

Syllabus – HUM 241 – Interdisciplinary Principles of the Humanities I (3 Cr.)

NVCC Content Summary

Course Description

Integrates unifying principles of the humanities and related fields of study. Emphasizes the expansion of student's intellectual perspective and development of concepts enabling the integration of knowledge from diverse fields into a unified whole.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

Concepts you should learn from this course:

- Some stories are so important to people that they continue to be retold for thousands of years.
- Powerful stories, such as that of Troy, may be represented in art, architecture, history, philosophy, music and film, as well as in literary texts.
- Stories and works of art are created and retold in particular times and places; it is important to understand the historical context of each story in order to better understand and enjoy the story.
- Studying such related stories and art is a great way to get a sense of the past and its connections to the present.
- Human ideas about what a person is and what is worth living and/or dying for change over time.
- Understanding such changes helps us to understand ourselves.

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Read a Troy story from another time and place with pleasure and understanding;
- Write about various aspects of the literary and artistic tradition of Troy, from different times and places, explaining how they are the same, how they are different, and so what;
- Recognize some of the literary, artistic and other cultural traditions that carry themes and ideas from one time and place to the next, creating an intellectual history of human civilization.

Required Textbooks and Materials

The required textbooks for this course are:

- The Trojan War: Literature and Legends from the Bronze Age to the Present, 2nd ed. by Diane Thompson.
- The *Iliad* by Homer (any translation that you like--there are many; Lattimore or Fagles are my favorite translations). You can also read the *Iliad* online as a free etext. See the link below to an online version of the Iliad.

You may order your books and materials from the NVCC bookstores. See <http://eli.nvcc.edu/books> for complete direction.

Note: Some of the items in this list may come bundled in a package. You may purchase the bundle or the items separately.

Other required reading materials:

In this course, after you read Homer's *Iliad* you will have many choices for your reading and Activities (10 total). Consequently, different students will use different texts, depending on their choices. A basic guideline will be provided for these choices, and there are many alternative readings listed in each Activities list. Many, **but not all**, texts are available online and the Troy website provides links to them. Other readings are only available as paper books, and if you select any of those, you need to acquire the books. Many will be in libraries or available as used books, so plan ahead to acquire them.

Unit 1 is based on reading the *Iliad*. Until you get the book, you can read the *Iliad* in a free online version. Here is one place you can find the *Iliad*:

<http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>

However, you cannot get *The Trojan War* book as a free etext, so order it as soon as you enroll in the course.

Instructor Suggestions for Reading Choices

An Optional text:

- Caroline Alexander. *The War that Killed Achilles: The True Story of Homer's Iliad and the Trojan War*. New York: Viking, 2009.

This book is not required, but it is a very readable discussion of the *Iliad* both in terms of the ancient background and of modern psychology. If you want a friendly guide to reading the *Iliad*, I recommend this book.

Choose one or more texts from this list of Troy literature that corresponds to Areas on the Troy Web:

- A Classical Greek Troy Drama: select from: *Agamemnon*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Iphigenia in Tauris*, *Trojan Women* (Greek Drama Area) (free online)
- Virgil's *Aeneid* (Virgil Area) (free online)
- Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* (Chaucer Area) (free online)
- Racine's *Iphigenia* (Racine Area)
- Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* (Shakespeare Area) (free online)
- Goethe's *Iphigenia* (free online) or Kleist's *Penthesilea* (Goethe Area)

For the last unit of the course, choose one contemporary Troy play, non-fiction book, or novel from either the Troy Stories Today: Women and Goddesses Area or the Troy Stories Today: Literary and Popular Culture Area.

