2:50pm, Cobb 104.

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Course Requirements

Classroom participation, including attendance at and participation in writing seminars. One 4–6 page paper, due in class Mon., May 2, and one 8–12 page paper, due Wed., June 8. (Note: there will probably be one rescheduled class, during the week of Apr. 25. Stay tuned for details.)

Texts

Emerson, *Self-Reliance and Other Essays* (Dover).

Hume, *An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*, ed. Schneewind (Hackett).

Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, tr. Wood (Yale).

Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, tr. W. Kaufmann (Vintage).

Nietzsche, *Untimely Meditations*, ed. Breazeale, tr. Hollingdale (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy).

Gene Wolfe, *Shadow and Claw* (Tor).

Gene Wolfe, *Sword and Citadel* (Tor).

All texts *should* be available at the Seminary Coop. (However, there are apparently some problems with Nietzsche's *Untimely Meditations*, which we'll deal with as necessary when the time comes.) Readings not on the above list will be made available as photocopies. (As was the case last quarter, you can use a different translation/edition at your own risk.)

Readings

Mon., Mar. 28: first meeting (no reading).

Wed., Mar. 30: Hume, *Enquiry*, §§I and II.

Mon., Apr. 4: Hume, *Enquiry*, §§III and IV.

Wed., Apr. 6: Hume, *Enquiry*, §§ V and IX.

Mon., Apr. 11: Kant, *Groundwork*, Preface and sect. 1.

Wed., Apr. 13: Kant, *Groundwork*, sect. 2, pp. 22–40, end of no. 4 (Ak. 406–near end of Ak. 423) (ending “of all the hope of the assistance that he wishes for himself”).

Mon., Apr. 18: Kant, *Groundwork*, sect. 2, pp. 40–55, end of first paragraph (Ak. 423–beginning of Ak. 437) (ending “as far as may be done, to bring the action nearer to intuition”).

Wed., Apr. 20: Kant, *Groundwork*, sect. 2, pp. 55–8, until just before the heading “Autonomy of the will” (Ak. 437–40) (ending “itself subject to this legislation”); sect. 3, pp. 63–71, through the end of the subsection titled “How is a categorical imperative possible?” (Ak. 446–55).

Mon., Apr. 25: **no class** (second day of Passover).

Wed., Apr. 27: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* and *Critique of Practical Reason* (short selections) (a total of about eight pages, but, warning, very rough going).

Thurs., Apr. 28 and/or Fri., Apr. 29: Emerson, “Self-Reliance” (in your book).

Mon., May 2: Emerson, “History” (in your book); “Circles” (handout) (and **first paper due**).

Wed., May 4: Nietzsche, “On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life,” Foreword and §§1–3, 5–6 (*Untimely Meditations*, pp. 59–77 and 83–95).

Mon., May 9: Nietzsche, “Schopenhauer as Educator” §§1–2 (pp. 127–36); §§4–5 (pp. 146–161); from §6, the description of the scholar (p. 169, 2nd par.—beginning “Science is related to wisdom”—through p. 174, 2nd par.—ending “cannot be found in him either.”); §8 (pp. 182–94).

Tues., May 10 (evening) (and/or other nights this week): screening of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai: Across the Eighth Dimension*.

Wed., May 11: Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Preface and pt. 1 (pp. 1–32).

Mon., May 16: Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, pt. 2 (pp. 35–56) and §§54, 61–2, 186–8, 202–7, 215, 219, 221, 225–31, 239, 260–62, 265, 273, 275–96 (about 74 pages total).

Wed., May 18: Wolfe, *Shadow and Claw*, pp. 7–94 (from *The Shadow of the Torturer*). (Note: please do read p. 7, the page before the first page.)

Mon., May 23: Wolfe, *Shadow and Claw* pp. 105–117, 136–first paragraph on 191, 195–198, 203–210 (from *The Shadow of the Torturer*); 217–238, 263–295, 305 (beginning with second paragraph)–323, 329–339 (from *The Claw of the Conciliator*).

Wed., May 25: Wolfe, *Sword and Citadel*, pp. 9–68, 197–200 (from *The Sword of the Lictor*).

Mon., May 30: **no class** (Memorial Day).

Tues., May 31 (evening) (and/or other nights this week): screening of *The Big Lebowski*.

Wed., June 1: Wolfe, *Sword and Citadel*, pp. 205–228, 239–243, 255–259, 272–top half of 274, 321–340 (except for bottom two lines), 353–385, 392–407 (from *The Citadel of the Autarch*).

Wed., June 8: **final paper due**.