Religion 396 Spring '12 / HL 202

Prof Ed Mooney       emooney@syr.edu

Reading by Week

1/17/19  1. Walking

1/24-6   2. Walking

1/31-2/02 3. Basho

2/07-09  4. Basho

**THREE PAGES DUE Feb. 14

2/14-16  5. Return to Mystical

2/21-23  6. Return to Mystical

2/28-3/01 7. Bugbee

3/6-8  8. Bugbee

SPRING BREAK

3/20-22  9. Harrison

**FOUR PAGES DUE March 22


4/3-5  11. Reveries

4/10-12  12. Reveries


4/24-26  14. "Babbette's Feast"

5/1  15.

**FIVE PAGES DUE May 08 (501 HL)  (no final exam)

Total grade: three papers (= 20%, 30%, 40%) —
attendance and participation (= 10%).

We will look at writings by Thoreau, Basho, Bugbee, Harrison,
Rousseau, Teresa, and Wittgenstein trying to triangulate the
field of what I call the mystical of the ordinary, and from
another angle, nature mysticism.

There will be three short papers focused on discrete passages.

Reflection Papers.

The papers: 1st is three page, 2nd is four pages, and 3rd is
five pages. BEFORE YOUR FIRST SENTENCE BEGINS, set out
words from the text you're reflecting on SINGLE-SPACED IN
BOLD. The paper (double spaced) elaborates and clarifies the
focus given in BOLD.

Use the first person. Please, AVOID anything like a book report
or chapter summary. The paper shows your response. Let
your voice and personality come out.

This is a course in religion, and more broadly, in the
humanities. Art, religion, philosophy, and literature offer
resources for celebration of life — offer ways to illuminate and
also to stave off part of the suffering that can afflict us. They
bring us meaning and deepen sensibilities and the soul. The
humanities at the core have little to do with the accumulation
of objective knowledge. They let us come to know parts of
what's best (and worst) in human culture, and best. (and
worst) in ourselves.

Mysticism, as I see it, is a set of thoughts, readings and related
practices that provide reservoirs of meaning that soften blows
from the world and bring radiance from it.

BOOKS:
Nature/Walking; Emerson and Thoreau, Beacon Press
Narrow Road to the North, Basho, Penguin
Return to the Mystical, Peter Tyler, Continuum
Inward Morning; Henry Bugbee, U Georgia
Gardens; Robert Pogue Harrison
Reveries of a Solitary Walker; Rousseau, Penguin
Essay: "Thoreau’s ‘Concord River’" (pdf)
The instructor's policy on plagiarism, disability, and religious observance conforms to published University policy.