

1. NEW 211-001 Perspectives 4 credit hours
Fall 2003, Passerini Humanities I

2. Instructors Ed & JoLee Passerini Office Phone 348-8416
Office 101D Carmichael Home Phone 339-6936 / 454-7552 (cell)
Before 9 p.m. *Please!*
Email ed.passerini@ua.edu OR jolee.passerini@ua.edu
Ofc. Hours Tuesday 11-12
Thursday 11-12 *And By Appointment! ☺*

3. Course Description

The course examines issues that are crucial to human understanding of our place in, relationship to, and survival on the Earth. We will focus specifically on perspectives from which we do not ordinarily see the world. We will examine the perspectives of childhood, aging and dying, the nonhuman (animal and plant) world, and other kinds of Otherness. We will also take a new/different/closer/hands-on look at familiar territory to reexamine what we are: for example, human origins and human characteristics.

We will examine issues such as the presentation of human and non-human points of view, inclusion of political, cultural, or environmental information within a setting such as a novel or film, and persuasion of one's audience through factual information and emotional appeal.

4. New College Seminars

All new college seminars are part of the New College Core that includes two required seminars in Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities. The New College Humanities seminars have also been granted University Core Curriculum status because the courses are truly interdisciplinary introductions to core Humanities issues.

5. Prerequisites None. Class size will not exceed 20.

6. Objectives

Students will (1) examine the familiar through various lenses and articulate the facets, difficulties, and positive impacts of such examination in oral class discussion and written daily assignments; (2) read texts critically from various perspectives (e.g., societal implications, literary merit, philosophical assumptions, authorial assumptions, relationship to or place in the canon of a discipline) and discuss texts both orally and in writing; (3) examine unfamiliar perspectives regarding crucial issues and evaluate those perspectives in oral class discussion and in writing; (4) complete a midterm examination and a final examination in which the student shows understanding of class texts and discussion, ability to draw connections between and among texts and discussion topics, and ability to articulate implications of these connections for the future.

7. Textbooks Available at Alabama Bookstore and the Supe Store.

- *The Starship and the Canoe* by Kenneth Brower.
- *The Scars of Evolution*. by Elaine Morgan.
- *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things* by John C. Ryan and Alan Durning.
- *Diet for a New America* by John Robbins.
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway.
- *The Cost of Living* by Arundhati Roy.

Supplementary Materials

I will provide excerpts from additional texts. We will view films in class. We will also use online (Web) resources.

8. Student Responsibilities and Assignments

(1) Not only to attend class but to come prepared to contribute to our discussion. (2) Not only to treat the instructor with respect but to help create a learning environment where we all may voice our questions, concerns, ideas, and opinions with dignity. (3) To do your best to make this class an interesting, rewarding experience for yourself and for the class as a whole. (4) To complete daily reading quizzes and occasional short writing assignments. (5) To complete a midterm essay examination. (6) To complete a final essay examination.

Late Work

I generally will not accept late work. In the event of a serious illness or other emergency that prevents you from attending class, get in touch with me as soon as possible. Provide documentation of the reason for your absence. Expect that late work will earn partial credit. It is to your benefit to be in class and to come prepared. **Reading quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstance.**

9. Number and Nature of Examinations

In addition to reading quizzes, students will complete a midterm exam consisting of 3 essay questions and a final exam consisting of 5 essay questions.

10. Academic Misconduct

All cases of dishonesty in any work constitute Academic Misconduct. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of Academic Misconduct.

About plagiarism: Plagiarism, the presentation of someone else's words, or ideas, as your own, is stealing. Plagiarism and other dishonorable conduct will not be tolerated in my class.

11. Disability Access Statement

To request disability accommodations, please contact the University of Alabama's Office of Disability Services. Their telephone number is 348-4285.

After you talk to the Office of Disability Services, meet with me. I am glad to make whatever reasonable accommodations will help you to succeed in the course.

12. Grading

Assignments	Possible Point Values	Total Points
Quizzes on Assigned Readings	(apprx.) 20 quizzes at 10 pts. each	(apprx.) 200
Film/Reading Responses	100 pts.	100
Midterm Examination	100 pts.	100
Attendance and Participation	200 pts.	200
Final Examination	100 pts.	100

Students may earn a grade of A+ through F. If you have concerns about your grade during the semester, please talk with me. I will be glad to discuss grades on specific assignments, as well as your overall progress in the course.

13. Attendance Policy

While I do not set a limit on “excused” or “unexcused” absences, students earn credit not only for being in class but for contributing to class discussion. Students who come to class unprepared cannot contribute as much to class discussion. Students who don’t come at all cannot contribute at all. Therefore, they earn no points for attendance or participation. In addition, earning zero points for a missed quiz will lower a student’s grade in that area.

14. Reading Schedule

Wed., Aug. 20	Introduction to the Course.
Mon., Aug. 25	Begin <i>The Starship and the Canoe</i> .
Wed., Aug. 27	Read <i>Starship</i> to p. 88 (Ch. 1-17). Quiz.
Mon., Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday: class does not meet.
Wed., Sept. 3	Read <i>Starship</i> pp. 91-188 (Ch. 18-36). Quiz.
Mon., Sept. 8	Continue <i>Starship</i> .
Wed., Sept. 10	Read <i>Starship</i> to end (all). Quiz.
Mon., Sept. 15	Read <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> to the point that the sun is rising for the third time and the fish begins to circle. Quiz.
Wed., Sept. 17	Read <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> to end. Quiz.
Mon., Sept. 22	Supplementary reading TBA.
Wed., Sept. 24	Read <i>Stuff</i> pp. 4-25. Quiz.
Mon., Sept. 30	Read <i>Stuff</i> pp. 26-52. Quiz.

Wed., Oct. 2	Read <i>Stuff</i> pp. 53-end. Quiz.
Mon., Oct. 7	Midterm Exam due.
Wed., Oct. 9	Begin <i>Scars of Evolution</i> .
Mon. Oct. 13	Read <i>Scars</i> to p. 58. Quiz.
Wed., Oct. 15	Continue <i>Scars</i> .
Mon., Oct. 21	Read <i>Scars</i> to p. 113. Quiz.
Wed., Oct. 23	Continue <i>Scars</i> .
Mon., Oct. 27	Read <i>Scars</i> to end. Quiz.
Wed., Oct. 29	Begin <i>Diet for a New America</i> .
Mon., Nov. 3	Read <i>Diet</i> including all introductory material and Part I. Quiz.
Wed., Nov. 5	Continue <i>Diet</i> .
Mon., Nov. 10	Read <i>Diet</i> , all of Part II. Quiz.
Wed., Nov. 12	Continue <i>Diet</i> .
Mon., Nov. 17	Read <i>Diet</i> , all of Part III. Quiz.
Wed., Nov. 19	Read <i>The Cost of Living</i> to p. 43 (up to “Anyway, back to the story.”). Quiz.
Nov. 24, 26	Thanksgiving Week: Our class does not meet.
Mon., Dec. 1	Read <i>Cost</i> to p. 90 (end of “The Greater Common Good”). Quiz.
Thurs., Dec. 3	Read <i>Cost</i> to end (all of “The End of Imagination”). Quiz.

FINAL EXAM DUE: BY 5:00 P.M., TO ME, IN MY OFFICE, DEC. 10.