

UC 12110 12F ✓

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Core Category: WID Effective Fall 2014

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Effective Fall 2013

1. Department: POLS College: CLASS APPROVED MAR 27, 2013  
 2. Faculty Contact Person: Susan Collins Telephone: 3-3900 Email: suecoll724@uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
POLS / 2341 / Renaissance Classics
  - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)  
POLS / 2341 / RENAISSANCE CLASSICS
  - SCH: 3.00 Level: SO CIP Code: 45.1001.15.01 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements
5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course?  Yes  No  
 If Yes, please complete:
- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_
  - Course ID: \_\_\_\_ Effective Date (currently active row): \_\_\_\_

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): BBA, BA, BFA, BM, BS
- Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department?  Yes  No
  - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments?  Yes  No
  - Can the course be repeated for credit?  Yes  No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title  
POLS / 2341 / Renaissance Classics
- Course ID: 39585 Effective Date (currently active row): 8/21/2000

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)  
 Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1303 and 1304 or equivalent. Description (30 words max.): One or more texts in modern political philosophy. (Introductory category.)

10. Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 12/8/12  
 Print/Type Name: Dr. Sarah Fishman

## REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Political Science

Person Making Request: Susan Collins

Telephone: 3-3500

Email: suscoll724@unl.edu

Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 9/10/2012

Course Number and Title: POIS 234E: Renaissance Classics

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

1. Students will develop their critical reasoning in reading, discussing and writing on a variety of classic texts.
2. Students will become familiar with some of the central philosophical, political, historical and scientific issues that have dominated the history of Western thinking.
3. Students will enhance their communication skills through intensive small-group discussions and oral examination finals.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

Component Area Option (WID)

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Social Responsibility

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated

the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

#### Critical Thinking:

Students will be assigned a three-page essay that explores central questions of politics, ethics, and community through foundational texts from the Renaissance and Enlightenment forward. Students will be engaging and evaluating the overt and implicit claims of these texts about human nature, justice and happiness, and the basis and good order of human community. The primary emphasis of the assignment is critical thinking.

#### Sample essay assignment:

#### **DISCUSSION ESSAY ASSIGNMENT ONE**

In what manner and to what extent does the *contrapasso* of the last “pouch” of the *malebolge* (XXIX-XXX) show that the sin involved—falsifying—is a graver sin than that of the ninth pouch—schism?

Answer the question above in the form of an analytic essay of no more than three pages (typed or word-processed, double spaced, with sane margins). Affix a title page identifying yourself and the course, and please title the essay.

#### Communication Skills:

Students will develop written communication skills through completion of the above assignment.

#### Empirical & Quantitative Skills:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

#### Teamwork:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

#### Social Responsibility:

The above assignment demonstrates engagement of the political theory in the course and questions of rights and responsibilities in modern life and citizenship. Working through the alternative positions elaborated in the text will help the students to develop an independent, critical, analytic approach to their individual and social development.

#### Personal Responsibility:

The above assignment address fundamental questions of personal development, as seen in the classical liberal conception of the rights-bearing rational individual, and the existential conception of the self in search of authenticity.

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course?     Yes                       No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

All courses will include the above three page analytic essay.

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# COURSE SYLLABUS

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**YEAR COURSE OFFERED:** 2011

**SEMESTER COURSE OFFERED:** Spring

**DEPARTMENT:** Honors

**COURSE NUMBER:** POLS 2341

**NAME OF COURSE:** Renaissance Classics (The Human Situation:  
Modernity—Omega team)

**NAME OF INSTRUCTOR:** Little

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**The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.**

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## Learning Objectives

- Students will develop their critical reasoning in reading, discussing and writing on a variety of classic texts.
- Students will become familiar with some of the central philosophical, political, historical and scientific issues that have dominated the history of Western thinking.
- Students will enhance their communication skills through intensive small-group discussions and oral examination finals.

## Major Assignments/Exams

Participation:	10%
Essays (4):	80%
Quizzes & Miscellaneous Assignments:	10%

## Required Reading

Dante, *Inferno* (FSG)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-374-52452-4

Francis Bacon, *Selected Philosophical Works* (Hackett)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-470-6

Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Pelican)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-14071-485-2

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Hackett)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-177-4

Kant, 'Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View' (handout)

Schiller, *The Robbers* (Penguin Classics)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-14044-368-4

Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Oxford World Classics)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-19953-715-0

Eliot, *The Wasteland* (Modern Library Classics)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-37575-934-5

Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (Norton)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-39330-158-8

Saramago, *Blindness* (Mariner Books)  
ISBN-13: 978-0-15603-558-3

### Recommended Reading

Omega Prof Blog on thehumansituation.com

### List of discussion/lecture topics

1/19 Dante: *Inferno* (JH)

1/24 Dante: *Inferno* (HC)

1/26 Dante: *Inferno* (AL)

1/31 Dante: *Inferno* (KM)

2/2 Dante: *Inferno* (JH)

2/7 Bacon: *Philosophical Works* (HV)

2/9 Bacon: *Philosophical Works* (HV)

2/14 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (JH)

2/16 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (AL)

2/21 Shakespeare: *The Tempest* (KM)

2/23 Hobbes: *Leviathan* (AL)

2/28 Hobbes: *Leviathan* (JC)

## COURSE SYLLABUS

- 3/2 Hobbes: *Leviathan* (AL)
- 3/7 Schiller: *Robbers* (JC)
- 3/9 Schiller: *Robbers* (JH) **Lecture Paper Due**
- 3/14 SPRING BREAK
- 3/16 SPRING BREAK
- 3/21 Kant: *Cosmopolitanism* (CF)
- 3/23 Kant: *Cosmopolitanism* (JC)
- 3/28 Shelley, *Frankenstein* (CF)
- 3/30 Shelley, *Frankenstein* (HV)
- 4/4 Shelley, *Frankenstein* (CF)
- 4/6 Eliot, *Wasteland* (KM)
- 4/11 Eliot, *Wasteland* (KM)
- 4/13 Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (CF)
- 4/18 Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (JC)
- 4/20 Saramago, *Blindness* (HV)
- 4/25 Saramago, *Blindness* (HC)
- 4/27 Saramago, *Blindness* (HC)
- 5/2 Conclusion (JH)