

LS 898: Graduating Seminar: Comparing, Exploring and Thinking through Time and Modernity.

Spring 2016 | Dr. Jerry Zaslove

COURSE OUTLINE:

This course completes the MALS degree.

The title of the Seminar continues the tradition of GLS PROGRAM through reading works that can be said to frame the creative and often fractured connections among passion and emotion, reason and civilization, past and future, authorship and readership and beginnings and endings.

From the *Iliad* and then Rabelais in *Gargantua and Pantagruel* the touchstones of “frozen time” and “frozen words” and utopic thinking are thawed by preoccupation about origins, fate and destiny, beginnings, and endings, and the idea of Time and the personal journeys or personal myth. How have the Readings in the GLS Program changed and/or developed your thinking about Origins, Beginnings, Endings and the Future in our ideas of Past and Present?

Some ideas to think about: time and memory as polarities that dominate our preoccupation with Modernity. Many authors remind us of how we live in the “in the meanwhile”- time past and future comes into our lives with the struggle to live in the present tense where thinking, writing, painting, singing, working and speaking about the real is an inevitable project of being alive.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

One at the beginning of the Semester and one at the end of the semester.

FIELD EXAM

In the brochure describing the Graduate Liberal Studies Program we are told that "The central theme of the program is an exploration of significant tensions within our intellectual culture, tensions that have historical origins and that have practical consequences in our present world." In the first few weeks there will be a 7-10 page paper related to the goals of the GLS Program as you have developed them in your program. At the end of the semester there will be second paper, which will address the themes of the first paper in the light of the readings in this course.

The first paper will be presented to the seminar during the first third of the course. Readings will be assigned for leading seminar discussions.

COURSE READINGS:

Iliad Homer trans. Robert Flagels Penguin Books 0-14-027536 - 3

Bakhtin *Rabelais and his World* Indiana Univ. Press 978 0 253 20340 -0

Dostoevsky: *Notes from a Dead House* Knopf 10: 0307959597

Van Gogh *Letters* Penguin Classics 0-140-44674-5

Woolf *To the Lighthouse* Harcourt Brace 10-015690739

Milena: The Story of a Friendship, [Margaret Buber-Neumann](#) Seaver Books 10-0805007482

Franz Kafka, *The Blue Octavo Notebooks* Exact Change Books 10: 9781878972040

Franz Kafka, *Josephine the Mouse Singer* – *This will be a Handout from Instructor*

Saul Friedlaender, *When Memory Comes* Univ of Wisconsin Press 0-299-19044-7

Jonathan Shay, *Achilles in Vietnam* Simon and Schuster 10-0684813211

Fred Wah *Diamond Grill* Newest Press 1-896300-12-X

Peyman Vahabzadeh - *Essays on a Displaced Life* [New edition coming out will be available from Instructor or online]