



HON 212 Civilization: Past, Present and Future IV-0007 (Spring 2013)

Katherine O’Flaherty, Ph.D., C.A.S.

Contact Information:

Email: katherine.oflaherty@umit.maine.edu

Skype: Katherine.oflaherty

Meetings:

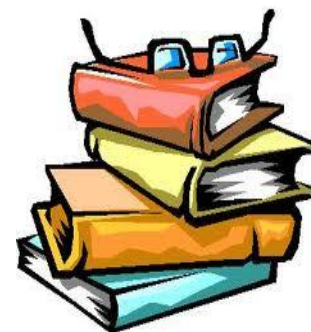
Class: Monday and Wednesday: 1:10pm-2:00pm Colvin Hall 107

Lecture: Thursday 3:30pm-5:00pm Neville Hall, Room 101

You should feel free to contact me if you have any questions. The best way to contact me is via email. I do not have traditional scheduled office hours but I am willing to meet with you in person, by phone or via Skype. I check email regularly. I return emails within twenty-four hours. If I have not responded within twenty-four hours you should assume I didn’t get your email. Please note, you will need to access our Blackboard course conference on a **daily basis** to check for announcements, changes, or further instructions. Blackboard is the official means of communication in this course.

Course Description:

The four courses constituting *Civilizations: Past, Present, and Future* follow a chronological trajectory from earliest recorded times through the present, examining philosophy, history, literature, the arts, and natural, physical, and social sciences. In particular, by incorporating primary sources, small group discussions, and multiple perspectives, these courses explore the way in which civilizations and cultures have been developed and have interacted with others. HON 212 is the fourth in a four course sequence. This course provides you with the opportunity to read a set of important texts that influence our civilization today as they have done for generations. This course requires that you attend class twice a week, attend weekly lecture, participate in online activities facilitated using Blackboard (an asynchronous web-based system designed specifically to support instruction and our continued interaction) and complete skill building activities and assignments.



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Course Objectives:

This course has four principal objectives. These objectives are interconnected and interdependent. This course

- provides a starting point to explore the development of civilizations, cultures, and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.
- critically engages students in academic discourse through the study of primary texts and the encouragement of active involvement with fellow students, the faculty, and the texts.
- develops communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.
- provides students with a fundamental grounding in the liberal arts as expressed in the University's General Education requirements.



Required Readings:

All sections of HON 212 have the same basic reading list. The reading list can be found on the *Civilizations* website and in our course Blackboard site. Over the course of the four semesters, the sequence includes over forty “texts.” While some of those are groups of visual images that you will access online and others are articles or excerpts that are also online, most of the texts in this course are books. However, they are not textbooks; thus they are available from a number of different places.



Technical Requirements:

You need internet access to take this class. In addition to lectures and in-class activities you will be accessing audio and video files in various formats so a fast connection is essential. All documents/readings on Blackboard will be available in pdf format so you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can download Adobe Acrobat Reader free at:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=BUIGO>

Blackboard:

This course makes **extensive** use of Blackboard—an online portal that provides access to some course materials, assignments, discussions, and announcements. Blackboard is only accessible to registered students, the instructor, and the administrators.



Blackboard

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A detailed guide to accessing and using Blackboard appears at:

<http://learn.maine.edu/services/student-services/quick-guides/bbguide/>

Log into Blackboard at: <https://www.courses.maine.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

A tutorial for Blackboard is available at: <http://www.umaine.edu/it/software/tutorials/blackboard/>

Technical Assistance:

If you need Blackboard technical assistance for this course please contact UMaine IT:

Phone: 207-581-2506

E-mail: help.center@umit.maine.edu or Help Center on FC

You can visit their website for additional information and current hours:

<http://www.umaine.edu/it/helpcenter/>

Please note, I do not have access to your login information nor can I walk you through Blackboard access issues. You will need to contact IT for help logging into the course and for all other technical issues.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation	10%
Class Discussion Leader (2 x 10%)	20%
Analytical Paper #1	10%
Analytical Paper #2	15%
Analytical Paper #3	15%
Weekly Discussion Responses (10 x 2% each)	20%
Final Exam	10%



Final Grade Calculation Scale (%)

93.0 - 100	A	73.0 - 76.9	C
90.0 - 92.9	A-	70.0 - 72.9	C-
87.0 - 89.9	B+	67.0 - 69.9	D+
83.0 - 86.9	B	63.0 - 66.9	D
80.0 - 82.9	B-	60.0 - 62.9	D-
77.0 - 79.9	C+	0 - 59.9	F

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Class Participation:

