

**HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES 1021E
Inquiry, Interpretation, Rhetoric:
“Perspectives on Money”
FALL/WINTER 2010-11**

Class: Mondays 14:30-15:30; Wednesdays 15:30-17:30 HC - W12

Course instructor and coordinator: Mark Blagrove, Room A-108

Office Hours

Because of my administrative duties, Office Hours are best managed by appointment through the Dean’s Assistant (519-438-7224, extension 281) or by e-mailing or calling me directly.

You are welcome to drop by my office by chance (A 108) and if I am free I would be happy to talk then. (Late afternoons tend to be most “free.”)

My e-mail address is: mblagrav@huron.uwo.ca

Telephone: 519-438-7224, ext 267.

--M.B.

General Description:

The course engages students in exploring a variety of ways in which we understand “money” (including bullion and paper, credit, banks, bonds, stocks, &c). By examining the topic through a variety of disciplinary lenses, we will form ideas about differences and similarities among academic disciplines and thereby address fundamental concepts of “discipline” and “inter-disciplinarity” as they help us to understand the nature of knowledge and how it is organized.

Key Learning Objectives:

Students will develop as critical thinkers through reading and analysis of a variety of texts, through framing their own research question(s), and through analysis of arguments in texts. They will develop as creative thinkers through inhabiting multiple perspectives through the variety of texts and guest lectures and developing their lateral thinking capabilities. Understanding of the function of metaphor and models will be fostered through study of semiotics itself as it bears on money, through seeing connexions among disciplines, and through study of literary, dramatic, and film-narrative texts. Written and oral communication will be practiced through written assignments, tests and exams, and class presentations.

By the end of the course, students should be able to practice an interdisciplinary scholarly approach, bringing to bear, and synthesizing, a variety of intellectual approaches to a set issue or phenomenon or work.

CLASS SCHEDULE, FALL TERM

SEPTEMBER

13	Introductions; Lateral Thinking
15	Introductions: Metaphor and Semiotics; Shakespeare Sonnets 4, 6, 87, 134
20	Introductions: the semiotics of zero and credit [Reading: Adam Smith, “Of the Origin and Use of Money” from <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> in Course Reader]
22	Credit [Reading: Niall Ferguson, <i>The Ascent of Money</i> , “Introduction” and Alfred Crosby, “Bookkeeping” from <i>The Measure of Reality...</i> , (Course Reader)]
27	Banks [Ferguson, Chapter 1]
29	Bonds and Stocks [Ferguson, Chapters 2 and 3]; Writing clinic?

OCTOBER

- 4 Discussion: Rotman, "Number, Vision, Money" from *Signifying Nothing*
[Course Reader]
6 Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
13 Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
18 Writing Clinic
20 Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
25 Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
27 Discussion: Discipline, Interdisciplinarity, and Drama

NOVEMBER

- 1 Shaw, *Major Barbara*
3 Shaw, *Major Barbara*
8 Library Session
10 Shaw, *Major Barbara*
15 Shaw, *Major Barbara*
17 *Monopoly*: reading the board game
22 *Monopoly*
24 The elements of film
29 The elements of film; reading film

DECEMBER

- 1 Screening: *It's a Wonderful Life*
6 Discussion: *It's a Wonderful Life*
8 Wrap and forecast of second term

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
IDIS 1021E
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
WINTER 2011
[subject to change]

JANUARY

- 3 Mapping the term; planning Research Proposals
5 Dr David Conter (Department of Philosophy) on Aristotle and Money
Reading: TBA
10 Discussion: Aristotle and Money; Philosophical Perspectives
12 Dr Jim Crimmins (Dept. of Political Science) on John Locke, Property & Money
Reading: selections from Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* (1690)
On WebCT OWL site
17 Discussion: Locke, Property, Money; Political Science Perspectives
19 Dr Ozden Sungur (Department of Economics) on Modern Macroeconomics
Reading: TBA
24 Discussion: Macroeconomics; Economics Perspectives [*Research Proposals Due*]
26 The Rev Canon Bill Cliff on Debt and Sin
Reading: TBA
31 Discussion: Debt and Sin; Theological Perspectives

