Spring 2015
Humanities Course Offerings

HUMA 401. Introduction to the Humanities. (team-taught)
Topic: Ethics.
Murphy, Peebles, Richman, Ruane. Discovery: Humanities. WI.
TR 11:10-12:30, Ham Smith 127
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? Humanities 401 will take up meditations on
such central questions by Plato and Aristotle, Sophocles and Ibsen, Abraham
Lincoln, Martin Luther King, and others.

HUMA 513: The Modern World: An Interdisciplinary Introduction
Hight (A), Ferber (B), Polasky (C), DeVries (D). WI. Discovery (See below).
TR 11:10 - 12:30 PCAC A218
This course examines selected topics in the arts, philosophy, literature, and
science in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and takes an interdisciplinary
approach to understanding the ideas and creative works that have contributed to
making the modern world. Specifically, we study the eighteenth and nineteenth
centuries, and consider outstanding works of science, philosophy, art, and
literature in that period. This was the age of Newton, Voltaire, Diderot, Dickens,
Marx, and Darwin. It was the age of the Enlightenment, of political and industrial
revolutions, and of the rise of Romanticism. It gave us our belief in science and
progress, our experience of modern technology and social change, and our ideas
about the role of the artist and the creative thinker in modern society.

How HUMA 513 works:
This course is team-taught by four professors who are experts in art history (section
A), world literature (section B), history (section C), and philosophy (section
D). Regardless of which section a student signs up for, all students attend the same
lectures. Occasionally, students will be divided into their specific sections for
additional discussions. Lectures are taught by each of the four professors in
rotation. Because the professors leading each section emphasize different
disciplinary approaches to the material, students earn a different Discovery credit
depending on which section they're in.

Section A: Arts
Section B: World Cultures
Section C: Hist. Perspectives
Section D: Humanities

(over →)
HUMA 651: Humanities & Science
LeBlanc. Wi. TR, 11:10 - 12:30. Murk G17
This course satisfies a Writing Intensive (WI) requirement.
In this course, we will examine some literary and cinematic works written during the modern period by creative artists in America, Russia, and Europe who either shared the dream of a radiant future life promised by the scientific advances that accompanied modernization or warned apocalyptically of the dire consequences that would inevitably result from the attempt to construct the brave new world that many of the advocates of modernization envisioned. Students will examine works of film and fiction from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century that explore the relationship between human beings and the machines they create (especially robots). Works by Villiers, Capek, Lang, Chaplin, Asimov, Bellamy, Wells, Forster, Bogdanov, and Zamyatin will be included.

HUMA 730. Seminar: Violence and Society
Ruane. Writing Intensive.
TR, 3:50-5:00. Hudd G10
How does violence play a role in society? Does violence have a productive purpose, or should it be eliminated altogether? Why are there so many portrayals of organized violence in literature and philosophy? Moreover, how is violence related to the concept of "sacrifice," an ideology that often occurs in discourse about religion, war, sports, politics and other important institutions? Are violence and sacrifice integral to human behavior? To culture? To gender roles? In this course we will examine portrayals of violence in plays, movies, short stories, and religious texts along with theories of sacrifice and violence from the perspectives of anthropology, sociology, theology, history, ritual criticism, literary criticism, and gender analysis.