

Instructor: Robert Ray
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Textbooks:

Plato, *Meno and Other Dialogues*, trans. Robin Waterfield (Oxford World Classics)
Plato, *Defence of Socrates, Euthyphro, and Crito*, trans. David Gallop (Oxford World Classics)
Emerson: *The Annotated Emerson* (Harvard University Press)
Thoreau: *Walden and Civil Disobedience* (3rd Norton Critical Edition)
Carr: *A Month in the Country* (NYRB)
Cavell: *Pursuits of Happiness: The Hollywood Comedy of Remarriage*
Duckworth: *The Having of Wonderful Ideas*

Photocopies (marked with an *) are available in a packet from Xerographic Copy Center, 927 NW 13th Street.

Assignments and Grading:

The final course grade will result from the following:

1. 6-10 two-page papers (45%)
2. a final 5-page paper, due during exam week (15%)
3. Brief, short-answer, daily quizzes on reading assignments (lowest 20% dropped) (20%)
4. Class participation (with quality counting more than quantity) (20%)
5. You are allowed one unexcused absence. Each additional unexcused absence will deduct 9 points from your final course grade.
6. You must average at least 90 on the short papers or make at least 90 on the final paper to get an A or A- in the course.

PART I: SOCRATES, EMERSON, AND THOREAU

Aug. 26 (Tues.): **Everyday Life in the Movies**

Tickets (2005: Abbas Kiarostami; 35 minutes)

Sept. 2 (Tues): **Socrates – Philosophy as Literature and The Method of Perplexity**

Plato: *Meno and Other Dialogues*, pp. 37-66 [*Laches*] (30 pages)

Plato: *Defence of Socrates*, pp. 3-23 [*Euthyphro*] (21 pages), 27-59 [*Defence of Socrates*] (33 pages)

Sept. 9 (Tues.): **Emerson I -- Man Thinking**

*Bosco: “Ralph Waldo Emerson — A Brief Biography” (50 pages)

Emerson: *The Annotated Emerson*, pp. 27-29, 31 (from *Nature*), 72-92 (“The American Scholar”), 100-119 (“The Divinity School Address”), 136-137 (from “Literary Ethics”) (46 pages)

Sept. 16 (Tues.) **Emerson II -- Self-Reliance and the Simplest Words**

Emerson: *The Annotated Emerson*, pp. 160-185 (“Self-Reliance”), 186-198 (“Circles”), 223-247 (“Experience”), 287 (from “New England Reformers”) (65 pages)

Sept. 23 (Tues.): **Thoreau I -- Walden’s Economy**

*Cain: “Henry David Thoreau: A Brief Biography” (43 pages)

Thoreau: *Walden*, pp. 5-70, 329 (67 pages)

Sept. 30 (Tues.): **Thoreau II -- Into the Woods**

Thoreau: *Walden*, pp. 71-189, 338, 357-359, 364 (124 pages)

Oct. 7 (Tues.): **Thoreau III -- Winter Turns into Spring**

Thoreau: *Walden*, pp. 189-224, 361-363, 375, 394-418 (65 pages)

Oct. 14 (Tues.): **Restoration**

Carr: *A Month in the Country*, pp. 3-135 (133 pages)

PART II — STANLEY CAVELL AND THE CINEMA

Oct. 21 (Tues.): **Film Analysis — How to Begin**

*Cavell and Klevan: “What Becomes of Thinking on Film?” (43 pages)

*Cavell: “A Capra Moment” (9 pages)

*Klevan: “Notes on Teaching Film Style” (14 pages)

*Klevan: From “In-Between” (7 pages)

It Happened One Night (1934: Frank Capra; 105 minutes) — see by this date.

Oct. 28 (Tues.): **Cavell — Taking an Interest in Your Own Experience**

Cavell: *Pursuits of Happiness*, pp. 1-42 (42 pages)

*Klevan: “Notes on Stanley Cavell and Philosophical Film Criticism” (11 pages)

*Cavell: From “The Thought of Movies” (17 pages)

Holiday (1938: George Cukor, 93 minutes) — see by this date.

Nov. 4 (Tues.): **Film Analysis II — Performance and the Fictional World**

Cavell: *Pursuits of Happiness*, pp. 133-160 (28 pages)

*Klevan: “Living Meaning: The Fluency of Film Performance” (14 pages)

*Perkins: “Must We Say What They Mean?” (6 pages)

*Perkins: “Where Is the World? The Horizon of Events in Movie Fiction” (26 pages)

Nov. 11 (Tues.): **Veterans’ Day – No Class**

Nov. 18 (Tues.): **How to Pay Attention — Method, Revisited**

Duckworth: *The Having of Wonderful Ideas*, pp. 63-68, 132-135, 141-155, 173-185 (38 pages)

*Roberts: “The Power of Patience” (5 pages)

*Hammond: From *The Shadow and Its Shadow: Surrealist Writings on the Cinema*, pp. 1-21 (“Off at a Tangent”) (21 pages)

Nov. 25 (Tues.): **Thanksgiving Week – No Class**

Dec. 2 (Tues.): **Coincidences and Opportunities – Munro and Rohmer**

*Munro: “Axis” (16 pages)

FILM SCREENINGS

Sept. 10 (Wed.): *Holiday* (1938: George Cukor; 93 minutes)

Oct. 1 (Wed.): *The Wind Will Carry Us* (1999: Abbas Kiarostami; 118 minutes)

Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12 (Wed.): **TBA**

Nov. 19 (Wed.): *Ma Nuit chez Maud* [*My Night at Maud's*] (1969: Eric Rohmer; 105 minutes)

La Femme de l'Aviateur [*The Aviator's Wife*] (1981: Eric Rohmer; 104 minutes)