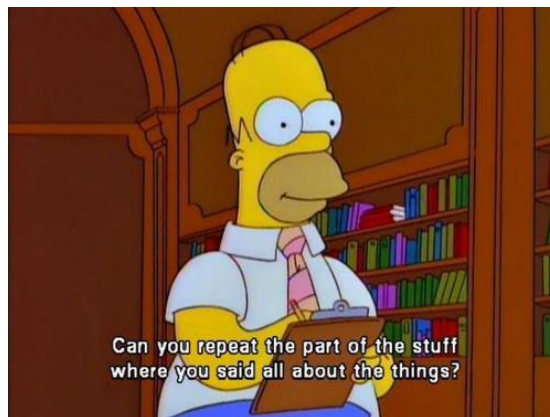
Active, ongoing participation is fundamental to the success of this course. Each student is **required** to attend all classes and lectures. Your contributions to our class discussions, along with your written work, provide direct evidence of the reading and thinking you have put into the course. Take seriously your responsibility to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. I will be making a qualitative assessment at semester's end of each person's contributions to the class.

Electronic Access to Lectures:

If you are unable to attend the weekly lecture due to a scheduling conflict let me know during the first week of classes and I will contact the Honors Associate and have electronic access set for you. Remember, you are responsible for all content covered in the lecture.

Class Discussion Leader:

Over the course of the semester you will be responsible for facilitating class in groups of three. You will be doing this **twice** over the course of the semester. A sign-up sheet will be available early in the semester. You will be graded on your ability to facilitate the class discussion and on your creativity in engaging your classmates. Note that this is **NOT** a presentation and while we are interested in your ideas and interpretations the goal is to foster discussion and learning. Your classmates will have read the text(s) so you do not need to recap the readings. Instead, you should provide an introduction to the reading and construct a series of questions, activities etc. You will be working in groups of three to facilitate class and you will each receive the same grade. Detailed description of class facilitation will be posted to Bb early in the semester.



Analytical Papers:

You will be writing three analytical papers this semester. The first paper (1,200-1,500 words) is worth 10% and the second and third (each 1,500-1,800 words) are each worth 15% of your course grade. For each paper, students are expected to draw from the course materials. Students are responsible to submit high quality work, attending to the conventions of grammar and academic style. Analytical paper guidelines will be posted to Blackboard early in the semester.

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Please consult the Lesson Plan at the end of this syllabus for paper due dates. You **MUST** submit your papers to me via email at Katherine.oflaherty@umit.maine.edu no paper copies accepted. I will return papers to you via email.

Weekly Discussion Responses:

You will be writing multiple 500 word discussion responses this semester. You will post these responses to our Discussion Board in Blackboard. **I will post weekly discussion questions on Thursday evening and your response is due by Sunday at 11:30pm.** These responses are formal pieces of writing visible to classmates and available for comment and question. The weekly writing assignments are designed to help you become a better writer. Practice is the only way to get better. In grading your responses each week I am looking for evidence that you did the reading carefully and paid attention in lecture. I am also looking for improvement in your writing over the course of the semester. Weekly discussion responses constitute a significant chunk of your grade so take them seriously. There are 10 discussion responses this semester and each is worth 2% of your course grade. **Do not** email your responses to me...responses must be posted to Bb. Remember; the Bb discussion board is programmed to lock at 11:31pm so posting late is not an option.

Final Exam:

The final exam for this class is a “take-home” asking you to reflect upon what you have learned in the entire Honors Civilizations series via a prompt. It will be passed out during Week 14 and will be due during finals week. It will be 5-7 pages in length. You will receive much more information about what is expected of you on the final exam later in the semester.

Late Assignment Policy:

Late work **will not** be accepted. Students are responsible to communicate with the instructor prior to the assignment due date if special circumstances prohibit completion of work.

Additional Information:

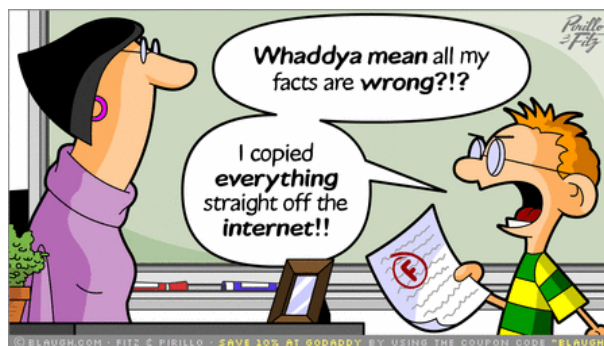
Accommodation

If you require accommodation for disability please contact Ann Smith, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, 121 East Annex. You may also contact her at 207-581-2319 (TTY: 207-581-2325) or via FirstClass: ann.smith@umit.maine.edu

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Plagiarism/Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is a violation of the University of Maine System Student Conduct Code and will therefore not be tolerated in HON 212. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course. All students must become familiar with and abide by the University's policy on academic integrity, which prohibits plagiarism, falsification of information, deception and misrepresentation of information.



