

Integrative Studies 250: Philosophy and Human Nature
Integrative Studies 260: Human Nature in the Christian Tradition
Winter 2008 – TTh 9-10:50 – Towers Rm. 117
Course Syllabus

Course Overview and Objectives

This course is an exploration of the philosophical and religious aspects of cosmopolitanism and world-citizenship. What does it mean to be cosmopolitan? What reasons are there to be a cosmopolitan? What difficulties must we deal with if we are to be cosmopolitans? The course will include travel for 10 days to Italy in which we will put our understanding of cosmopolitanism to the test by exploring another culture.

As a result of taking this course students will

- Come to understand cosmopolitanism—its tensions, its benefits, its drawbacks—and begin the (lifelong) project of figuring out how to be a world citizens
- Develop their writing and oral presentation skills
- Take responsibility for leading, if only for a few hours, a group of travelers to a foreign country
- Discover the benefits and challenges of international travel

Instructor Information

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Texts

Many of the course readings are available on Blackboard or on reserve at the Library, but there are two texts to purchase

- Sarah Dunant, *The Birth of Venus: A Novel* New York: Random House, 2004. ISBN 0812968972.
- E. M. Forster, *A Room with a View*. (Available in multiple editions)

Also, please obtain a travel guidebook to Italy. There are guidebooks that focus on Florence and Tuscany, and those would be the best. But books that cover Rome and Venice are also good. The Lonely Planet and The Rough Guide books are highly recommended.

Course Requirements

This is a text-based course, and it is imperative that you do the assigned reading (preferably twice) before coming to class each day. If you don't do the reading, you will not learn the material, and you will find the class sessions much more difficult to follow. We have provided a number of study questions to help you focus your reading on the important themes.

The second imperative is that you have an email account, and regular, reliable access to the internet. All of the course materials will be on the Blackboard site, and e-mail is the best and quickest way we know of to communicate with all of you, and for you all to communicate with each other. We will make regular updates to the course website, and you should get in the habit of checking it daily. If you do not have an email account, visit the Information Technology department, and get set up. It is easy to do, and it is free.

There are four categories of graded work: Citizenship, Blogging, Deep Thought, and Guiding. The specific weights for each of these categories will be decided by the class as a whole. Further descriptions of some of these assignments will be distributed in class.

(20%-40%)	Citizenship (to be graded by other members of the class). This includes things like being responsible both during the quarter and on the trip, participating, being prepared, pulling one's weight when it comes to group and team activities, etc.
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(20%-40%)	Blogging We will be setting questions each week for you to respond to on the class blog. In addition to posting your replies, you should be reading and commenting on the postings of your classmates. There are two elements to this grade: <i>Two Short Essays</i> Twice during the quarter (once during weeks 1-4, and once during weeks 5-8) you will select one of your blog entries and work it up into a two-page paper. (40% of the Blogging grade) <i>Good/Better/Best Blogger</i> At the end of the quarter, everyone in the class will rate everyone else as a blogger. Whose blog entries were interesting to read? Whose provoked a lot of conversation? Whose blog entries demonstrated thoughtfulness and insight? (60% of the Blogging grade)
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(20%-40%)	Deep Thought There will be two opportunities for you to reflect in a deep and sustained way on your experiences in this class: <i>Cosmopolitanism Essay</i> Write an argumentative essay of 1500-2000 words about some aspect of cosmopolitanism. This essay will be due at the end of Week 9. (50% of the Deep Thought grade) <i>What I learned in Italy Report</i> By means of a multi-media presentation (PowerPoint, slide show, digital movie, etc.), report on what you learned in Italy. This should not be a list of what you liked and didn't like, but rather a report of what you learned. These reports will be due the Second Week of Spring Quarter, and will be presented in a public forum to our class as well as to members of the Otterbein community. (50% of the Deep Thought grade)
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(20%-40%)	<p>Guiding Twice during the quarter (once as an individual, and once working in a team) you will have the opportunity to guide the rest of the class:</p> <p><i>Guide a class discussion</i> You will set a short reading for the rest of the class and guide us (for about 30 minutes or so) through the cosmopolitan problem that you are working on for your Cosmopolitanism Essay. This will happen during weeks 7-8. (40% of the Guiding grade)</p> <p><i>Italy Exploration</i> Working in a team, you will prepare us for visiting some locale in Italy. You will research what we are to visit, giving us important background and explaining the significance of the site we are visiting. You will also serve as an informal guide to the site when we are there. (60% of the Guiding grade)</p>
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Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

