**Humanities 401. Introduction to the Humanities: Ethics**

University of New Hampshire, Humanities Program, Fall 2012. TR 9:40-11:00 a.m., PCAC M223.

This course meets the following university-wide requirements: Gen. Ed. 8. Discovery Humanities Category, WI.

Instructors: Catherine Peebles (section 1), David Richman (section 2), Nicole Ruane (section 3)

Office Hour
Peebles: TR, 11:30-1:00 and by appointment. Huddleston 104. catherine.peebles@unh.edu, 862-3638
Richman: T, 2:30 to 4:20; W, 3:10 to 4:20, and by appointment. PCAC M317. dmr@cisunix.unh.edu, 862-2218
Ruane: W, 11:30-1:30, and by appointment. Huddleston 332. nicole.ruane@unh.edu

**Humanities 401** takes as its subject this semester: Ethics. Is it possible to live the good life and do the right thing? Martin Luther King taught that we all live in terrible tension between our responsibilities to ourselves and our responsibilities to others. How do we negotiate that difficult middle ground between criminality and sainthood? Suppose you live in a town whose economy depends on a popular health resort—and you discover that the health resort is in fact making people sick? If you tell the truth about this, your business will fail. If you conceal the truth, the many tourists who come to your town and patronize your business will get sick and may die. What do you do?

**Required Readings and Screening:**

Complete Reading/Screening list:

*Note: All texts are available on Blackboard except where otherwise noted. Blackboard texts are found under the “course documents” rubric of the course’s Blackboard website. Students are required to print them out and have them in class on the appropriate dates. No electronic devices in class, please.*

- Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”
- Genesis
- The Decalogue (excerpts from the Book of Exodus and Deuteronomy)
- Book of Job
- Gospel of Luke
- Plato, *Apology* and *Crito* (in *Five Dialogues*) (available at the Durham Book Exchange)
- Aristotle, Book 1 of the *Politics*
- Abraham Lincoln, selections
- Lev Tolstoy, from *Anna Karenina*
- Henrik Ibsen, *Enemy of the People*
- Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* (available at the Durham Book Exchange)
- Dalai Lama, *Ethics for the New Millennium* (available at the Durham Book Exchange)
BOOKS TO PURCHASE (available at the Durham Book Exchange on Main Street)
Sophocles, The Theban Plays (Robert Fagles, translator)
Plato, Five Dialogues
Dalai Lama, Ethics for the New Millennium
Rachel Carson, Silent Spring
Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem A Report on the Banality of Evil

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Coming to class prepared, having done the assigned reading or screening and made extensive notes on it, and having carefully reviewed lecture notes. This course involves a considerable reading load, and students should budget their out-of-class work time accordingly. Students are expected and required to devote a minimum of six to eight hours per week to class preparation. Preparing for this class involves reading and rereading the assigned work carefully, underlining important passages, making notes in the margins, and making notes in your notebook. Your own notes should range from copying significant sections of a text and definitions of new vocabulary words, to writing down specific questions you have, to formulating critical responses and interpretations. You are required to look up in a good dictionary every vocabulary word with which you are unfamiliar (the Oxford English Dictionary, available through the Library tab on Blackboard, is the best source). And you are required to bring formulated questions to each meeting. Your class preparation grade will be based upon your contribution of salient questions and interpretations, and your ability to answer cogently when called upon.

Attendance is required. A student who misses three classes during the semester will lose a full letter grade for each subsequent absence, and must make an appointment to discuss the problem with her/his section leader. There is no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. The penalty scheme for attendance takes into account the occasional emergency or illness. Accordingly, students are allowed three absences with no penalty. After that, each absence lowers the grade by one letter-grade.

Assignments. Exam 1 will be short-answer in format, and exam 2, which is cumulative, will be in essay format. Students will turn in one short (3- to 4-page) paper, and one 5- to 7-page paper that will be a close reading based on one of our texts. Papers for Professor Richman should be e-mailed to him at dmr@cisunix.unh.edu as Word documents before the start of class on the day they are due. Papers for Professors Peebles and Ruane should be turned in at the beginning of class the day they are due. All papers should be typed, double-spaced, use Times New Roman, size 12 font, and follow MLA style. For examples of proper citation format, go to: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/examples/about.html or to another of the sites listed by the UNH library at http://www.library.unh.edu/reference/citation.shtml. Students will also produce two assignments related to the final paper: a thesis-claim and proposal (1-page), and a polished draft.

