

**IDH 3006, sec. 52 \_\_ HONORS SEMINAR: AESTHETICS, VALUES, AND AUTHORITY, Spring 2007**

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Office Hours: T 3:30-4:30, W 10:30-noon, and by appointment

**This syllabus is subject to change. Please see WebCT for the latest version.**

This semester=s work will further explore last semester=s focus on art, culture, and society as we interrogate the concepts of high and low culture and examine works of literature and other arts that show the limitations of such categories. In addition, by carrying out and presenting major independent projects, students will have the opportunity to further investigate the issues of special interest to them suggested by everything we have examined throughout the year.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

By doing the required reading, participating in class, and carrying out the assignments for the course, students will learn about issues of culture stratification and will explore the connections between the arts and society in examining works of gothic horror, detection, and mystery in the period from 1890 to the present. They will gain skill in doing primary research (based on analysis of texts, personal observation and analysis of other materials, such as interviews) and secondary research (the kind of research done in the library and on the internet), and will complete a major project based on their investigations. Additionally, it is hoped that “outcomes” of the course will present themselves throughout the students’ lives, often in unexpected ways.

**Texts:**

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Novels and Stories, Volume 1* (Bantam)

Lawrence W. Levine, *Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America* (Harvard)

Yasmina Reza, *Art* (Dramatists Play Service)

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, ed. Martin Danahay; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Broadview)

Students are asked to purchase these texts in the editions listed above. All are available at the BBC Bookstore.

**WebCT:**

This class will have its own WebCT site that we will use for the posting of useful web links and to communicate with each other.

Logon instructions may be found at [webct.fiu.edu](http://webct.fiu.edu). **Students will be responsible for all announcements made via WebCT and are asked to respond to them on the system.**

**Assignments:** Readings should be completed by the dates indicated in the syllabus below. This is above all a discussion course, and the best discussions take place when we're all well prepared. To encourage timely and thoughtful reading, students are asked to keep journals about what they have read. These need be only a page in length for each assignment, and may contain thoughts, observations, questions (even the most mundane), or anything else that strikes you in relation to the reading. Anything you have written in your journal may be brought up in class discussion, and questions certainly should be. On days when the reading assignment is marked with an asterisk (\*), students will hand in their journal pages for that assignment (so journals are best kept in a looseleaf notebook or folder). Each journal entry must be handed in by the start of the class for which it is due; **late journals will not be accepted.** These pages will be read by the instructor but not graded. A grade (worth 20% of your grade for the course) will be computed based simply on the number of journals you hand in: 9\_11 will earn an A; 7\_8 a B; 5\_6 a C; 3\_4 a D; and 0\_2 an F. *One* one-page report on a *New York Times* article (as done last semester) may take the place of a missing journal.

Graded assignments include a final project and presentation, the proposal for the final project (both discussed below), and one 5-7-page paper based on articles in the historical database of the *New York Times*. This paper will be worth 15% of your grade in the course and is due at the start of class on Tuesday Feb. 27; further details will follow. **For these two assignments we will be using Turnitin.com; please follow the instructions for signing on. Our class code is 1769629. The enrollment password is 3006, using the numbers in the top line of the keyboard.**

**The Final Project:** This will be the culmination of your work for the year. You have probably already begun to think about the topics that most interested you in the fall semester; additional areas will be introduced in the spring, through classwork and the article presentations. Think of a topic that you truly want to investigate, prepare a project to explore it, and present your project to the class in a 30-40 minute presentation and to the instructor in written form, with supporting materials. I will discuss some examples in class. In order to be sure you have chosen a project that you can carry out effectively, all students are required to hand in a detailed project proposal on Tuesday February 20. The proposal will set out the question you seek to answer, the methods you will use in finding the answer, and how you intend to structure the final report and presentation. The project proposal is worth 10% of your grade. The project presentation is worth 10%, and the project report, as turned in on April 19, is worth 35%.

**Class participation** will count for 10% of your grade in the course but will be worth much more in terms of what you will gain from class discussions.

**Attendance:** Faithful attendance is strongly advised, as are active and thoughtful participation in class discussion. In a discussion class such as this one, absent students by definition fail to contribute to an important part of the learning experience. **Students whose absences are judged excessive may have their final grades lowered for that reason.**

**Plagiarism** is defined as submitting as your own something written in whole or in part by someone else. It is a serious offense and, if confirmed, could result in failure in the course. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with and abide by the information in our WebCT link titled Academic Integrity.

**Reading Assignments:** (Readings are to be done before class; films will be viewed in class.)

T 1/9 Introduction to this half of the course.

R 1/11 *Highbrow/Lowbrow*, Prologue and Chapter 1, "William Shakespeare in America" (1-81)\*

T 1/16 Guest lecture by Lucia Goyen on prison art—and how to create an outstanding final project. Do not miss this!

R 1/18 *Highbrow/Lowbrow*, Chapter 2, "The Sacralization of Culture" (85-168)\*

T 1/23 *Highbrow/Lowbrow*, Chapter 3, "Order, Hierarchy, and Culture" (171-242)\*

R 1/25 Stevenson/Danahay, "Degeneration and Crime," "London in the 1880s," and "Jack the Ripper" (157-91)\*

T 1/30 Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*, Part 1 (pages 3-65).\*

R 2/1 Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*, Part 2 (63-120).\*

T 2/6 Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Five Orange Pips," "The Man With the Twisted Lip"\*

R 2/8 Doyle, "The Speckled Band," "The Yellow Face," "Charles Augustus Milverton"\*

T 2/13 Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (29-145)\*

R 2/15 Stevenson/Danahay, "Reviews" and "Victorian Psychology" (134-43, 192-211)\*

T 2/20 **Project Proposal Due (10%);** *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in film.

R 2/22 Conferences to discuss 1890s newspaper reports.

**February 23, 24, 25: Florida Collegiate Honors Council Conference at FIU**

T 2/27 **Newspaper Reports Due (15%);** Presentations of articles.

R 3/1 Presentations of articles, continued.

T 3/6 Reza, *Art*

R 3/8 Time off to begin working on projects.

T 3/13 Conferences to discuss final projects.

R 3/15 Conferences to discuss final projects.

Spring Break

T 3/27 Project presentations

R 3/29 Project presentations

T 4/3 Class cancelled.

R 4/5 Project presentations

T 4/10 Project presentations

R 4/12 Class cancelled.

T 4/17 Project presentations

R 4/19 **Final projects due at start of class (35%);** project presentations.