

LBST 2101 – WESTERN CULTURE AND HISTORICAL AWARENESS:
From Romeo And Juliet To Laguna Beach
Syllabus

Summer 2006
M-F 1:00 – 4:00
Robinson Hall 308
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Office Hours: M-F 12:00-1:00 and by appointment

A. Course Description

Western Culture and Historical Awareness: From Romeo & Juliet to Laguna Beach is an intensive three-week investigation of images of love and romance culminating in their expression in contemporary American culture and media. Beginning first with a survey of historical attitudes toward love and romance, the class ends with excursions into American film, theater, television and other media to explore the treatment of the themes of love and romance as a reflection of American attitudes and values. The goal of this course is to achieve a more critical awareness of the nature and content of this fundamental form of human communication and intimacy.

The class will run as a combination of lecture, discussion, and performance lab. Students will read background materials, view selected film, video, and television performances, and participate in theatrical exercises and performances. No previous theater, film, or video experience is necessary – just a willingness to explore the possibilities of visual communication.

The material for this course will at times present topics and situations which some individuals may find objectionable.

B. Grading and Requirements

The class is structured around lectures, intensive reading, class discussion, and the performance of a production the class will create. You will be responsible for all material presented in class and all readings assigned. *No makeup exams will be given. Only under extraordinary circumstance recognized by the university will this policy be altered.* Your grade is determined as follows:

Class Participation (discussions, protocols) - 20%

Written Work: 20%

Exam #1: 20%

Exam #2: 20%

Final Project (Group Grade): 20%

C. Attendance

Because the summer class is limited in duration, absence is not permitted. After each absence, the instructors reserve the right to lower your mark one full letter grade. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to miss class, and then only with advanced notice and appropriate documentation, subject to the rules and regulations of the University and the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions may include but are not limited to the following: religious holidays, medical emergencies, university athletic events, family emergencies, professional opportunities.

Tardiness is defined as arriving late once class has begun. 2 tardy arrivals constitute 1 absence. After the first 15 minutes of class, however, the instructors reserve the right to close or lock the door and/or deny you admission to the class. If you are tardy by more than 15 minutes and choose to come to class (provided the door is unlocked), it will still result in an absence. Students who are late for exams will not be admitted.

D. Textbooks (available at Gray's Bookstore)

Shakespeare, William, *Romeo & Juliet* (Folgers)

Son, Diana, *Stop Kiss*

Various Authors, Handouts in class and online

E. Additional Guidelines

The following observations help make a better world and keeps your instructor happy:

1. Class begins at 1 PM and ends at 4 PM. Please keep this in mind throughout the term. Additional class and rehearsal time will be held in the evenings several times a week.
2. It is expected that you will use the textbooks recommended for this course. Otherwise, you run the risk of inconsistency among translations and adaptations, dissimilar pagination, and all of the other inconveniences that follow from different versions of the same play. You might also have a very difficult time on exams.
3. In a studio class or seminar course much of the work is “in-class” and “hands-on.” Attendance and full participation are therefore essential. Preparation and focus should guide your work as well; your demeanor in class should reflect this at all times. It is important for everyone to work cooperatively and collaboratively, and to create an environment of openness and trust.

Department of Dance and Theatre Mission and Purpose Statement

Majors and minors in the Department are encouraged to explore the theoretical foundations and aesthetics of both dance and theatre through a required series of cross-disciplinary courses as well as discipline-specific courses. While receiving a foundation in dance and theatre, all students in both our lecture and studio courses gain knowledge and skills that allow them to achieve career goals, commit to life-long learning, and enrich their quality of life. In addition, all students may gain practical experience through performance and technical assignments in the Department's production season.

Faculty members are committed to the teaching and practice of dance and theatre, as they foster academic progress and artistic expression in an environment that respects cultural and artistic diversity (note that "cultural diversity" refers to issues of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, and disability). In addition, they contribute to the University, the community, and their professions through scholarly and creative endeavors and through service activities. To conclude: in all its endeavors the Department strives to emphasize 1., interdisciplinary interaction between dance and theatre, and 2., interactions that promote cultural diversity.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity (see 1999-2001 University Catalog, p. 375). This code forbids cheating, fabrication, falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Any special requirements or permissions regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student's work is free of academic dishonesty of any type, so grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases the course grade is reduced to "F." Copies of the code are available in the Dean of Students' Office or in the Catalog as cited above. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Services, Fretwell 230, 704/687-4355, as early as possible in the term. It is your responsibility to make your special needs known so that we may be of assistance.

