

HUMA 11600 Sec. 10**Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities****Winter 2005****1:30-2:50 TTh Cobb 403**

David Vessey
3:00-4:00 TTh Cobb 220
vesseyd@uchicago.edu

Erica Holberg
ericah@uchicago.edu

Texts:

Michel Montaigne *Essays* (Penguin)
Francis Bacon *Selected Philosophical Writings* (Hackett)
William Shakespeare *Tempest* (Folger Library)
Rene Descartes *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Cambridge)
David Hume *Treatise on Human Nature* (Oxford)
Photocopies of writings by Diderot and Rousseau

Course Description:

In this class we will look closely at some main philosophical themes in early modern Europe, with a special emphasis on themes of primitivism. The class will be run predominantly as a discussion, so it is understood that students will come to class having finished and digested the readings and prepared to discuss. Since discussion is the focus of the class and discussions can not be made up if missed, attendance and participation are central parts of the final grade. In addition there will be three five- to six-page papers spaced throughout the term. The assignment for the papers will be handed out one week prior to the papers being due. The papers must be typed, double spaced in twelve point Times/Times New Roman with 1" margins. Two copies should be delivered to David Vessey's mailbox in the Philosophy Department, Classics 17, by 4:00 on the date due. They will not be accepted late unless prior arrangements have been made. A typo policy applies to all graded written work. The student will lose one grade (for example from a B to a B-) for every four typos; typos include spelling errors, grammatical errors, improper use of gendered pronouns, and failure to properly cite quotations. Failure to properly cite quotations is different from plagiarism. Plagiarism is a sign that the student has so lost track of his or her proper role as a student that there's no point in him or her continuing in the class (much less in college) at this point in his or her life. Finally there will be 2-3 writing workshops run by Erica Holberg. Attendance at these is required as developing writing skills is a central goal of the class. If you have disabilities that require special accommodation speak to Prof. Vessey as soon as possible at the start of the term.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation in Discussions	25%
Three Five- to Six-Page papers (approx. 1500–1800 words)	25% each

Tue. Jan 4	Introductions	
Thurs Jan 5	Montaigne	“On Experience”
Tue Jan 11	Montaigne	“On Cannibals”
Thurs Jan 13	Shakespeare	<i>The Tempest</i> Acts I-IV
Monday Jan 17 4:00	Paper 1 Due	
Tue Jan 18	Shakespeare	<i>The Tempest</i> Act V, Epilogue
Thurs Jan 20	Bacon	<i>The New Atlantis</i>
Tue Jan 25	Bacon	Book I, Aphorisms 1-61 from <i>The New Organon</i>
Thurs Jan 27	Descartes	<i>Meditations</i> Dedicatory Letter, Preface, Synopsis, Meditation I
Tue Feb. 1	Descartes	<i>Meditations</i> Meditation II and III
Thurs Feb 3	Descartes	<i>Meditations</i> Meditation IV
Monday Feb 7 4:00	Paper 2 Due	
Tue Feb 8	Descartes	<i>Meditations</i> Meditation V
Thurs Feb 10	Descartes	<i>Meditations</i> Meditation VI
Tue Feb 15	Diderot	“Supplement to Bougainville's Voyage”
Thurs Feb 17	Diderot	“Supplement to Bougainville's Voyage”
Tue Feb 22	David Hume	<i>Treatise</i> Introduction; Book I, Part I (all)
Thurs Feb 14	David Hume	<i>Treatise</i> Book I, Part IV, Sections I & II
Mon Feb 28 4:00	Paper 3 Due	
Tue March 1	David Hume	<i>Treatise</i> Book I, Part IV, Section VII; Abstract.
Thurs Mar 3	David Hume	<i>Treatise</i> Book III; Part I (all)
Tue Mar 8	Rousseau	from <i>On the Origin of Language</i>