

## Course Outline *Reality and the Americas* FYS G114 McCarthy OCW Version

This blended course has computer lab, classroom, and virtual locations; see syllabus, webpage, weblog, and library wiki for other instructions.

### Unit One: Reality and the past

In this unit we will explore the relationship between history as canon, counter-canon, and alternative and the shaping of perceptions of reality.

Framework text: excerpt from Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*

Other Unit One sources:

history/interdisciplinary synthesis-"Holmberg's Mistake" from Mann's *1491*

"actual" diary-*Women of the West*

recorded history/anthropology-WPA: *La Diabla A Pie* (primary, authentic, original text or no?)

academic conference presentation/article-Pratt's "Arts of the Contact Zone"

media studies textbook-Atwan's *Convergences*

week 1

*Tues.* Course introduction, syllabus, surveys, defining 'reality' and 'America'

*homework:* Course materials, read and annotate excerpt from Zinn's *A People's History*

*Thurs.* Annotation, selecting and presenting evidence, defining, constructing, and Zinn

*homework:* Reannotate Zinn's "...Progress," read and annotate excerpt from Zinn's graphic *Empire*

week 2

*Tues.* Double entries, constructing and deconstructing, Atwan's *Convergences*

*homework:* Categorization-of-Zinn double entry, read and annotate excerpt from Mann's *1491*

*Thurs.* Comparison of history to interdisciplinary research in Mann's *1491*, Advising

*homework:* Read and annotate individual selection from Mann's *1491*

week 3

*Tues.* Pratt's "Contact Zone" and *1491*, e-mail address list

*homework:* Reread and reannotate individual excerpts from *1491*

*Thurs.* Review course vocabulary and double entries, Unit I readings

*homework:* Annotate Paper I instructions, paper sources double entry

week 4

*Tues. Computer Lab:* Excerpts from double entries, Paper I instructions

*homework:* Scan *Women of the West* or WPA: *La Diabla A Pie* excerpt, position paragraphs

*Thurs.* Layering of authorship and filtering, group responses to homework, position paragraphs

*homework:* Annotate excerpt from Turkle's *Life on the Screen*, **Paper I version 1**

## Unit Two: Reality and the present:

In this unit we will view "progress" in the ways that we view "America" which challenges yet incorporates earlier perceptions of reality.

Framework texts: excerpt from Turkle's *Life on the Screen*, Jhally's *Advertising and the End of the World*

Other sources:

websites-calendars, linearity, zero, and the present

how to book-Postman and Powers's *How to Watch TV News*

electronic library resources-website evaluations, *Oxford English Dictionary online*

Reserve Desk sources-books identified by classmates during preliminary Healey Library Research

week 5

*Tues. Computer Lab:* Peer review, weblog response to "Identity Crisis"

*homework:* "Identity Crisis" (*Life on the Screen*) double entry

*Thurs.* Comparing use of evidence, disciplines and perceptions of reality, view Jhally's *Advertising*

*homework:* Finish *Advertising and the End of the World* double entry, **Paper I version 2**

week 6

*Tues. Computer Lab:* *Oxford English Dictionary*, the present and calendar websites, Healey Library research

*homework:* Annotate chapters in *How to Watch* by Postman and Powers

*Thurs.* Compare/contrast arguments and types of arguments made in Unit 2 sources, disciplines

*homework:* Double entry based on class discussion

week 7

*Tues. Computer Lab:* Reworking double entries, "reality" programming, categorizing programs,

*homework:* Revise double entries as necessary, complete group work before Tuesday of week 8

*Thurs.* Paper II instructions, position paragraphs, midsemester evaluations

*homework:* Annotate Paper II instructions, position paragraphs

week 8

*Tues. Computer Lab:* Group weblog responses, Healey Library Catalog, Reserve Desk

*homework:* **Paper II version 1**

*Thurs.* Peer review, specific wording, examining arguments made in student papers, adding evidence

*homework:* Revise Paper II according to comments

week 9

*Tues.* Documentation styles and pages, Advising, read weblog responses to group work

*homework:* Complete documentation page, review Paper II for clear attribution

*Thurs.* Final review of Paper II, dual language compositions

*homework:* Annotate LeGuin's "Why Are Americans Afraid of Dragons?", **Paper II version 2**

### Unit Three: Reality? or not? or both?

How might imagined realities work as alternative realities that can challenge or substantiate dominant perceptions/definitions of reality?

Framework text: LeGuin's "Why are Americans Afraid of Dragons?"

Other texts (some of these will be used in class, others are available through the supplemental reading list):

sung/legend of a reimported hero-The Waterboys's "The Return of Jimi Hendrix"

sung/dual language-Manu Chao's "Welcome to Tijuana"

anthologized fiction-*Daring to Dream's* "Man's Rights..."

film-*The Brother From Another Planet*

scholarly sources-sources located during independent research

week 10

*Tues. Computer Lab:* LeGuin and Unit 3's reversal, brainstorm for project/construction, forming project proposal

*homework:* Complete project proposal (method, message, media)

*Thurs.* Begin drafting and forming actual project

*homework:* Complete initial version of **Project**

*Note: Week 10 is the Pass/Fail/Withdrawal Deadline*

week 11

*Tues. Computer Lab:* Assessment of Projects, begin documentation page and list of search terms

*homework:* Read Project evaluations, annotate "Man's Rights", appropriate from its contextualization

*Thurs. Healey Library CLI:* Electronic library research--the deep or hidden web and scholarly sources

*homework:* complete **Final Version of Project**

week 12

*Tues. Computer Lab:* Continue electronic library research, "Man's Rights," contextualizing projects, citing students' projects, documentation pages, position paragraphs

*homework:* Annotate Paper III and creator statement instructions, **Paper III version I**

*Thurs. Healey Library CLI:* Collaborative research review

*homework:* view *The Brother From Another Planet*

week 13

*Tues. Computer Lab:* Continued library research, Paper III and authorship, peer review, presentation instructions

*homework:* Presentation notes, presentation handouts

*Thurs.* Presentations, Paper III revision

*homework:* Revise presentation handouts and presentation notes

week 14

*Tues.* Presentations, evaluations

*homework:* Revise Paper III including title and documentation pages

*Thurs.* Presentations, creator statements

*homework:* **Paper III version 2**, and portfolio, creator statement

week 15

*Tues.* **Final copy of Paper III, Gallery Day**

*homework:* Read initial feedback on project/portfolio, speak to Meesh if instructed to do so

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