FEBRUARY

- 2 Dr Nelson Heapy (Department of Psychology) on Money Fallacies of the Right and Left
Reading: TBA
- 7 Discussion: Money Fallacies; Psychological Perspectives
- 9 Dr Geoffrey Read (Department of History) on Trade and Imperialism
Reading: TBA
- 14 Discussion: Imperialism and Trade; Historiographic Perspectives
- 16 Dr Nina Reid-Maroney (Department of History) on Money and Slavery
Reading: Steven Deyle, *Carry Me Back: The Domestic Slave Trade in American Life*, Chapter 5: "A Regular Part of Everyday Life: The Buying and Selling of Human Property"
On WebCT OWL site
- 28 Discussion: Slavery and Money; Historiographic Perspectives

MARCH

- 2 Dr Jun Fang (Department of History) on the Development of Paper Currency
Reading: TBA
- 7 Discussion: The Development of Paper Currency; Historiographic Perspectives
- 9 Presentations of work-in-progress (6 students)
- 14 Presentations of work-in-progress (3 students)
- 16 Presentations of work-in-progress (6 students)
- 21 Presentations of work-in-progress (3 students)
- 23 George Orwell, *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*
- 28 George Orwell, *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* [Research Essays Due]
- 30 George Orwell, *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*

APRIL

- 4 Wrap: Commons, Borders, Inside, Between, and Outside the Lines
- 6 Wrap

TEXTBOOKS [These have been ordered for the University Bookstore.]

Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money* Penguin

William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* Pearson/Longman

George Bernard Shaw, *Major Barbara* Penguin

George Orwell, *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* Penguin

And a Course Reader with readings from Smith, Crosby, and Rotman is available through "In Print."

ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENT

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Due</u>
Participation Free writes Class discussion [both entail attendance!]	10%	throughout the year

Research proposal	5%	24 January 2011
Research Essay	20%	28 March 2011
Small assignments	10% and 15%	27 October 2010 and 29 November 2010
Presentation [essay in progress]	10%	second term, dates negotiated
Final Exam	30%	scheduled by Registrar, April

Additional Policies

Prerequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities. In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at:

http://www.huronuc.ca/students/student_life/student_policies

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the instructor.

For non-medical grounds or for medical grounds when work represents less than 10% of the overall grade for the course, the student must submit a request to the instructor in writing prior to the due date of an assignment, and immediately in the case of a test. (Or as soon as possible following a medical emergency) Students are protected under the Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy and so written requests need only include a broad and general explanation of the situation, and the approximate length of time required. At the discretion of the instructor, the granting of extensions and re-scheduled tests may require the student to submit supporting either medical or non-medical documentation to the Academic Counsellor, who will then make the determination as to whether accommodation is warranted.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an academic offence and will be treated as such. Students who are in doubt as to the nature of this offence should consult their instructor, Department Chair or the Dean, as well as the Huron University College Statement on Plagiarism, available at the reference desk in the HUC Library and at <http://www.huronuc.ca/library/Citing/>. In addition, students may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available at the Reference Desk in the HUC Library. Information about these resources can be found in LibGuides on the main page: <http://www.huronuc.ca/library>.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website.

Accessibility

Huron University College strives at all times to provide its goods and services in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. We are also committed to giving people with disabilities the same opportunity to access our goods and services and allowing them to benefit from the same services, in the same place as, and in a similar way to, other customers. We welcome your feedback about accessibility at Huron. Information about how to provide feedback is available at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/accessibility>

Program and Academic Counselling

Interdisciplinary Studies students registered at Huron who require advice about modules and courses in Interdisciplinary Studies should contact Dean Blagrove, mblagrav@huron.uwo.ca. Students should contact Debbie Chadwick or Kent Robinson, Academic Counsellor on other academic matters. See the Academic Counselling website for information on services offered. http://www.huronuc.ca/students/service_centre/academic_counselling/