Great Texts in the Humanities II

Humanities 202

Section: d100

Term: 1999 Summer

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Discussion Topics: 'Every year I increase the list of books I shall never read'

 And now that my insurance company has informed me that I have many fewer years to live than I have already squandered, I can confess that those relatively few books that I have read [compared to all the books available just begging for the reading] are not always easy to 'remember.' Worse, I do not always remember if I ever read a given book irrespective of how much I have forgotten about it. But I am still a print junkie. I just love to read. And what we mortals love to do we often try to thrust on others. So here are a few books to read and to discuss. There are some great quotes which can be used on suitable occasion; there are even a few 'ideas' of alleged applicability to our striving to get over being depressed over how much we have forgotten of what we have read. It can also ease one's sense of confusion about a future world surely to be filled with many 'interesting' happenings.1 And if you are clever with words in class and even doubly clever with words on paper, you can enhance your grade point average.

 Nevertheless, a world without readers and readings is entirely conceivable although surely an abomination among serious print mongers.   Readers of the write, let us be. Let us reject with vigor [for the moment at least] the scoundrel who disdains our books and states boldly: "I shall read no more forever."

1Honorable ancient curse: "May you live in 'interesting times.'

Grading: Two essays (5-8 pages)   40% each   80%

Tutorial Participation   20%

Required Texts: Pascal.Pensées, Penguin Classics.

La Rochefoucauld. Maxims, Wordsworth Classics.

Voltaire. Candide, Penguin Classics.

J. Swift. Gulliver's Travels, Dover.

M. Shelley. FrankensteinVisit our Humanities website

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