

Integrative Studies 4: Intersections of Nature and Culture II

Shimer College
Spring 2016
i Classroom
MWF, 1:45-3:05

Instructor: Adam Kotsko
Office: Across the open lounge from Infinity classroom; shared with Ann Dolinko
E-mail: a.kotsko@shimer.edu

Course Description

The two-semester upper-level sequence of Integrative Studies 3 and 4 builds on the student's previous knowledge of the natural world and the human world. These courses investigate the questions and experiences that produced major theories and artistic achievements in the liberal arts and sciences. Relying on classic texts, great works of the fine arts, and outstanding modern scholarship, students explore crucial concepts and artistic creations that shape our thinking about ourselves, our responses to other human beings, and our connection to the living world.

Course Objectives

- Describe, analyze, and contextualize imaginative literature in effective speech and writing.
- Demonstrate facility with the concepts and vocabulary of theories of human development.
- Describe the basic elements of animal behavior, especially aggression, dominance, and violence, applying them to human beings and comparing them to texts in other courses.
- Review and summarize the data supporting evolutionary arguments and critique both the data and the arguments.
- Use fundamental concepts and terminology of the disciplines studied in the course accurately and in discussions of issues beyond their immediate use in course texts.
- Participate effectively in discussion by contributing carefully considered comments, asking genuine questions, listening carefully to answers, and answering others' questions with critical open-mindedness.
- Discuss controversial issues intelligently and respectfully.
- Generate productive comparisons across disciplines and genres.
- Derive conclusions based on evidence found in various kinds of texts.
- Integrate one's own and others' perspectives toward new insights into course materials.
- Recognize and articulate ethical perspectives different from one's own.

Required Course Texts

Albers, *The Interaction of Colors*
Alpers, *The Vexations of Art*
Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*
DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
Durkheim, *Suicide*

Ehrlich, *Human Natures*
The Marx-Engels Reader
The Norton Anthology of Poetry
Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*
Rilke, *Letters on Cézanne*
Taylor, *Learning to Look*
Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Other readings will be provided in a course packet and are marked as such on the syllabus: (**).

Access to Fine Art Materials

To have easy access to the fine arts materials discussed in class, students will need to use two free online services: Google Drive (included in your Shimer Google account) and Spotify (a music streaming service). I will share a Google Drive folder containing the visual artworks and Spotify playlists containing the music.

Student Assessment

WRITING (50% of final grade): In Integrative Studies 4 you will prepare and complete a **research essay** on a topic of your choice. We will discuss possible topics in the first weeks of the course. Once you have selected a topic, you will be responsible for finding, securing and reading your research sources and then writing an essay that discusses an issue based on your research.

This essay will be the one writing assignment for this course. The final draft will be due at the end of the semester. As you will see on the course calendar, however, you will write and submit the essay in stages. You will complete a precis, an outline and a rough draft before the final draft. You will be graded on each of these assignments, and you will receive an F if you turn any of them in late. The final grade of your research paper will be determined according to the following formula: precis: 10%, outline: 20%, rough draft: 20% and final draft: 50%.

You will receive detailed descriptions of the expectations for each of these assignments. You will also receive detailed descriptions of research resources available to you through the Shimer and IIT libraries as well as other area libraries.

DISCUSSION: (50% of the final grade): You are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate in the discussion of each day's reading. This means reading the materials carefully, making a serious effort to understand the assignment prior to class, and bringing to class questions about the text which you would like to be discussed. A good discussion depends upon careful preparation and respect for the text, willingness to speak and to listen and learn from others, open-mindedness to other points of view, and mutual respect on the part of all members of the class. It is not about winning an argument, or simply having one's own ideas prevail. Our common goal is to gain a deeper understanding of the text.

This course will follow the standard Shimer attendance policy—more than three absences will put you in danger of failing the course, and each absence will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

In order to make up for an absence, students must attend a cultural or academic event relevant to the content of the course. They must write a one-page reflection on their experience, along with some piece of physical evidence that they attended this event (a ticket, program, photo on their phone, etc.). All events must be approved in advance by the instructor.

Events relevant to Integrative Studies 3 might include the following:

- A symphony concert (the Chicago Symphony Orchestra offers \$10 student tickets and Civic Orchestra tickets are free with a \$1 “ticket fee”)
- A visit to the Art Institute (to which all Shimer students have free admission) or another art museum or gallery
- An academic lecture related to the course material
- A poetry or other literary reading

Students may make up for **up to two absences** using this policy. These absences must already have been in fact incurred or be planned in advance for some serious reason (necessary travel, surgery, etc.); in general students may not “stock up” on extra absences in advance. In truly exceptional circumstances, alternate arrangements may be made; please do not hesitate to consult with the professor.

Attending events only makes up for the absence itself. To make up for the missed class participation, students may write a one-page summary of the material discussed on the day of their absence, to serve as the starting point for a 30-minute one-on-one discussion with the professor. Students must make an appointment for these discussions within one week of the absence in question. (To be clear: the appointment must be *set* within the week timeframe, but need not actually *take place* during that timeframe.) The same limit of making up two absences applies.

