

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS

ASHA 321 – FALL 2011

Representation

COURSE OUTLINE

Logistics

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45

Location: ENC 127

Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen
SS 1308
dabergen@ucalgary.ca
403-220-7063

Office Hours: T/TR, 11:00-12:00, by appointment

Textbook Theoretical Texts:

Jonathon Potter, *Representing Reality: Discourse, Rhetoric and Social Construction* (1996 SAGE Publications).

Keith Jenkins *Rethinking History* (2003 London and New York: Routledge).

Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others* (2003 Picador).

David S. Escoffery, *How Real is Reality TV? Essays on Representation and Truth* (2006 MacFarland).

Brian Boyd, *On the Origin of Stories: Evolution, Cognition, and Fiction* (2009 Belknap Press).

PDF Readings (to be posted in Blackboard).

Primary Texts (Representations):

Allende, *The House of the Spirits*

Homer, *Odyssey*

CBS Survivor 23, South Pacific

Glenbow Museum Field Trip

The HarperCollins Study Bible: Genesis

Art Spiegelman, *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale* (1997 Pantheon Books)

Course Description

The study of humans must of necessity include an investigation into their representations, for humans are nothing if not incorrigible representing machines. From the profoundest literary masterpieces to everyday street gossip, humans engage with consummate ease the task of representing themselves to each other. This course will investigate a variety of human representations while posing three basic questions: *What have humans represented? How do humans represent? Why do humans represent?* In working critically through these three questions, this course will chart the parallax gap within the elite discourse of academics oscillates between constructivist (social scientific) and adaptivist (evolutionary biological) paradigms.

Learning Assessments	Reading Summations	30%
	Representation Paper I (due Nov 1)	30%
	Representation Paper II (due Dec 1)	30%
	Exam	10%
	Total	100%

Reading Summations (30%)

At the start of each week (Tuesday), students will be required to submit a well-written critical summary (400 words maximum) of the assigned theoretical readings for the week. These summaries must conclude with an informed question that seeks to apply an aspect or concept gleaned from the theoretical discussions to the representation (or “primary text” representation) assigned for the same week.

NB: Since this course involves a heavy reading load, it is recommended that students read in advance the primary texts (Allende, Homer, Genesis, and Spiegelman). A comprehensive schedule of assigned readings will be posted in Blackboard by the first day of class.

Representation Papers (30% + 30%)

Two 2500-word academic papers—written in two very different manners, representing two different epistemologies—will be graded for form and content. The first paper will be a standard (“active-voiced”) academic essay that comparatively analyzes *The Odyssey*, *Genesis*, and *House of Spirits* for their representational qualities. The second paper will be atypical, requiring students to adopt an “intransitive, middle voiced” approach when analytically comparing the *Glenbow Museum*, *Maus*, and *CBS Survivor* for their representational properties. (More information on what is required for these papers will be given in class.)

In-Class Exam – Last day of Class (10%)

As a representation of the terms’ parallaxic discussions on the topic of representation, this in-class exam will feature a group performance by the ASHA collective, lasting 75 minutes. Grading assessment will focus on the discussion that emerges from the collective effort, to be determined (by the instructor) for the quality and depth of its critical insight, for the degree of its course inclusiveness,¹ and for the egalitarian nature of its performance. The mark awarded for this discussion will be uniformly applied as the “in-class exam grade” for each student.

Grading Scale

A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

¹ By “course inclusiveness” I mean both the content and form/structure of ASHA 321 in its entirety, as articulated in the “description” of the course outline and as structured in the course schedule.

NB:

- As incentive towards substantive class participation, a bonus (maximum 10%) will be awarded to students who consistently contributed to the *academic* quality of class;
- students must “back up” all submissions; no concessions will be made for papers purportedly “lost” by yourself or the instructor;
- students should frequently check the Blackboard for updates and changes to the class schedule, readings, and additional relevant materials;
- a 5%/day late penalty will be levied for all late submissions. Late submissions (addressed to Dr. Bergen) must be placed in the Department of Religious Studies’ assignment drop-box (SS 1301), where they will be date-stamped;
- recording of lectures is not permitted;
- if a student is anticipating a class absence s/he should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; *no lecture notes will be available from the instructor*;
- tests and assignments must be written/submitted on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (corroborated by a valid, original note from a physician or counselor). You should contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline.

**Academic
Honesty**

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

**Academic
Accommodation**

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

**Course
Withdrawal**

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

**Lecture
Recording**

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

**Internet and
Electronic
Communication
Device
Information**

Electronic devices may be used in the classroom for note-taking purposes only. Any extra-curricular activities will result in the loss of electronic privileges for the individual student, perhaps even for the entire class.

**Safewalk
Program**

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 403-220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!