

HMXP102: The Human Experience: Who am I?¹

Winthrop University

Spring, 2011; 3 hours

Section 004, WF, 11:00am-12:15pm, KINA308

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Course Description

This course emphasizes student engagement with life-changing ideas by reading, analyzing, discussing, and writing about classic texts in five thematic units: self-study; the individual or autonomous self; the communal or social self; the natural or physical self; and the spiritual or sacred self. The focus of these texts and the course generally is the student him/herself: who or what you are, what it is to be a human. Class time is spent systematically examining our texts, connecting their ideas across the course units, and encouraging and coaching mature thought, discourse, and writing about the self.

Prerequisite: WRIT 101 with a grade of C- or better.

Note: All Winthrop University students must pass HMXP102 with a grade of “C-” or better in order to graduate. And no student may enroll in CRTW201 without a grade of “C-” or better in HMXP102.

Course Goals

HMXP102 helps students make progress toward several of their goals (below) in the Winthrop University Touchstone Program.

Goal One: To communicate clearly and effectively in standard English

Goal Three: To use critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a variety of research methods

Goal Four: To recognize and appreciate human diversity (both past and present) as well as the diversity of ideas, institutions, philosophies, moral codes, and ethical principles

Goal Six: To understand aesthetic values, the creative process, and the interconnectedness of the literary, visual, and performing arts throughout the history of civilization

Goal Seven: To examine values, attitudes, beliefs, and habits which define the nature and quality of life

¹ All statements in this syllabus are subject to change. In the event of minor changes to the syllabus – e.g., to a reading requirement – the student will be so-informed by announcement in class. In the event of a more substantive change, the student will be so-informed in writing as well as by announcement in class.

Student Learning Outcomes

The successful HMXP student will

- be an active engaged learner,
- understand the self as both isolated and connected,
- understand that knowledge is constructed,
- see knowledge as connected and related, and
- develop the abilities for reflective participation in a university community.

Texts (required)

Burmeister et al: *The Human Experience: Who Am I?* 6th ed. Tapestry Press, 2009

Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*. Owen Knowles, ed. Penguin Classics, 2007

Course Requirements

Class Preparation and Participation

- Reading assigned materials
- Completing reading study guides
- Contributing productively to class discussion

Three Essays

- Essays will be written for sections I, II, and III-IV of the course.
- Preparation of drafts will be encouraged.
- Topics to be announced; see the schedule below for dates.

Oral Presentations

- Art Connection: Each student will present a 5-10 minute report on some work of visual, auditory, performance, literary, or other art, explaining its significance to course materials.
- Students will work in groups to compose a presentation on the history and setting of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

Final Exam

- A cumulative, in-class final exam will be given in our University-scheduled time slot.
- Exam Schedule:
 - o Section 004: 11:30am-2:00pm, Monday, December 12.

Grading

Preparation, Participation: 400 points

Essay #1: 75

Essay #2: 100

Essay #3: 150

Oral Presentations arts): 25

Oral Presentation (Conrad): 50

Final Exam: 200

Total: 1000

Grading Scale: we will use the +/- system, as follows:

A	940-1000	B-	800-829
A-	900-939	C+	770-799
B+	870-899	C	730-769
B	830-869	C-	700-729

D+	670-699	D-	600-629
D	630-669	F	0-599

Extra Credit:

- Small amounts of extra credit may be offered at the instructor's discretion.
- See also the reading exercises.

Classroom Conduct and Policies

- The following policies are attempts to define a reasonable standard of conduct in class. I reserve the right to alter or interpret them as conditions require.
- Students wishing to be excepted from any of these policies may consult with me; without my express indication, however, these policies apply to all students at all times without exception. The student's continued presence in this course signals his/her full understanding and acceptance of these policies.
- Personal Conduct Statement: Regardless of your sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, political persuasion, age, or ability, you will be treated and respected in this class as a human being. Your continued presence in this course signals your commitment to act likewise.
- For information regarding Winthrop University policy on student academic conduct, please see "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" in the online *Student Handbook*.²
- To the extent possible, we will conduct our class in seminar style, focusing on discussion rather than lecture.