Details concerning the University of Maine System Student Conduct Code can be found at: <http://www.maine.edu/pdf/06-09conductcodebookcleancopyfinal052206.pdf>

Inclusive Language:

Language is a powerful tool. It conveys ideas and influences behavior. During the four semesters of *Civilizations* we will observe this often. This power allows language to communicate bias and exclude individuals, even though that may not be the intention of the author. While there are no formal rules for student expression in these courses or at UMaine, we strongly encourage you to be sensitive and careful about the language you use in both writing and speaking. In addition, we recommend that you read the University's commitment to inclusive language: umaine.edu/wic/both/language.htm.

Classroom Environment:

This course marks your entry into a community of people with whom you will share your academic exploration. You have chosen to take a more rigorous path and more will be demanded of you. As we will quickly see in our discussions, civilizations depend upon significant contributions from every single member. The smaller the community, the more crucial each individual's contribution. In this small community of about 14, it is imperative that each of us understand the responsibility we have to one another to spend serious time with each text. Arrive at our meetings every time completely prepared to discuss and break down the material assigned for that meeting. In a class this size and this style, it will be painfully apparent to everyone in the room if any one of us is unprepared. The same applies to our online classroom. But you need not be motivated by fear of censure. Instead, be motivated by your interest in an examined life, and by your commitments to your classmates and colleagues.

Remember also that the classroom is a learning environment. That does not mean political perspectives, value debates, or conflicts over cultural differences are not allowed. On the

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contrary, you are encouraged to raise such issues in class. Real engagement requires respect. *Everyone* has a right to learn, which means that you must respect each others' differences.

It is my pleasure to be your instructor this semester and I encourage you all to contact me if you have any questions or want to spend some more time talking about the course material. I am happy to meet with you.



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Week 7

 February 25 Galileo's Finger (Chap. 7) and Feynman's Quantum Behavior both on Bb

February 27

NO CLASS

February 28

Lecture - 3:30 to 5:00p.m. in 101 Neville Hall: Jim Page(Philosophy)

Week 7 Bb Discussion Post due 3/3 at 11:30pm

SPRING BREAK MARCH 4th-17th

Week 8

 March 18 Mrs. Dalloway

March 20

Mrs. Dalloway

March 21

Lecture - 3:30 to 5:00p.m. in 101 Neville Hall: Laura Cowan (English)

Week 8 Bb Discussion Post due 3/24 at 11:30pm**Week 9**

 March 25 Silent Spring

March 27

Silent Spring

March 28

Lecture - 3:30 to 5:00p.m. in 101 Neville Hall: Mimi Killinger (Honors) & Andrei Alyokhin (Biology & Ecology)

Analytical Paper 2 due 3/31 at 11:30pm**Week 10**

 April 1 **Galileo's Finger and Feynman's Quantum Behavior (ctd. from week 7)**

April 3

NO CLASS

April 4

NO LECTURE

Week 10 Bb Discussion Post due 4/7 at 11:30pm**Week 11**

 April 8 Waiting for the Barbarians

April 10

Waiting for the Barbarians

April 11

Lecture - 3:30 to 5:00p.m. in 101 Neville Hall: David Gross (Honors)

Week 11 Bb Discussion Post due 4/14 at 11:30pm**Week 12**

 April 15 Music of Life

April 17

Music of Life

April 18

Lecture - 3:30 to 5:00p.m. in 101 Neville Hall: Brian Olsen (Biology & Ecology)

Week 12 Bb Discussion Post due 4/21 at 11:30pm

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Week 13

April 22	TEDTalk
April 24	TEDTalk
April 25	Lecture - 3:30 to 5:00p.m. in 101 Neville Hall: Sarah Harlan-Haughey (Honors) & Nico Jenkins (Husson)

Analytical Paper 3 due 4/28 at 11:30pm**Week 14**

April 29	Class Wrap up: Civilization Past Present and Future
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May 1	NO CLASS (Maine Day)
May 2	Lecture - 3:30 to 5:00p.m. in 101 Neville Hall: Edith Elwood (Honors) & Mark Haggerty (Honors)

Week 14 Bb Discussion Post due 5/5 at 11:30pm

Final Exam due 5/9/2013 at 11:30pm to me via email: Katherine.oflaherty@umit.maine.edu

Facilitation Schedule:

	January 2013	February 2013			March 2013		April 2013		
	Mon 28	Mon 11	Mon 18	Mon 25	Mon 18	Mon 25	Mon 8	Mon 15	Mon 22
Jinlun Bai				OK		OK			
Carolyn Stocker					OK		OK		
Jennifer Lilieholm	OK			OK					
Aoife Ryle						OK	OK		
Ian Wright					OK			OK	
Ian Lane				OK		OK			
Jeanmarie Humphrey		OK					OK		
Alexander Keefe						OK		OK	
Nicole Begley	OK				OK				
Ty Bolte		OK						OK	
Kate Spies					OK		OK		
Joseph Fricks			OK					OK	
Ariel Bothen			OK						OK
Logan Nee			OK						OK
Damien Affleck						OK	OK		

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