BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Spring Quarter 2024
The American Tradition Year 2: Seminar

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<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>DATES AND TIMES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Hall</td>
<td>COURSE LENGTH: Ten Weeks DATES: March 21 to May 23</td>
<td>Remote Course</td>
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EMAIL: halls@uchicago.edu
Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message

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<th>DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday TIMES: 11:15am – 12:45pm</th>
<th>COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC64233 24S2 PREREQUISITES: At least 2 years of the Basic Program</th>
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Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins. Please visit https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From its founding – and even before – America was as much idea, or grand arena of conflict of ideas, as it was geography or state: democracy, religious fulfillment and toleration, opportunity, pursuit of individual happiness, self-reliance, and perhaps freedom above all. America’s history is the history of struggles over the meanings and implications of these ideals and their collision with terrible American realities – slavery, oppression, exclusion of minorities, exploitation and destruction of native populations, capitalist and imperialist excesses, the cultures of consumption, narcissism, and fantasy.

REQUIRED TEXTS

2. Wallace Stevens. Poems provided in PDF on the course Canvas site.

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.
## WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

| WEEK 1 | March 21 | Cather | Death Comes for the Archbishop  
Prologue through Book 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| WEEK 2 | March 28 | Cather | Death Comes for the Archbishop  
Book 5 through Book 9 |
| WEEK 3 | April 4 | Stevens | “The Snow Man”; “The Poems of Our Climate”;  
“Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”; “The House Was Quiet and the World Was Calm”; “The Idea of Order at Key West”;  
“Sunday Morning”; “Of Modern Poetry.” |
| WEEK 4 | April 11 | Baldwin | The Fire Next Time  
“Down at the Cross: Letter from a Region of My Mind” through the line “If God cannot do this, then it is time we got rid of Him.” P. 47 |
| WEEK 5 | April 18 | Baldwin | The Fire Next Time  
Through conclusion |
| WEEK 6 | April 25 | Wilson | Fences  
(read entire play) |
| WEEK 7 | May 2 | Wilson | Fences  
(discussion cont’d) |
| WEEK 8 | May 9 | Niebuhr | The Irony of American History  
Through Chapter II “The Innocent Nation in an Innocent World” |
| WEEK 9 | May 16 | Niebuhr | The Irony of American History  
Through Chapter V “The Triumph of Experience Over Dogma” |
| WEEK 10 | May 23 | Niebuhr | The Irony of American History  
Through Chapter VIII “The Significance of Irony”  
Discussion and Overview |

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.