If you are interested in feminist visions of Troy, I recommend:

- Tepper's *The Gate to Women's Country*
- Zimmer Bradley's *The Firebrand*

- **If you are interested in serious modern literary visions of Troy, I recommend:**
- Joyce's *Ulysses* (see link to online version on Troy Today: Literary and Popular Culture page)
- any of Mee's Troy-themed plays (see link to online versions on the Troy Today: Literary and Popular Culture page).
- H. D. (Hilda Doolittle). *Helen*. This interesting poetic version is based on the alternative myth that Helen never was at Troy, but it was only a simulcrum. She actually spent the Trojan War on an island off of Egypt in love with Achilles.
- Zachary Mason. *The Lost Books of the Odyssey: a novel*. Mason's short book offers remarkably fascinating, beautifully written, brief tales with variant themes and endings that might have been parts of the **Odyssey** that never got written down.

If you love science fiction and are curious about a vision of Troy in the far future, I recommend:

- Simmon's *Ilium*

Other readings are based on your choices as you work through the course materials.

The Story of Troilus

If you are interested in the European Middle Ages, I recommend [The Story of Troilus](#) (this link goes to the Amazon.com page offering copies for sale--used and inexpensive or new and still inexpensive). You could do several Activities based on the readings in this book, because it includes four Troilus stories ranging from the twelfth to the fifteenth century. The first two (Benoit and Boccaccio) are in modern translations, but the Chaucer and Henryson are in Middle English.

Troy Texts on the Internet

Many of the older versions of Troy Stories, such as those by Homer, Greek Dramatists, Virgil, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, are available on the internet as etexts. There are links to relevant etexts on the main page of each Area.

Etexts are usually older, out of copyright versions of texts. If the original text is not in English, the version on the Internet will be an older translation, and you may find it less attractive to read than more recent ones. However, most etexts are perfectly acceptable choices for this course, and they are free. Although you cannot access etexts during an exam, you can bring a few printed out pages (fewer than ten) with you for reference during the exam. They will be collected and sent to me and you will not get them back.

Very few modern Troy texts are on the Internet, but there are inexpensive paperbacks available, which you can order on-line or find in local book stores or libraries. You should select your areas and texts early in the course to allow time to order, receive and read them.

Online Booksellers

I have bought many Troy books, especially the out of print ones, using [Online Booksellers](#). The used Troy books are generally inexpensive and take only a few days to receive. Buy, download, borrow or order the book(s) you select right away, so you will have them when you are ready.

Overview of Assignments

Research shows that students are most successful with distance education when they start their course work on time and make steady progress. Expect to work 6-9 hours per week on assignments for this course. **Remember: You must submit each activity on or before its due date, working in the sequence assigned.** To help you do this, please follow the timeline below. You are encouraged to move forward and you need to stay aware of the due dates. If you want a quick overview of the course assignments, here is a link to the course map: https://novaonline.nvcc.edu/Descriptions/eng255_hum241/CourseMap.pdf

Late Work Policy: If you turn in a piece of work within one week after its Due Date, you will get half credit based on the points you earn. No credit will be given to the work that is more than one week late. The best strategy is to get ahead of the schedule! That way if something interferes (like life), you will still have time to get your work submitted on time and for full credit.

Unit	Week	Unit Assignments
The course is divided into four basic units. The four Units contain all the course work and detailed instructions for doing it. Find the detailed instructions by clicking the Assignments link in the course menu.		
1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the assigned sections in Thompson, The Trojan War • Write and post your personal introduction. • Complete the Introductory Quiz
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Homer's Iliad .
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Activity 1 <p>January 30: Refund, First Assignment Due Date. You are eligible for a refund until the close of Business on this date. You must post your Introduction to your course Blackboard site by this date or you will be administratively withdrawn without a tuition refund.</p>
	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Activity 2
	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Exam 1, which will ask you to compare and contrast the characters of Achilles and Agamemnon in the Iliad.
2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose four Activities, two from each of the two Areas you have selected for this Unit. • Read the corresponding chapters in Thompson, The Trojan War, depending on your Troy Story reading choices. • Post Activity 3 <p>February 17: Inactive Students Dropped Students who have not completed all of the assignments in Unit 1 by this date will be withdrawn without a tuition refund.</p>
	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Activity 4
	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire Troy materials you want to read for Unit 4. • Post Activity 5 <p>March 10 - 16 - Spring Break</p>
	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose two Activities from one or two new Areas in this Unit. • Read the corresponding chapters in Thompson, The Trojan War, depending on your Troy Story choices. • Post Activity 6