SCHEDULE

Monday, July 10

Course Introduction

Introductory Exercises

Lecture: The Concept of Love

In-Class Readings (Handouts):

- John Patrick Shanley, *The Red Coat*
- 1 Corinthians 13

Response and discussion

✓ **Overnight Reading Assignments**

- Selections from Diane Ackerman, *A Natural History of Love*
- Nathaniel Branden, “A Vision of Romantic Love”

✓ **Overnight Written Assignments**

- Submit a 3 page outline of Diane Ackerman’s *A Natural History of Love*
- Prepare a 5 Minute Response to Ackerman and Branden

Tuesday, July 11

Protocol

5-Minute Responses to Readings

In-Class Reading (Handout)

- Crystal Kile, “Endless Love Will Keep Us Together”

Presentation: Images of Love in Film & TV

✓ **Overnight Reading Assignment**

- *Romeo & Juliet* Act I

✓ **Overnight Written Assignments**

- Prepare a 5 Minute Response to Kile and film images
- Submit an outline for *R & J* Act I

Wednesday, July 12

Protocol

5-Minute Responses to Readings

Film: *Casablanca*

Response and discussion

✓ **Overnight Reading Assignment**

- *Romeo & Juliet* Act II through Act III, 1

✓ **Overnight Written Assignments**

- Prepare a 5 Minute Response to *Casablanca*
- Submit an outline for *R & J* Act II through Act III,1

Thursday, July 13

Protocol

5 Minute Responses to *Casablanca*

Lecture/Presentation: More Images of Love in Film and TV

✓ **Overnight Assignment**

- Prepare for Test #1

✓ **Overnight Reading Assignment**

- *Romeo & Juliet* Act III, 1 through V, 3
- Submit an outline for *R & J* Act III, 1 through V, 3

Friday, July 14

Protocol

Test: #1

Lecture: Shakespeare – Language and Culture in *R & J*
In-Class reading of passages from *R & J*

✓ **Weekend Reading Assignments**

- Reread selected passages from *R & J*
- Diane Ackerman, *A Natural History of Love*
- Gail Kern Paster, *Romeo & Juliet: A Modern Perspective* (in the Folger edition)
- Ivo Kamps, “I Love You Madly, I Love You To Death”
- Selections from Alan Hager, *Understanding Romeo & Juliet*

✓ **Weekend Written Assignments**

- Prepare a 5-Minute Response to weekend readings
- 3-5 page paper topic TBA

Monday, July 17

Protocol

5-Minute Responses

Video: Zefferelli, Lührman, & *West Side Story*

- ✓ **Overnight Written Assignment**
 - Prepare a 5-Minute Response to Video
- ✓ **Overnight Reading Assignments**
 - Mary Klages, “Postmodernism”
 - Joseph Dalton, “The Televisionary”

Tuesday, July 18 Uptown Trip (No Class)

- ✓ **Overnight Reading Assignments**
 - Maureen Dowd, *Are Men Necessary?*
 - Patricia Wallace, “Liking and Loving On The Net”
 - Jean Kilbourne , “Advertising and Disconnection”
 - Tom Reichert , “Prurient Potions”
 - Benjamin Radford, “Research Debunks Barbie Idea”
 - Min Lee, “Lee Disappointed Over ‘*Brokeback*’ Loss”

Wednesday, July 19 Protocol

5- Minute Responses

Lecture & Presentation: Postmodern Love & Storytelling

- ✓ **Overnight Reading Assignment**
 - Peter Whybrow , “Finding Balance in the Age of the Merchant”
- ✓ **Overnight Written Assignment**
 - Prepare a 5-Minute Response to Whybrow

Thursday, July 20 Protocol

5-Minute Responses

Film: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

- ✓ **Overnight Assignment: Prepare for Test #2**
- ✓ **Overnight Written Assignment**
 - Prepare a 5-Minute Response to *Eternal Sunshine*

Friday, July 21 Protocol

Test #2

Discussion of Third Week Project

- ✓ **Weekend Reading Assignments**
 - Diana Son, *Stop Kiss*
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- ✓ **Weekend Written Assignments**
 - Prepare 3 pp. critique of *Stop Kiss*

Monday, July 24	Protocol Submit <i>Stop Kiss</i> Critique Third Week Project TBA
Tuesday, July 25	Third Week Project TBA
Wednesday, July 26	Third Week Project TBA
Thursday, July 27	Third Week Project TBA Performance 7:30 PM
Friday, July 28	Close Program/Move Out (No Class)