IDH 214
Interdisciplinary Seminar - Current Topics of Human Concern

I. IDH 214 Interdisciplinary Seminar - Current Topics of Human Concern - 3
Semester Hours

II. Course Description

This interdisciplinary seminar provides an opportunity for the student to conduct an in-depth investigation of selected topics related to human values and the influence of the sciences on those values. Classroom activities emphasize This course is an interdisciplinary study of the intellectual and cultural developments during the classical and medieval periods with emphasis on the development of literature (especially drama and poetry), philosophy, and art and how they reflect the cultural and historical climate. The course requires research techniques and a strong writing component.

III. Prerequisite

Admission to the Honors Program or consent and completion of at least one humanities-emphasis honors course and one science-emphasis honors course.

IV. Textbook

Due to the varied selection of quality college level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

V. Course Competencies and Objectives

Competencies:

A. The ability to comprehend assigned readings, including plays, poems, philosophical and historical essays from the classical and medieval eras.
B. The ability to respond to assigned readings by writing rhetorically effective expository (and argumentative) multi-paragraph papers.
C. The ability to understand significant developments within classical and medieval art, architecture, and music and to understand how these developments reflect the values of the era.
D. The ability to demonstrate a knowledge of significant Greek myths.
E. The ability to demonstrate tolerance towards ideas different from one’s own.
Objectives:

During this course, the student will do the following under the guidance of the instructor:

A. Analyze assigned major works of the classical period and medieval periods.
   1. Explaining the principal ideas of the writers, especially as they reflect the age.
   2. Noting the major dramatic works and their conventions.
   3. Noting the major poetic conventions of the classical and medieval periods.
   4. Reading, analyzing and discussing works representing major classical philosophies such as Platonic, Epicurean, and Stoic.

B. Plan and write at least five multi-paragraph papers based on assigned writings of the period; essays should reflect:
   1. a clear thesis
   2. unity
   3. logical organization
   4. clear sentence structure
   5. correct grammatical usage
   6. effective use of language

C. Learn to recognize and understand the dominant artistic forms of the classical and medieval ages and to understand how the values of the eras are reflected through the arts.
   1. Viewing and discussing slides of classical and medieval architecture.
   2. Listening to selections of medieval music such as the Gregorian chants.
   3. Defining terms essential to the understanding of the art, architecture, and music of the eras such as Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Gothic, fresco, mosaic and monophonic.
   4. Viewing slides of Gothic cathedrals and monasteries to identify characteristic elements of architecture such as cross-ribbed, vaults, flying buttresses and flamboyant design in rose windows.
   5. Discussing the values of the eras as reflected in the drama, prose, poetry and art, architecture and music.

D. Study Greek mythology in terms of the meaning of significant myths and the Greek mythology, on art and literature.
   1. View slides of vase painting and sculpture that reveal mythological themes
   2. Reading Homer or other Greek works reflecting major myths.
   3. Researching and reporting on specific myths.

E. Develop greater understanding and tolerance of the ideas and values of other civilizations and cultures.
   1. Examining different value systems and their origins and openly discussing students responses to themes.
2. Comparing the different values of ancient and medieval peoples relevance to our times.

VI. Course Outline of Topics

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Essays
Research Project
Response Papers
Effort

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student’s ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

IX. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual’s race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

X. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.