3	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Activity 7 March 24: Last Withdrawal Date without F Students who have not completed all of the assignments in Unit 2 by this date will be withdrawn without a tuition refund.
	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Activity 8
	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Exam 2, which will ask you to compare some interesting character, theme or idea from two different texts you have studied.
4	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the assigned chapters in The Trojan War. • Post Activity 9
	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Activity 10
	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Exam 3. It will ask you to select some theme, character or idea found in Troy Stories and trace its continuity from Homer to some later period. You will need to include at least three substantial Troy Stories in your final exam.
	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Exam 3
NOTE: Testing centers are closed on Sundays and some holidays. Be sure to call your testing center before taking an exam to check their hours. You have to submit all the assignments and complete all the exams by the course end date.		

Course Grading

Your course grade will be determined by the following assignments, according to the following percentages.

Task	Possible Points	Total Points
Introduce yourself	50	50
10 Activities	50 each	500
Exam 1	100	100
Exam 2	150	150
Exam 3	200	200

You can earn up to 1000 points for the entire course, or more if you successfully complete one or more double credit Activities. There is no "extra credit" available in this course. Final grades will be assigned according to the number of points you have earned.

Your final grade will be based on the following scale. Please note that you must also pass at least **two** of the **three** exams with at least a D in order to pass the course, regardless of your scores on the other assignments.

Grade	Points
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799

D	600-699
F	0-599

NOTE: There is an introductory quiz in Unit 1. There are 11 multiple choice questions. You must get 9 questions or more correct on this quiz in order to pass the quiz and see the remaining assignments in the course. You can only see Unit 1 in the Assignments area at the start of the course. You may take this quiz as many times as you wish until you pass. ***Please note that this score is not included in the computation of your final grade.***

Unit Time Limits

Each Unit has a time limit which you can find on the Course Calendar. I will not accept ANY work for a given Unit after its Unit end date. So if you want credit for your work, submit it before the Unit end date.

Incompletes

The incomplete grade is used for verifiable unavoidable reasons. If you have made significant progress in your course, your end date is near, and you have reasons that can be documented as unavoidable, you may request a grade of Incomplete. To request a grade of Incomplete for this course, you must:

- Have satisfactorily completed all of **Units 1, 2, and 3, including Exams 1 and 2, by your course end date.**
- Explain your extenuating circumstances to me in writing, and be prepared to provide documentation to support your explanation.
- Provide a plan for completing the remaining assignments in writing. All work must be completed no later than one month after the end date of the course.

Remember, an Incomplete is a privilege, not a right.

Withdrawal from the course

For the specific course dates described below, refer to the Quick Start Syllabus mailed to you by ELI. For additional information, see [Critical Course Deadlines](#).

1. Your Options for Withdrawing: (You must use NovaConnect to complete a withdrawal)
 - Refund Date: If you withdraw before this date, you will receive a refund and there will be no record of your enrollment.
 - **Last Withdrawal Date without F:**
 - If you withdraw after the refund date but before your Last Withdrawal Date, you will receive no refund and a grade of W.
 - If you withdraw after your last withdrawal date, you will receive no refund and a grade of F.
2. Instructor-Initiated Withdrawal
 - **First Assignment Due Date:**
You must submit a required assignment before the date specified by your [Critical Course](#)

[Deadlines](#) or you will be administratively deleted without a refund. Check the Overview of Assignments or the Assignments for specific requirements.

- **Additional Withdrawal Dates:**

If you are not making satisfactory progress toward completion of the course, some faculty will withdraw you at other times during the semester. Check the Overview of Assignments or the Assignments for specific requirements.