We strongly recommend that you review the College policy on plagiarism and cheating. It can be found in the Campus Life Handbook on pp. 61-2. Plagiarized work, or work which is the product of academic dishonesty, will receive a grade of 0 (zero) and will be reported to the Academic Dean's office. We have caught plagiarists in the past, and it is an unpleasant experience for the professors as well as for the students involved. Please don't do it. You should review the college policy on academic dishonesty, as well as the discussion of plagiarism in *The Everyday Writer*.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Otterbein College is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities have access to an education. In order to receive appropriate accommodations in our class, you must first be registered with the Office for Disability Services (x1618 or Lmonaghan@otterbein.edu). We strongly encourage you to schedule an individual meeting with one of us as early in the quarter as possible to discuss your needs and accommodation requests. If necessary, we can work cooperatively with the Disability Services Coordinator to determine optimal accommodations in this course.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Weeks 1-3: Generating the Problems	
<p>We will focus on the two overriding course problems, setting out those problems and working our way toward more specific problems which we will attempt to answer.</p> <p>The Problem of Cosmopolitanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Problem of what to do in Italy and how to do it. 	
Jan 8	<p>Introduction to the Course</p> <p>Discussion of the two problems</p>
Jan 10	<p>Read (first 4 are in <i>For Love of Country</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martha Nussbaum, "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism" • Amy Gutman, "Democratic Citizenship" • Charles Taylor, "Why Democracy Needs Patriotism" • Immanuel Wallerstein, "Neither Patriotism nor Democracy" • "Cosmopolitanism" in <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (on Blackboard)

Jan 15	Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kwok Pui-lan, et al, eds. Empire: The Christian Tradition—New Readings of Classical Theologians, chs. 1-4 (on Blackboard) • The Letter to the Romans and parts of Matthew and Luke (TBA)
Jan 17	Continue discussion of Christianity and Cosmopolitanism from Jan 15 th Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material on Consensus
Jan 22	Determine Grade Weights today Continue discussion of Cosmopolitanism (time-permitting)
Jan 24	No Class Today—Work on Contracts
Jan 25	FRIDAY: Contracts for Weeks 4-6 Due today (Submit via Blackboard)
Weeks 4-6 : Working toward solving the problems	
We will only meet on Feb 12 during these weeks to talk about <i>A Room with a View</i> . No class meetings otherwise, though Dr Mills and Dr Jackson will be around for individual consultations and assistance. You should be working on your Cosmopolitan Projects and on your Italy Guiding projects during these weeks.	
Jan 29	
Jan 31	
Feb 5	
Feb 7	
Feb 12	Gather to discuss E.M. Forster, <i>A Room with a View</i>
Feb 14	No class meeting today
Weeks 7-8: Coming together to share answers.	
2-3 students each day will lead the class in a discussion of their specific cosmopolitan problem. Students will assign readings for the class relevant to their problem.	
Feb 19	Class Leaders TBA
Feb 21	Class Leaders TBA
Feb 26	Class Leaders TBA
Feb 28	Class Leaders TBA
Week 9: Working on your Problems	
Mar 4	What it means to be an American Tourist (Reading TBA)
Mar 6	No class today—work on your Cosmopolitan Essay
Mar 7	FRIDAY Cosmopolitan Essays Due today
Week 10: Finalizing Arrangements for the trip	
Mar 11	Discuss, Sarah Dunant, <i>The Birth of Venus</i>
Mar 13	Final arrangements for trip
Mar 18	DEPART FOR ITALY
Mar 29	RETURN TO COLUMBUS