

LS Course Approval

Term AND Academic Year: Winter, 2006-2007

Course No: LS 112

Course title: Exploring Friendship

Instructor: Ellen Hay

Briefly describe your course:

This course draws from one that I taught a number of years ago as part of the Foundations program. In that course that I team-taught with a former member of the philosophy department, we discussed a wide variety of essays on friendship ranging from Plato and Aristotle to C.S. Lewis and Hannah Arendt. It was interesting for me and for our students to consider how our current conceptualizations of friendship compared to those articulated by these writers and thinkers.

For this LS course, I have chosen eleven essays written between 1550-1850. In class, we'll consider if the nature of friendship has changed over time and how these important relationships contribute to our view of self and the society of which we are a part. The major writing assignment for the term will be on essay reacting to one of the text that we read.

How will your course tie into the term's common features?

The course will use the three LS questions as themes to inform our discussions. As noted on the syllabus, the four common texts and four convocations related to the term have been included. While these do not pertain directly to the topic of friendship, they do provide a context for our readings.

The Origins of Modernity exhibit will be a highlight of the term. Drawing from the works in the catalog, students will role-play conversations with groups of artists who maintained friendships. For example, Manet, Monet, Renoir and Sisley will be featured in one conversation while Cassatt, Morisot and Degas will talk in another.

The study of writing will draw from the exercises in the second portion of *They Say/I Say* and the information literacy expectations. In the final capstone paper, the students will develop their responses to one of texts, relying on primary sources and interview data as evidence to support their positions.

Listening and speaking abilities will also receive attention in the course.

In addition to the common goals, what other goals have you established for your course?

I expect students:

- To read and understand difficult texts, and discuss ideas presented in these texts in relation to each other and to contemporary research on friendship.
- To master effective interviewing.
- To integrate information from several sources and present it effectively in oral and written form.

In addition to the common readings, what other readings will be assigned in your course? Why are these important to your course?

The syllabus lists the essays that we will be reading. While we all have friendships, we seldom consider how and why they form, how they differ from other relationships, how they are alike and yet how each is unique. The essays that we will be reading provide perspective, demonstrate that a common human experience is complicated, and that humans have long tried to understand the intricacies of human interaction.

In addition to the common experiences, what other learning opportunities will be required in your course? Why are these important to your course?

Students will have four interviewing assignments during this course. They will interview children, senior citizens, their parents and each other about friendship. The data from these sessions will be used as evidence in their final essay. I have included this assignment because I would like them to learn to adapt messages (in this case questions) to different audiences and to understand that their own personal experience needs to be placed in context.

Our Tuesday-Thursday class sessions will be divided into two parts. Approximately half our time will be spent discussing the text assigned for the day. The other half will focus on improving oral and written communication abilities, conducting interviews and studying the "Origins of Modernity" exhibit.

In addition to the common assignments, what other assignments, examinations, etc. will your students complete? Please provide your best estimate on how grades will be assigned.

See Syllabus

Department Chair: _____

Date: _____

General Education Chair: _____

Date: _____

LS 112-17 Birth of Modern Times: Exploring Friendship TTh, G period

I. General Information

Instructor name: Dr. Ellen Hay Instructor e-mail: ellenhay@augustana.edu
Office phone: 7724 Home phone: 359-5560
Office hours: M,W, F 8:30-10:30 Office location: Denkmann B-34
Required texts: *Liberal Arts through the AGES*
They Say/I Say
The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing
Writing with Sources

II. What are we trying to accomplish in this class?

A. Goals of a Liberal Education

A liberal arts education promotes the development a fully-engaged life within and beyond one's profession, a "life well-lived." Through the first year, we will consider our commitment to lead and serve others. A liberal arts education also considers the questions that have always confronted humans. Questions that will frame the first year include:

- Is there meaning in nature?
- What is "the good society"?
- What is self?

B. Specific Goals for LS 112

During the winter term, we will focus on analysis and interpretation. Through continued attention to writing, speaking, reading and listening, we will further prepare students for advanced study at Augustana for future professions and for a variety of interests and pursuits.

Specifically, you will be expected to:

- Compare ideas and texts.
- Analyze the meaning, effect or merit of a text or idea.
- Construct and support an argument using evidence.
- Compare personal experience in relation to that of others and existing evidence.