Course Policies

1. Check your email regularly. That is how I will inform you of grades, approaching due dates, or other private, course-related information. I will also reply to your emails at your VCCS account. I will not accept or respond to email sent by you from any account other than the one provided by the VCCS. If you don't know your VCCS email address, you can find the directions in the **Books, Materials, and Learning Tools** folder in the Syllabus area.
2. You may submit only one piece of work a day.
3. You may only take an exam after you have completed the assigned Activities preceding the exam in the sequence of course work. Then complete the next set of Activities before taking the next exam.
4. Keep copies of all your work until you have received your final grade, since I may delete work from the forums after 45 days, or material may be accidentally deleted. You should also keep the email grades I send you until you have received your final grade for the course.
5. Plagiarism is a serious breach of ethics and will not be tolerated in this course. If I identify plagiarized work, I will not grade it, nor will I allow it to be redone. The rule is: if you didn't know it before you read (or heard or saw) it, you need to cite the source of the information (in parentheses), either directly after using the information, or no later than the end of the paragraph in which you refer to it. Please find the detailed information in the **Plagiarism** folder in the **Syllabus** area.
6. If you have a documented disability that may affect your performance in this class, please email me at [Diane Thompson](#) to explain your situation.
7. Incomplete grades are not given simply because a student is overwhelmed by life and school and behind on work. Incompletes are only available when there are legitimate, verifiable, unavoidable reasons that have prevented a student from progressing appropriately.
8. Since this is a college course, all graded work must be of college level. This means that it:
 - responds appropriately to the assignment
 - has college-level content
 - is well developed
 - has a clear, readable style
 - is reasonably well-focused
 - is well-organized
 - uses appropriate language and tone
 - uses correct English mechanics.

If you submit work that does not meet these requirements for college level work, I will not correct or grade it. I will allow each student ONE chance to rewrite ONE piece of work. After that, if you need more help, use a NOVA Writing Center for free peer tutoring or contact ELI

(703-323-3347) to inquire about free online tutoring support. The best strategy is to do your best work before submitting it for a grade.

Taking Exams

There are **3** exams in this course. The exams are on line and must be taken at a campus testing center with an approved proctor if the student is out of town, and ProctorU.

Print out the **Exam Pass** and read the directions which follow in Taking Exams.

You must have the following to take an exam in a Testing Center:

- Photo Identification -- This may be an official driver's license, a DMV ID, or a military ID.
- Exam Pass -- Print out and take with you the one that corresponds to the exam you plan to take. See **Exam Passes** information elsewhere on this page.
- Your NovaConnect ID -- This is also called your Student Number and EmplID. To look up your NovaConnect ID before you go to the Testing Center, go to <http://www.nvcc.edu/novaconnect>.

Visit ELI's Testing Information page <http://eli.nvcc.edu/testinginfo.htm> for current test taking information.

- You are expected to take your examinations at one of the NOVA campus [Testing Centers](#). If you live or are traveling outside the Washington, DC metropolitan area, you must arrange for proctoring of your exams; see [How Do I Secure an Exam Proctor?](#) for directions on how to request a proctor, and to obtain a [Proctor Request Form](#). ***SSDL students are to contact their [home college liaison](#) for proctoring instructions.***
- You **cannot make an appointment** to take an exam.
- NOVA Testing Centers hours vary. We suggest that you check the [Testing Center](#) website to find a link to a calendar of the campus testing center hours and verify hours for special holiday closings. Please note that there are occasional unforeseeable problems, such as weather, power failures or flooding, that require unannounced closings of Testing Centers.
- Testing Centers will NOT let you take an exam if you bring your children. This is an issue of liability.
- Plan your testing time wisely. The Testing Centers have a limited number of computers and desk space. If you delay until just before the ELI end date, you may have to wait to take your test or may not be able to test at all if resources are not available. Consider testing during the week before the end date.
- You must begin your ELI exam **no later than 60 minutes prior** to the Testing Center's closing time; if you expect the exam to take longer, allow enough time to finish before closing. Online exam sessions expire after three hours; you must complete an online exam within three hours to avoid losing your answers.
- **Only one test will be administered at a time.** Students requiring multiple tests must go to the end of the line after each test.

