

**Fall 2022**  
**HUMS 4903A: The Making of the Modern Self**  
**The College of the Humanities**

Prof. Geoffrey Kellow

Paterson Hall 2A 59 Phone 529-2600 ext. 2473

[Geoffrey.Kellow@carleton.ca](mailto:Geoffrey.Kellow@carleton.ca)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-12 in person & Thursdays 11-12 via MSTeams.

Students can also book an appointment to meet with me outside of these hours.

<https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/145391>

### **The Making of the Modern Self**

This seminar examines the philosophical, political, and cultural origins of the modern western sense of self. That self, as an object of inquiry, an entity distinct from its environment, bearing rights and owing allegiance to its own authenticity, emerged in fits and starts over the last half millennia. The seminar will unpack that identity and sensibility beginning with Michel de Montaigne and Blaise Pascal. We will then consider the contributions of the Enlightenment, Romanticism and Existentialism, before finally concluding with contemporary considerations including those of Simone de Beauvoir, Amartya Sen and Charles Taylor.

### **Course Evaluation**

1. Participation 35%
2. Research Paper 35%
3. Reading Reports (3) 30%

### **Participation (40%)**

This course is a seminar, students will be expected to attend having completed the readings and prepared to explore their substance and significance in conversation with their professor and peers. Student participation will be evaluated based on the substance, quality, and consistency of their participation in seminar discussions.

### **Research Paper**

The research paper is due on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and should be between 3500 and 4000 words in length. Students should pick their own subject and thesis from the questions, issues and authors treated in this course. Students are expected to engage in significant secondary research. For a paper of this length students should expect to consult a minimum of 12-15 secondary sources, though numbers may vary depending on the topic and the overall quality of sources available. Each student should plan to meet with me in early November to discuss their plans for the research paper.

## Reading Reports

Except for Montaigne,\* each week we will read a new author. For the reading reports students are asked to read an alternate work by the author being studied that week. The reading report is due at the beginning of seminar for that week and students are expected to complete 3 reports over the course of the term. To complete this assignment, for instance during the week we read *The Second Sex*, a student could read Simone de Beauvoir's novel *She Came to Stay*. In the case of Dostoyevsky a student could read *The Brothers Karamazov*. \*\* The reading report is a very short paper, **600 words maximum**, that examines ways in which this alternate work may or may not relate to the themes developed in the seminar.

\*Students who wish to write on alternate readings for Montaigne should propose particular essays not explicitly covered in seminar.

\*\* Everyone should read *The Brothers Karamazov*, it's just part of being a fully realized person. Seriously.

## Grading

A+ Extraordinary work that greatly exceeds the requirements of for fourth year work. This grade is rarely awarded.

A Excellent work: very insightful analysis; clear and persuasive thesis that goes beyond the ideas presented in lecture; free of any typographical or grammatical errors;

A-/ B+ Very strong work: insightful and clear, but in need of a bit of clarification, revision, or proofreading.

B/B- Good work. Demonstrates a solid understanding of the text and lectures, but requires more significant revision, clarification, or proofreading

C+ /C/C- Average to poor work. Lacks a clear or insightful thesis and requires extensive revision, clarification, or proofreading

F Unacceptable or non-existent work.

## Required Texts

**All of these books are available for sale on one of the popular online booksellers. Many are available at local used books stores.**

Michel de Montaigne, *The Essays*, (Penguin)

Pascal, *Pensées*, (Oxford Classics)

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration* (Oxford Classics)

Herder, *Another Philosophy of History* (Hackett Publishing)

Dostoyevsky, *Notes from Underground*, (Vintage Classics)

DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, (Tribeca Books)  
Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, (Vintage Classics)  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, (Vintage Classics)  
Taylor, *The Malaise of Modernity*, (Anansi)  
Sen, *Identity and Violence* (W.W. Norton)

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Define and explain key concepts and sources that contributed to the development of a modern western sensibility.
- Understand and assess key philosophical, literary, and cultural concepts such as skepticism, liberalism, existentialism and communitarianism.
- read, analyze, and discuss primary texts from Montaigne to the present that address the modern sources and sense of self.
- develop a research topic, undertake substantial secondary research, and produce a fifteen-page research paper.
- provide productive oral feedback to your professor and peers and engage in respectful academic discussion

### **Course Expectations**

- Students are expected to attend every seminar. Students who miss three or more seminars will not be considered to have completed the course and will not be awarded a passing grade.
- Students should expect to dedicate an average of 8 hours a week to the course. Individual weeks will vary in the time required.
- Students are expected to arrive at the seminar having read the assigned work of the day and prepared to discuss its substance and significance.

### **Monday, Sept 12**

Introduction

*The Essays*, Montaigne, Selections

### **Monday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>**

*The Essays*, Montaigne, Selections

### **Monday Sept 26<sup>th</sup>**

*The Essays*, Montaigne, Selections\*

### **Monday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Pensées*, Pascal

### **Monday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**

*The Second Treatise of Government*, Locke

**Monday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Another Philosophy of History*, Herder

**Monday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Notes from Underground*, Dostoyevsky

**Monday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>**

*The Souls of Black Folk*, W.E.B. Dubois

**Monday, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>**

*The Myth of Sisyphus*, Camus

**Monday Nov 28<sup>th</sup>**

*The Second Sex*, Beauvoir, Selections

**Monday Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Identity and Violence*, Amartya Sen

**Friday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

*The Malaise of Modernity*, Charles Taylor

***\*The final selections of Montaigne's essays will be chosen by seminar participants in discussion with Professor Kellow.***

**Statement on Free Expression**

The lectures and seminars in this course will be conducted according to the principles identified in *The University of Chicago Statement on Free Expression* (<https://carleton.ca/bhum/academic-institutions/university-chicago-statement-freedom-expression/>) as endorsed by the Bachelor of Humanities Program at the College of the Humanities. Participants should expect a seminar environment that welcomes and celebrates lively, respectful and collegial discussion.

**Plagiarism**

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### Statement on Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

#### Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

#### Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### IX. Statement on Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

**Feeling sick?** Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

**Masks:** Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

**Vaccines:** While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca).

### Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

## **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>