

UC DAVIS

HUMANITIES PROGRAM

Expanded Course Descriptions

Spring Quarter 2010

522 Sproul Hall • One Shields Avenue • Davis, CA 95616
Phone: (530) 752-0830
Fax: (530) 752-8630

<http://humanities.ucdavis.edu>

updated 2/08

HUM 1: Humanities Forum (2 Units)

HUM 1D: Issues and Concepts on Humanities (2 Units)

Topic: *Le Tour and Cycling Classics*

HUM 1 (Lecture): CRN 67847 – TR 12:10-1:00, 106 Wellman

HUM 1D (Discussion): CRN 67848 – Sec. 1, W 2:10-4:00, 233 Wellman
CRN 67849 – Sec. 2, R 2:10-4:00, 1342 Storer

Instructor: Eric Russell, Assistant Professor of French
(erussell@ucdavis.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Elizabeth Long (eelong@ucdavis.edu)

HUM 1 may be taken by itself as a two-unit course. Enrollment in a section of HUM 1D for an additional two units requires concurrent enrollment in HUM 1.

Description

Our interaction with sport can be either direct (participating, competing) or indirect (viewing, supporting) and is nearly ubiquitous to all societies and all individuals. In sport we express our values, expectations, and tribal origins, while at times defending our individuality. Sports also embody many of the hidden structures which govern social interaction off the playing field or race course. In essence, sports are as central to our experience as other activities, like eating, verbal communication, and sex.

We will examine the sport of cycling, particularly the *Tour de France* and other classic races in their social, historical, economic and political contexts. We will look closely at both the act of racing and the contexts in which racing occurs, asking questions, such as:

- Why did the bicycle emerge when it did, where it did, and in the manner it did?
- How and why did the bicycle take its current shapes?
- What developments led to the emergence of cycling as a sport?
- What has been the impact of socio-historical and political events on cycling?
- How does the development and evolution of cycling reflect larger societal trends?
- How can a closer examination of a sport help us better understand our own values and those of others?

Although much of our reading will center on the *Tour de France* due to its popularity and renown, we will also explore national races (e.g. *Giro d'Italia*), prominent multi-day stage events (e.g. *Dauphiné Libéré*), the ICU ProTour (e.g. *la Primavera*, *Ronde van*

Vlaanderen), and newly introduced competitions, notably the *Tour of California*, which has a stage start in Davis. Examples of lecture, reading and discussion topics include:

- The rise of urban classes and the emergence of leisure
- Associations between sport and our views/expectations of the human body
- The intersection of nationalism, patriotism and sport
- Professional cycling and the development of a “sports industry”
- Ethical and moral questions, notably doping
- Heroes and hero worship (think Coppi, Merckx, and Armstrong)

Grading

For Course 1:

Quizzes (unannounced)	10%	(one “zero” grade will be dropped)
Mid Term	45%	
Final Exam	45%	

For Course 1D:

Short papers (3)	60%	±3 pages, based on lectures and readings
Research Paper	40%	6-8 pages on a topic of your choosing (in consultation with instructor); includes a prospectus, annotated bibliography and presentation.

Prerequisite

None

GE Credit

Arts & Humanities **and** Writing (*ONLY if HUM 1 and 1D are taken at the same time*)

Texts

- A Course Reader (Available via SmartSite)
- C. S. Thompson, *The Tour de France: A Cultural History* (UC Press, 2006)

HUM 15: Language Identity (4 Units)

Topic: *Globalized Brazil*

CRN 83091 – TR 1:40-3:00, 204 Art Building

Instructor: Robert Newcomb, Assistant Professor of Spanish
(rpnewcomb@ucdavis.edu)

Description

HUM 15: Globalized Brazil will offer students an interdisciplinary introduction to Brazil – a dynamic country with a rich and multifaceted history, a varied natural landscape, a vibrant political culture, and one of the developing world’s most robust economies. This course, taught entirely in English, in lecture format and with discussion sections, will emphasize a set of themes that define contemporary Brazil, including linguistic and cultural encounter, internal migration and urbanization, the legacies of colonialism and slavery, land use and biodiversity, and ideas of *brasilidade* (i.e. Brazilianness).

While the course will be broadly humanistic in orientation, it will touch on themes that may interest students whose studies focus on Latin American studies, international relations and development studies, economics, environmental studies, and urban studies. As a writing-intensive course, students will offer critical written responses to a variety of literary, visual, and cinematic materials. Materials discussed – all of which will be in English – will range from colonial-era travel accounts to contemporary Brazilian film and popular music, and Bernardo Carvalho’s recent Amazonian detective novel, *Nine Nights*.

Prerequisite

None

GE Credit

Arts and Humanities, Diversity, and Writing

Texts

- A Course Reader
- Jerry Dávila (ed.), *Brazil: A Century of Change*

HUM 144: Marx, Nietzsche, Freud (4 Units)
Cross-Listed with German 144

CRN 83076 – TR 10:30-11:50, 113 Hoagland Hall

Instructor: Gerhard Richter, Professor of German
(griechter@ucdavis.edu)

Description

This course will introduce students to some of the fundamental insights of Karl Marx (1818-1883), Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), and Sigmund Freud (1855-1939), who revolutionized the way we understand ourselves and the modern world. We will examine such timely topics as capitalism and the ideology of the "market"; forms of religious fundamentalism and claims of truth; and the notion that, as a human being, I am fundamentally at odds with myself in elusive ways that nevertheless make me who I am. The course is intended for intellectually curious students from a wide variety of fields who do not wish to leave the university without first having seriously grappled with the deeply unsettling ideas of these three major thinkers and writers.

Prerequisite

None

Grading

Attendance/Participation; Midterm (30%), Final (30%), and Term Paper (40%)

GE Credit

Arts & Humanities and Writing

Texts

- Robert C. Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton, 1978)
- Peter Gay (ed.), *The Freud Reader* (Norton, 1995)
- Walter Kaufmann (ed.), *Basic Writings of Nietzsche* (Modern Library, 2000)
- Zizek, *First as Tragedy, Then as Farce* (Verso, 2009)