ProctorU

ProctorU gives you the option to take proctored exams at home. You schedule the time you'd like to take your exam and each exam costs just \$7.50, payable by credit or debit card. If you are interested, go to ProctorU.com to view the "How It Works" and the "Introduction to ProctorU" demos of the process. You should also view the "Technical Specifications" link at the top.

Here are some things to consider.

- You must schedule your exam a week in advance using the Schedule an Exam function on ProctorU.
- You must be 18 or older.
- You must have **speakers & microphone (or headset) and a webcam** connected to your computer and in working order.
- You must be prepared to show a current photo ID prior to beginning the exam.
- You must use your NOVA email address.
- There will be no bathroom breaks during the exam and no one is allowed in the room with you.

Follow the directions on the NOVA ProctorU web site (<http://www.proctoru.com/nova>) to create an account. (You might want to use your BlackBoard login and password so it is easy to remember.) Once your account is created, you can schedule your exam. You will be asked to choose the specific exam from a drop down box. You should know your **course section number and instructor's name as well as the exam name**. You will receive a confirmation sent to your NOVA email address. If necessary, you may reschedule your exam.

Once you have scheduled your exam, use the "Test My WebCam" function in the upper left box to make sure all is running properly **prior to** your scheduled exam date.

(<http://proctoru.com/amiready>) If you have questions, you can contact ProctorU at (205) 870-8122.

Note: ELI will provide technical and academic support to ProctorU during traditional NOVA testing hours. Problems encountered during non-traditional testing hours will be addressed during the next working day and may require rescheduling the test with ProctorU.

Plagiarism and Student Rights & Responsibilities

Plagiarism

According to the [NOVA Student Handbook](#), plagiarism "is the act of appropriating passages from the work of another individual, either word for word or in substance, and representing them as one's own work. This includes any submission of written work other than one's own." In short, plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit.

Credit should be given through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes; a simple listing of books and articles is not sufficient. Credit not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. (The library web site has examples of proper citations.)

Also, give credit to the source of information and graphics accessed electronically through the Internet. This material includes e-mail (don't cite or forward someone else's e-mail without permission); newsgroup material; and information from Web sites, including graphics. Even if you give credit, you must get permission from the original source to put any graphic that you did not create on your web page.

Good academic work must be based on honesty. Plagiarism is dishonest and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. The consequences of plagiarizing are detailed in the NOVA Student Handbook. In short, when such misconduct is established as having occurred, the student faces possible disciplinary actions ranging from admonition to dismissal, along with any grade penalty the instructor might impose.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Familiarize yourself with the college's specific expectations concerning the conduct of its students. These expectations apply to all students (part-time or full-time) attending NOVA. Student Rights and Responsibilities are outlined in the [NOVA Student Handbook](#).

Netiquette

"Netiquette" is an abbreviation for "Internet etiquette" -- simply, basic rules of the road for the "Information Superhighway." We all want to experience the benefits of online communication in a way that is most effective, efficient, polite and safe.

[Online Communication Netiquette](#)

ELI Policies and Procedures

The [ELI Web Site](http://eli.nvcc.edu/) (<http://eli.nvcc.edu/>) will answer many general questions about ELI and the courses available through ELI. Please also read [ELI Policies and Procedures](http://eli.nvcc.edu/elipps.htm) (<http://eli.nvcc.edu/elipps.htm>) for the policies that govern your enrollment and the services available to you.

Call the ELI Hotline at (703) 323-3347 or 1-888-4DL-NVCC (1-888-435-6822) if you are unable to find the answers to your questions or if you need further information.

Accommodation Statement

Under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), disability services are available to you if you are currently enrolled, if you have a documented disability that substantially limits you in one or more of life's major activities, and if you are otherwise academically qualified.

Students requesting disability accommodations for an ELI course follow the same procedures as student requesting accommodations for a NOVA campus-based course. Please carefully review the information on NOVA's [Disability Services](#) website. The completed "Students with Disabilities Intake Packet" may be submitted to one of NOVA's six campus Disability Services offices.

For more information, you may contact [ELI Counselors](#).