Attendance, Preparation, Participation

- Attendance is required, as are preparation for and participation in class discussion.
- Participation in class includes paying attention and contributing to discussion. Failure to participate may result in the student's being counted absent (unexcused) and/or being asked to leave the classroom.
- Preparation for class entails having completed all assigned readings and other exercises, so as to be able to discuss them intelligently. Failure to prepare adequately for class may result in the student's being marked absent (unexcused) and/or being asked to leave the classroom.
- Attendance:
 - o I will take roll each day. Each unexcused absence after your first two will result in a 50 point reduction of your overall grade.
 - o Three tardies = 1 unexcused absence.
 - o Leaving the classroom during class or before I have concluded it will count as an unexcused absence. If you must leave the room, you must request permission from me.
 - o I am happy to excuse an absence for reasonable, legitimate reasons. If you wish to be excused from class, you should contact me *before* the class in question. After the fact, in order to excuse an absence, I will require documentation of the legitimacy of your absence.
 - o Athletics and other University sponsored activities: I am happy to support your school-sponsored event. If you must miss class for such activities, you must provide appropriate documentation prior to each instance. It will be your

² See <http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>.

responsibility to ensure that you meet course requirements on or before the date/s of your absence/s.

Cell-Phones

- The use of cell-phones in class is strictly prohibited.
- Students using cell-phones in class for any purpose (texting, checking the time, etc.) will be penalized as follows:
 - o First Offense: the student will be asked to leave the classroom; an unexcused absence will be recorded.
 - o Second Offense: the student will be asked to leave the classroom; an unexcused absence will be recorded; the student will receive a 100 point reduction in course grade.
 - o Third Offense: the student will be asked to leave the classroom; an unexcused absence will be recorded; the student will receive a 301 point reduction in course grade (in addition to the above). Note that this will result in the student failing the course. The student will not be permitted to return to class.
- In order to enforce this policy, students are required to keep their laps and the desk space in front of and around them clear and unobstructed from the instructor's view.
- Students facing emergency situations requiring cell-phone contact during class may consult with the instructor, prior to class, in order to be excepted from the above policy.

Other Policies

- No food in the classroom. (University policy.)
- No lap-top computers, except for presentations and other expressly permitted classroom activity.
- Plagiarism: It is your responsibility to understand the University's policy on plagiarism. See www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm. If you are found guilty of plagiarism in this course, you will receive an F for the course and I will report you to the Dean of Students for academic misconduct. You will not be permitted to return to class. If you are unsure of whether your use of borrowed information counts as plagiarism, consult with me, your English instructor, or the staff in the writing center.
- Disabilities: Students with medical or other recognized disability must contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-2233, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me immediately (and prior to the first test or assignment) so that I am aware of your accommodations. If your accommodations affect every test/assignment, please remind me prior to each one.
- Turnitin: We will use the Turnitin website, so please register with the site if you have not previously done so. The URL is <http://www.turnitin.com>. If you need instructions on how to do this, see my web-site: <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/oakesm>; click on the links to Turnitin Instructions.
 - o Turnitin course ID: 4207388
 - o Turnitin password: Oakes004

Schedule

- Fall Break
- Last day to withdraw from a Fall semester course:
- Thanksgiving Break

October 15-18
Friday, Oct. 21
Nov. 23-27

Week of ...	Wednesday	Friday
Section I: Self Study		
Central Question: What is the nature of and prospects for self-study?		
8/22	Course Introduction	Plato (3-6)
8/29	Bohm (12-14) Mill (59-63)	Plato/Socrates (15-29) Writing Instruction
9/5	<i>Essay I due</i>	
Section II: Self and Other		
Central Question: What do these readings tell us about the relationship between the self and others?		
		Jefferson (83-86)
9/12	Friedman (64-72)	Menkiti (181-188)
9/19	Swimme (163-165)	Marx (174-180)
9/26	Myers (113-115) Cisneros (160)	Gilligan (138-151)
10/3	Writing Instruction	DuBois (116-120)
10/10	Loury (121-126)	<i>Essay II due</i>
Fall Break, 10/15-18		
Section III: Self and Nature		
Central Question: What is the relationship between the human self and the natural order?		
10/17	Ridley (203-212) Presentation Preparation	Orr (258-262)
10/24	Wilson (233-245)	<i>Conrad Presentations I and II</i> Conrad (viii-xii, xxxv-xlviii, 99-109)
10/31	<i>Conrad Presentations III and IV</i> Conrad (1-37)	Conrad (38-96)
Section IV: Self and Meaning		
Central Question: What meaning, if any, does human existence have?		
11/7	Camus (297-299)	Moore (300-303)
11/14	Tillich (271-275)	Writing Instruction
11/21	Thanksgiving (no WF classes)	

11/28	Film	Film <i>Essay III due</i>
12/5	x	x
Final Exam	11:30am-2:00pm, Monday, December 12	