“Make-ups”
There are no “make-up” exams in this course. No late assignments will be accepted. If you must be absent the day something is due, make arrangements to get the assignment turned in on time or early. Late assignments will earn a grade of zero.
Grading (breakdown by percentage of final grade):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper: proposal</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper: polished draft</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper: final draft</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Honesty: We take the UNH Academic Honesty policy seriously, since trust is essential to any intellectual community, whether a whole college, a large course, or a small seminar. We refer any instance of academic dishonesty to the student's college dean and recommend dismissal from the university as the most appropriate penalty. Be sure you are familiar with UNH’s academic honesty policy, which you can reread in the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is, and making sure you do not commit it. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, you may see the on-line tutorial at: [http://www.unh.edu/liberal-arts/plagiarism/plagiarismHome.cfm](http://www.unh.edu/liberal-arts/plagiarism/plagiarismHome.cfm).

Documented Disabilities: The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). Contact DSS at (603) 862-2607 or disability.office@unh.edu. If you have received Accommodation Letters for this course from DSS, please provide your section leader (Richman or Peebles) with that information privately in our office so that we can review those accommodations with you.
COURSE TIME-TABLE

All readings should be completed by the date they are first listed. Readings made available on Blackboard must be printed out and read in hard-copy. Always bring the reading with you to class.

| Week 1 | T 8/27     | Introduction to the course |
|        | R 8/29    | Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” |

| Week 2 | T 9/3     | Sophocles, Antigone |
|        | R 9/5     | Sophocles, Antigone |

| Week 3 | T 9/10    | Genesis |
|        | R 9/12    | the Decalogue (excerpts from the Book of Exodus and Deuteronomy) |

| Week 4 | T 9/17    | Book of Job |
|        | R 9/19    | Gospel of Luke |

Short paper due today (3-4 pages)

| Week 5 | T 9/24    | Plato, Apology |
|        | R 9/26    | Plato, Crito |

| Week 6 | T 10/1    | Aristotle, Book 1 of the Politics |
|        | R 10/3    | Aristotle, Book 1 of the Politics |

| Week 7 | T 10/8    | REVIEW SESSION |
|        | R 10/10   | **No class meeting. Exam #1:** Posted on Bb just before the class meeting time. Students download the exam, and type it and save it on a computer. **David Richman’s students:** email exam as an attachment to dmr@unh.edu no later than 11:10 a.m. Be sure that the subject line consists of your full name and the word “exam.” **Catherine Peebles’ students:** print out exam and deliver it to office door no later than 11:40 a.m. (Huddleston 104). **Nicole Ruane’s students:** print out exam and deliver it to office door no later than 11:40 a.m. (Huddleston 332). |

| Week 8 | T 10/15   | Kant, What Is Enlightenment? |
|        | R 10/17   | Lincoln, selections |
Week 9
T 10/22  Lincoln, selections
R 10/24  Tolstoy, from *Anna Karenina*
Thesis claim and paper proposal due (one-page)

Week 10
T 10/29  Tolstoy, from *Anna Karenina*
R 10/31  Ibsen, *Enemy of the People*

Week 11
T 11/5   Ibsen, *Enemy of the People*
R 11/7   Carson, *Silent Spring*

Week 12
T 11/12  NO CLASS (MONDAY SCHEDULE)
R 11/14  Carson, *Silent Spring*
Final paper: polished draft due (5-7 pages)

Week 13

Week 14
T 11/26  Film: *The Trial of Adolf Eichmann*
R 11/28  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: NO CLASS

Week 15
T 12/3   Tenzin Gyatso, the Dalai Lama, from *Ethics for the New Millennium*
R 12/5   RECAPITULATION AND REVIEW
         FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT
         Final paper due today, beginning of class.
         Final exam handed out: due Monday, Dec. 9 by 12:00 noon.
         David Richman’s section: e-mail exam as attachment to dmr@unh.edu (David
         Richman’s section), with your full name and the word “exam” in subject line.
         Catherine Peebles’ section: Print and hand-deliver to Huddleston 104.
         Nicole Ruane’s section: Print and hand-deliver to Huddleston 332.