C. Specific Course Goals and Objectives

1. To consider the nature of friendship, how friendships define self and how friendships impact society through questions such as:
 - How do friends influence us?
 - Is equality a prerequisite to friendship?
 - How do friendships differ from family relationships?
 - Are there different types of friends?
 - How do friends contribute to the development of self?
 - Can men and women be friends?
 - Has the nature of friendship changed over the last five centuries?
 - Do friendships change as we age?
 - Are all friendships "good" or do "bad" friendships exist?
2. To continue the development of essential critical thinking and communication abilities through further instruction in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

III. What learning opportunities will help us realize these goals?

- A. Improving critical reading abilities 45 points
For each assigned reading you will have a corresponding task such as constructing a summary, developing discussion questions or creating a concept map. This assignment will be collected at the beginning of the class period so bring two copies so you have one for the discussion of the text. 3 pts. per reading
- B. Improving critical listening abilities 15 points
You are required to attend the convocation on Dec. 7, Jan. 18 and Feb. 8. A listening quiz will given at the beginning of class on those dates. A practice quiz will be given on Nov. 30. 5 pts. per quiz
- C. Improving oral communication abilities
1. Informative speech-Backstory 20 points
With a partner, you will present an 8-10 minute informative speech focused on background information helpful in understanding the era and text that we are studying.
 2. In Conversation with Artists Feb. 13 20 points
You will be assigned an artist to role-play in conversation with two to three of his/her friends. You should know about the artist's life, works and influence.
 3. Interviews 20 points
During the term you will be conducting four interviews that will serve as a resource for your research essay. 5 pts. per interview
- D. Improving writing abilities
1. Research essay Feb. 19 by 1:00 PM 50 points
Based upon one of our class readings you are to select a question related to friendship, develop a position on that question and support your argument with references from our readings, primary library sources and data collected through assigned interviews.
 2. Essay preparatory assignments
Information literacy assignment 5 points
They Say feedback from Writing Fellow Jan.25 5 points
I Say feedback from Writing Fellow Feb. 8 5 points
 4. Essay Examinations
Exam #1 Dec. 21 30 points
Exam #2 Feb. 8 35 points

B. Course policies and procedures

A. Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in discussions. They should also attend assigned events out of class. Exam questions will be drawn from discussions and class activities. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the instructor's attention.

B. Timeliness

All assignments should be submitted/completed as assigned. A 1/3 grade reduction can be expected for late work. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the instructor's attention.

C. Academic Integrity

As is outlined in the AGES statement on academic integrity, students are to attest that the work that they are submitting is solely the work of the individual student. Direct quotations or paraphrases from other sources must be clearly attributed. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in total loss of credit for the assignment or exam, and reported as specified in the Augustana Honor Code.

IV. Course schedule

Date	Text Discussion	Text Location	Work Session
11/28	Bacon-"Of Friendship"	E-mailed	Critical reading
11/30	Jacoby convocation Luther-"Freedom of the Christian" 161-178 "On Friendship"	MOODLE	Informative speeches
12/5	Montaigne-"Of Cannibals"	180-187	Chp. 4 <i>I Say</i> Critical listening
12/7	Kidder convocation Montaigne-"Of Friendship"	MOODLE	Chp. 5 <i>I Say</i>
12/12	Descartes-"Correspondence to Chanut"	MOODLE	Library
12/14	Spinoza-from "Ethics"	MOODLE	Interviewing
12/19	Hobbes-"Of the State of Men without a Civil Society"	MOODLE	Interviews
12/21	Exam #1		Small group comm.
WINTER BREAK			
1/9	Jefferson- <i>Declaration</i>	190-193	Chp. 6 <i>I Say</i>
1/11	Kant-"On Duties"	MOODLE	Interviews
1/16	Hume- "Of Benevolence"	MOODLE	Chp. 7 <i>I Say</i>
1/18	Exhibit convocation Whitman poems Bronte "Love & Friendship"	196-197 MOODLE	Writing RefWorks
1/23	Schopenhauer-"The World as Will-Second Aspect"	MOODLE	Exhibit tour
1/25	Kierkegaard-from <i>Either/Or</i>	MOODLE	Art 249-257
1/30	Nietzsche-"Human, All-Too-Human"	MOODLE	Role plays
2/1	Emerson-"Of Friendship"	MOODLE	Group work
2/6	Exam #2		Group work
2/8	LS 112 panel convocation Individual conferences on papers		Group work Van Gogh & Friends
2/13	In Conversation With Artists		
2/15	Peer reviews of drafts/Course wrap & evaluation		
2/19	1:00-Essays due		