Dr. Nathaniel Levtow  
Office: LA 156  
Office phone: 243-2845  
Email: nathaniel.levtow@umontana.edu

Office hours:  
Tu Th 8:00 - 9:30 am & by appointment

**LS 151L: Introduction to the Humanities**  
Fall Semester 2011  
Section 80 (71626): T Th 12:40 – 2:00 pm (DHC 117), Th 11:10-12:00 (NUULH)

Welcome to LS 151, Introduction to the Humanities. In this course we will read and discuss a selection of highly influential texts from the ancient world. We will explore how their authors encountered and responded to enduring human themes and problems including but not limited to: humanity and deity; knowledge and ignorance; virtue and justice; fate and human destiny; life and death; friendship and love; individual and society; weakness and power; sex and gender; war and peace; happiness and suffering; good and evil; myth and history; exile and return; truth and change.

The goals for this course include the development of critical reading skills, through close readings of difficult texts with a focus on their historical and literary contexts, and the development of writing skills, through an evaluated process of composition and revision.

**Textbooks**  
Required unless noted. Purchase only the indicated translations (available at the UM Bookstore):

- The Epic of Gilgamesh (translation by George; Penguin, 2003)  
- Homer, The Odyssey (translation by Fagles; Penguin, 1996)  
- Sophocles I (Oedipus Cycle) (translation by Grene; Chicago, 1991)  
- Plato, Five Dialogues (translation by Grube; Hackett, 2002)  
- St. Augustine, The Confessions (translation by Boulding; Vintage, 1997)  
- *Greek Lyric (translation by Miller; Hackett, 1996) (this is an optional purchase)*

**E-reserve:** e-reserve documents may be accessed through the Mansfield Library Course Reserves website (http://eres.lib.umt.edu/eres/) using the course password “LS151”

**Grading:**
1. Attendance and class participation: 15%
2. Quizzes: 10%
3. Presentations and written responses: 5%
3. Essays: 30% (3 x 10%)
4. Midterm exam: 20%
5. Final exam: 20%
Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance**: Required for all class meetings and for all weekly plenary lectures.
2. **Readings**: Complete all readings before the class on which they are assigned, and be prepared to participate in our discussion about them. Always bring the assigned text to class with you.
3. **Quizzes**: Two quizzes will be given (#1 on **September 25**, #2 on **November 8**) on class readings, class discussions, and plenary lectures. These quizzes are designed to test whether you have been reading the assignments and attending class. They will focus on the assigned texts and on information communicated in class lectures and discussions.
4. Brief presentations and written responses (1-2 pp typed, double-spaced) to assigned class readings and plenary lectures will be required from students from time to time.
5. **Essays**: There will be three essay assignments in this class:
   i. An essay of 3-5 pages will be due in class on **October 2**.
   ii. An essay of ca. 5 pages will be due on **November 5**.
   iii. A revision and expansion (ca. 7 pages) of the second essay will be due on **December 4**.
   These essays will focus on selected assigned readings and will be based on a set of topics distributed and discussed in class. The essays must (a) address selected texts/topics (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence and (d) adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax. They must be typed, double-spaced w/1-inch margins, page-numbered, and stapled, with the student’s name on page 1.
6. **Exams**:
   i. A midterm exam will be given in class on **Tuesday October 16**.
   ii. A final exam will be given in class on **Thursday December 13, 10:10 am – 12:10 pm**.

Course Policies:

1) There will be no make-up quizzes or exams unless the student has made arrangements at least a week ahead of time. Except in the case of a documented emergency, late papers will result in a decrease of one letter grade per day.

2) Students are allowed two cuts, no penalties or questions asked. Each additional cut (including early departures from the classroom) will reduce the attendance and participation grade by 10% (that is, 1.5% of your final grade). **More than 8 absences will result in failure for the course.** If you miss a class meeting, **it is then your responsibility to obtain from a classmate any class notes and other assignment and scheduling information discussed during your absence**.

3) Plagiarism – the presentation of others’ work as your own – is an offense punishable by course failure and/or expulsion. **All work submitted in this class must be your own, and all references to ideas from books, articles, or other sources must be cited correctly. If you do not know how to properly reference your work, or you are in doubt whether or not you should cite material, refer to the University guidelines, or make an appointment to see the instructor to discuss the problem. Anyone found guilty of plagiarism, cheating, forgery, falsification or any other form of academic dishonesty will fail this course and the incident will be reported to the Dean.**
Class Schedule:
*Note: Our schedule may change as our course develops (dates, assignments, etc.); regular attendance will ensure that you are informed of any changes.