Academic Support Center

Shimer's Academic Support Center, located in the office between the Hutchins and i classrooms, offers assistance with writing, discussion, study skills, math and science. The Center will be open at select times on most weekdays and will be staffed by both faculty members and student tutors. Though the Center's regularly staffed hours are limited, students are free to arrange appointments for other times--just contact Aron Dunlap (a.dunlap@shimer.edu) or the student tutor or faculty member that you are working with (or would like to work with). Writing tutorials are also offered every semester through the Center.

Course Schedule

Wednesday	January 13	Ehrlich, <i>Human Natures</i> , chs. 1-2
Friday	January 15	Ehrlich, <i>Human Natures</i> , chs. 3-4
Monday	January 18	Martin Luther King Day—NO CLASS
Wednesday	January 20	Ehrlich, <i>Human Natures</i> , ch. 5
Friday	January 22	Ehrlich, <i>Human Natures</i> , ch. 6
Monday	January 25	Langer, “Creation” (**)

Wednesday	January 27	Taylor, <i>Learning to Look</i> , chs. 1 and 2
Friday	January 29	Albers, <i>Interaction of Colors</i> (scan whole text, focusing on color exercises).
Monday	February 1	Taylor, <i>Learning to Look</i> , pp. 77-87, 97-109. Art Institute Visit: Impressionists and Cézanne
Wednesday	February 3	Rilke, <i>Letters on Cézanne</i>
Friday	February 5	Alpers, chapter on the studio
Monday	February 8	Listening: “Classical Music Intro” Spotify List Research paper prospectus due
Wednesday	February 10	Listening: “Pictures Piano” and “Pictures Orchestrated” Spotify Lists
Friday	February 12	<i>Norton Anthology of Poetry</i> : appendix on “Versification” (2027-2052) Exercises on rhythm in-class
Monday	February 15	<i>Norton</i> : Shakespeare #18 (259), #130 (267-68), #138 (268); Donne, #14 (320); Milton, “How Soon Hath Time” (410); “When I Consider How My Light is Spent” (418); Millay, “Euclid Alone Has Looked On Beauty Bare” and “I, Being a Woman” (1383-84); cummings, “next to of course god” (1394)
Wednesday	February 17	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , editorial intro and Book I Music of Rebel and Schoenberg in class
Friday	February 19	Dean’s Break—NO CLASS
Monday	February 22	Listening: “Handel – Apollo e Dafne” Spotify List, following along with libretto (**) Sculpture by Bernini in class
Wednesday	February 24	Alpers, ch. 5
Friday	February 26	Ovid, Books 6 and 7 Music and art on Medea in class
Monday	February 29	Alpers, ch. 6 Outline of Research Paper Due (including sources)
Wednesday	March 2	Engels, “The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State” (in <i>Marx-Engels Reader</i> , pp. 734-759)
Friday	March 4	Chodorow, “Family Structure and Feminine Personality” (**)
Monday	March 7	Ortner, “Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?” and “So, <i>Is</i> Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?” (**)
Wednesday	March 9	Benedict, <i>Patterns of Culture</i> , Preface, Introduction, Chapters I-III

Friday	March 11	Benedict, <i>Patterns of Culture</i> , Chapters VII & VIII
Monday	March 14	Spring Break—NO CLASS
Wednesday	March 16	Spring Break—NO CLASS
Friday	March 18	Spring Break—NO CLASS
Monday	March 21	DuBois, <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> , The Forethought, Chapters 1-3
Wednesday	March 23	DuBois, <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> , Chapters 4-7
Friday	March 25	DuBois, <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> , Chapters 8-10
Monday	March 28	Rough Draft of Research Paper Due
Wednesday	March 30	DuBois, <i>Souls of Black Folk</i> , Chapters 11-14, The Afterthought
Friday	April 1	<i>Norton Anthology of Poetry</i> : All poems of Langston Hughes (1429-1435), Countee Cullen (1443-1446), Gwendolyn Brooks (1586-89), and Audre Lorde (1858-60), and the selected Spirituals (1057-1060)
Monday	April 4	Durkheim, <i>Suicide</i> , Introduction; Book II, Chs. 1-2, Ch. 3, Sections I-II (pp. 15-29, 147-200)
Wednesday	April 6	Durkheim, <i>Suicide</i> , Book II, Ch. 3, Section VI, (pp. 224-233); Chap. 4-5, (pp. 234-305)
Friday	April 8	Durkheim, <i>Suicide</i> , Book III, Chs. 1, 3 (pp. 329-362, 403-437) N.B.: Last day to withdraw
Monday	April 11	Marx, “Estranged Labour” and “Society and Economy in History” in <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> , pp. 70-81, 136-142
Wednesday	April 13	Marx, “Private Property and Communism” and “The Meaning of Human Requirements,” in <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> , pp. 81-101.
Friday	April 15	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Author's Introduction, Chapters 1-2
Monday	April 18	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 to p. 87
Wednesday	April 20	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Chapter 5
Friday	April 22	Kafka, “A Report to the Academy” (**) N.B.: All written work due by 5pm