

Professor David Geherin

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This General Education course introduces students to the humanities disciplines of the study of American literature and of ancient Roman literature. By its strong emphasis on comparative analysis, the course facilitates a clear understanding of the literary concept of genre (e.g., satire, epic, lyric, novel, etc.). Besides issues of literary theory, the course also encourages the appreciation of continuity in major themes, such as the definition of "heroism" or of the "successful" life, the gender system of the relevant cultures, and social class distinctions, as well as the techniques (e.g., parody, irony, allegory, symbolism, etc.) common to the literatures of classical Roman antiquity and present-day America. By examining literary works from two cultures remote in time and place from each other, students learn to grasp and evaluate what is traditional and what is innovative in each. For these reasons, this course will satisfy the Humanities requirement of the General Education program.

Reading List:Vergil, *The Aeneid*, trans. David WestPetronius, *The Satyricon*Juvenal, *The Satires of Juvenal*Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., *Welcome to the Monkey House*Barbara Solomon, ed., *The Haves and the Have-Nots*Ken Kesey, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*

*Additional readings and course materials available at the course webpage
(people.emich.edu/jholoka/cm_c106.htm).*

Lecture: There will be three examinations based exclusively on material covered in the lecture portion of the course. These will include objective questions as well as short essays. Careful lecture notes will be very important in preparing for these exams. [Final Exam: Fri, 12 December.]

Recitation: We expect you to be active participants in class discussions during the recitation portion of the course. There will be four major writing assignments based on our class discussions: a research paper; an in-class essay on satire; an essay on heroism; and a final paper comparing a single specific parallel between Rome and America. Your recitation grade will be based on all your written work during the semester.

Final Grade: Your final grade will be based on the combined average of your work in both the lecture and recitation portions of the course.

Reading Assignments: Readings assignments will be given in advance. You will be expected to have the readings completed by the time we begin covering the material in class.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. Missed classes may affect your grades on the lecture exams and can lower your recitation grade.