§ 1. The Ancient Near East: Gilgamesh and the Hebrew Bible

(Week 1)
Tu 8/28  Introductions
Th 8/30  The Epic of Gilgamesh, tablets I-V (pp. 1-47)
         Th 9/1: Plenary Lecture 1: Introduction to the Humanities—Justman, LS

(Week 2)
Tu 9/4   The Epic of Gilgamesh, tablets VI-XI (pp. 48-99)
Th 9/6   Genesis 1-11
         Th 9/6: Plenary Lecture 2: The Bible in the University; Intro. to the Pentateuch—Levtow, LS

(Week 3)
Tu 9/11  Exodus 1-15:21 (focus on Exodus chapters 3, 14, 15); Psalm 114
Th 9/13  Exodus 19-24, 32-34; Deuteronomy 4:44–5:33; Matthew 5:17-20
         Th 9/13: Plenary Lecture 3: Prophets and Prophecy—Levtow, LS

(Week 4)
Tu 9/18  Amos 1–5, 7, 9:11–15; Hosea 1–4, 6, 11; Isaiah 1, 6, 40, 43:14–21; Ezekiel 1-4, 37:1-14
Th 9/20  Proverbs 1, 8, 10; Ecclesiastes; Job 1-7, 38-42
         Th 9/20: Plenary Lecture 4: Wisdom—Hanson, LS

(Week 5)
Tu 9/25  *Quiz #1: Gilgamesh, Hebrew Bible*
         Essay writing workshop
§ II. Archaic Greece: Homer and Greek Lyric

Th 9/27 Homer, *Odyssey*, Bks. 1-4
(book presentations)

*Th 9/27: Plenary Lecture 5: Intro. to Greek Civilization—Semanoff, MCLL*

(Week 6)

Tu 10/2 *Essay #1 due in class*
Homer, *Odyssey*, Bks. 5-8
(book presentations)

Th 10/4 Homer, *Odyssey*, Bks. 9-12
(book presentations)

*Th 10/4: Plenary Lecture 6: Hero and Anti-hero in Homer—Justman, Liberal Studies*

(Week 7)

Tu 10/9 Homer, *Odyssey*, Bks. 21-24
(book presentations)

Th 10/11 Greek Lyric: Archilochus, Sappho [e-reserve]
Review

*Th 10/11: Plenary Lecture 7: Sappho and Greek Lyric—Vanita, LS*

(Week 8)

Tu 10/16 *Midterm Exam*

§ III. Classical Athens: Sophocles and Plato

Th 10/18 Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*

*Th 10/18: Plenary Lecture 8: Tragedy—Semanoff, MCLL*
(Week 9)

Tu 10/23    Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*

Th 10/25    Plato, *Meno*

   *Th 10/25: Plenary Lecture: 9: Plato and Greek Philosophy—Muench, Philosophy*

(Week 10)

Tu 10/30    Plato, *Republic* Book VII (the cave, the divided line) [e-reserve]

Th 11/1     Plato, *Republic* Book VII (the cave, the divided line) [e-reserve]

   *Th 11/1: Plenary Lecture 10: Gospels and New Testament—Levtow, LS*


(Week 11)

   *Essay #2 due in my mailbox by 4:00pm on Monday November 5*

Tu 11/6     Election day

Th 11/8     *Quiz #2: Sophocles, Plato*

The Gospel of Mark

   *Th 11/8: Plenary Lecture 11: Paul and His Contexts—Hanson, LS*

(Week 12)

Tu 11/13    1 Corinthians; Acts 18:1-3

Th 11/15    Galatians; Acts 9:1-31

   *Th 11/15: No plenary lecture*

(Week 13)

Tu 11/20, Th 11/22   *no classes (academic conference; Thanksgiving)*
§ V. Late Antiquity and Christendom: Augustine

(Week 14)

Tu 11/27  Augustine, *Confessions*, Bks. I-III

Th 11/29  Augustine, *Confessions*, Bks. IV-VI


(Week 15)

Tu 12/4  *Essay #3 due in class*

  Augustine, *Confessions*, Bks. VII-IX

Th 12/6  Augustine, *Confessions*, Bks. X-XIII

  *Th 12/6: Plenary Lecture 13: Augustine’s Confessions—Dietrich, LS*

*Final Exam: Thursday December 13, 10:10 am – 12:10 pm *
LS 151 Plenary Lectures: 2012

Lectures are given on Thursdays from **11:10-12:00** in **North Underground Urey Lecture Hall**. They are not repeated. **Attendance is mandatory**, as the lecture series accounts for the fourth credit of LS 151.

Aug. 30: Introduction to the Humanities—Justman, LS

Sept. 6: Bible in the University: Introduction to the Pentateuch—Levtow, LS

Sept. 13: Prophets and Prophecy—Levtow, LS

Sept. 20: Wisdom—Hanson, LS

Sept. 27: Introduction to Greek Civilization—Semanoff, MCLL

Oct. 4: Hero and Anti-Hero in Homer—Justman, LS

Oct. 11: Sappho and Lyric—Vanita, LS

Oct. 18: Tragedy—Semanoff, MCLL

Oct. 25: Plato and Greek Philosophy—Muench, Philosophy

Nov. 1: Gospels and New Testament—Levtow, LS

Nov. 8: Paul and His Context—Hanson, LS

Nov. 15: No lecture

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving

Nov. 29: Early Christian Art—Dietrich, LS

Dec. 6: Augustine’s *Confessions*—Dietrich, LS