**HUMANITIES 401. INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES: MARRIAGE**

University of New Hampshire, Humanities Program, Fall 2012. TR 2:10 -3:30, Murkland G17.

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

Instructors: Catherine Peebles (section 1), David Richman (section 2)
Office Hour Peebles: TR, 11:30-1:00 and by appointment. Huddleston 104. catherine.peebles@unh.edu, 862-3638
Richman: T, 9:30-10:45; W, 3:10-4:15, and by appointment. PCAC M317. dmr@cisunix.unh.edu, 862-2218

**HUMANITIES 401** takes as its subject this semester: Marriage – the most intimate of relations, the most public of institutions. Why and whom do we marry? Who is allowed to marry, and who is not? To what extent does marriage decrease and fetter our humanity? To what extent does marriage make us most fully and richly human? What are our obligations toward those we marry, and what may we reasonably expect of our chosen partners? And are those partners in fact freely chosen? We will be examining these and related questions through a handful of the thousands of works produced through the ages on this most vexed of subjects.

**REQUIRED READINGS, LISTENING, AND SCREENING:**

Complete Reading/Listening/Screening list:

“8” (play written by Dustin Lance Black and directed by Rob Reiner in 2012 about the “Proposition 8” trial in California) (on Bb)
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court: Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health (2003, on Bb)
Oral arguments in Loving v. Virginia (audio, 1967, on Bb)
Stephanie Coontz, *Marriage, a History* (2005) (excerpts on Bb)
Euripides, *Medea* (431 B.C.E.)
William Shakespeare (1564-1616), a scene from *Julius Caesar* (on Bb)
Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) (excerpts on Bb)
Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (1814)
Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*, part I (1856) (on Bb)
Henrik Ibsen, “A Doll’s House” (1879) (on Bb)
Sigmund Freud, “‘Civilized’ Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness” (1908) (on Bb)
Ingmar Bergman, *Scenes from a Marriage* (1974) (the screenplay) (on Bb)

_Note: Blackboard texts are found under the “course documents” rubric of the course’s Blackboard website. Students are required to print them out._

_The film is on reserve in the Multi-Media Center in the library, and students are required to view it at least once, preferably twice, outside of class, prior to the date it is set for discussion, either during one of the arranged screenings (see time-table), or on their own._
BOOKS TO PURCHASE (available at the Durham Book Exchange on Main Street)
Euripides, Medea (the Robinson Jeffers translation)
Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Coming to class prepared, having done the assigned reading or viewing and made extensive notes on it, and having carefully reviewed lecture notes. This course involves a relatively heavy 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 Professor Peebles 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):

Class participation: 15%  
Paper: proposal: 5%  
Short paper: 15%  
Paper: polished draft: 15%  
Exam #1: 15%  
Paper: final draft: 20%  
Exam #2: 15%

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

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 8/28  Introduction to the course  
R 8/30  “8” (play about “Proposition 8” trial in California) (on Bb)

Week 2
T 9/4  “8,” Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision in Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health; oral arguments (audio) in the Loving v. Virginia case (all on Bb)  
R 9/6  “8,” Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision in Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health; oral arguments (audio) in the Loving v. Virginia case (all on Bb); Cott, Public Vows (excerpt on Bb);

Week 3
T 9/11  Euripides, Medea; Coontz, Introduction and chptrs. 4 and 5 (on Bb)  
R 9/13  Euripides, Medea; Coontz, Introduction and chptrs. 4 and 5 (on Bb), scene from Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar (on Bb)
Week 4
T 9/18  My Dearest Friend (letters of Abigail and John Adams), pp. 3-125
R 9/20  My Dearest Friend (letters of Abigail and John Adams), pp. 126-228; and Coontz, Chptrs. 6-8 (on Bb)
Short paper due today (3-4 pages)

Week 5
T 9/25  My Dearest Friend (letters of Abigail and John Adams), pp. 126-228; and Mary Wollstonecraft, from A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Introduction, chptrs. 1 and 2) (on Bb)
R 9/27  Mary Wollstonecraft, from A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Introduction, chptrs. 1 and 2) (on Bb)

Week 6
T 10/2  Recapitulation and review
R 10/4  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 4:00 p.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 4:30 p.m. (Huddleston 104).

Week 7
T 10/9  Jane Austen, Mansfield Park
R 10/11 Jane Austen, Mansfield Park

Week 8
T 10/16 Jane Austen, Mansfield Park
R 10/18 Jane Austen, Mansfield Park

Week 9
T 10/23 Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary, part I (on Bb)
R 10/25 Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary, part I (on Bb)
Thesis claim and paper proposal due (one-page)

Week 10
T 10/30 Ibsen, “A Doll’s House” (on Bb)
R 11/1 Ibsen, “A Doll’s House” (on Bb)
Week 11
T 11/6  Sigmund Freud, “‘Civilized’ Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness” (on Bb)
R 11/8  Sigmund Freud, “‘Civilized’ Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness” (on Bb)
Final paper: polished draft due (5-7 pages)

Screening times this week for “Scenes from a Marriage” in multi-media classroom (Dimond Library, second floor): Tuesday, 11/13 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, 11/14 at 7:00 p.m. Sign in at screening. Be sure the technician loads the disk that says “The Film” (and not a disk that says “Television Series.”) The film’s running time is 2 hours, 49 minutes.

T 11/13  No class: Monday Schedule
R 11/15  Ingmar Bergman, “Scenes from a Marriage” (film and screenplay; screenplay on Bb)

Week 13
T 11/20  Ingmar Bergman, “Scenes from a Marriage” (film and screenplay; screenplay on Bb)
R 11/22  Thanksgiving Holiday: no class

Week 14
T 11/27  Barack Obama, from The Audacity of Hope (on Bb)
R 11/29  Barack Obama, from The Audacity of Hope (on Bb)

Week 15
T 12/4  Mundy, The Richer Sex: How the New Majority of Female Breadwinners Is Transforming Sex, Love and Family (on Bb)
R 12/6  Mundy, The Richer Sex: How the New Majority of Female Breadwinners Is Transforming Sex, Love and Family (on Bb)
Final paper due today, beginning of class.
Final exam handed out: due Monday, Dec. 10 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.