

GLS 801 Syllabus

LS 801 - REFLECTIONS ON REASON AND PASSION, II Spring 2025

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:20 p.m. on Zoom

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Reflections on Reason and Passion II LS 801

The second of two core courses in Graduate Liberal Studies that constitute an extended examination of the tension between reason and passion in human experience. This course will examine writings by some who have insisted on the indispensability of reasoning as a guide to action and the source of truth, as well as writings by some of those who on various grounds have cast doubt on this faith in human reason.

Schedule of Classes and Weekly Readings (Subject to Changes)

Week 1 - January 8th	Thomas More, <i>Utopia</i>
Week 2 - January 15th	Montaigne, Excerpt from Essays, Joan Didion, <i>The Year of Magical Thinking</i>
Week 3 - January 22nd	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , Excerpt from <i>Confessions</i> , <i>Reveries of the Solitary Walker</i>
Week 4 - January 29th	Goethe, <i>Sorrows of Young Werther</i> , Elizabeth Smart <i>By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept</i>
Week 5 - February 5th	Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> , Excerpt Immanuel Kant, Conflict of the faculties
Week 6 - February 12th	Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i> , Kate Chopin, <i>The Awakening</i>
Feb. 19th – Reading Break	

- Week 7 - February 26th** Dostoyevsky, *Notes from the Underground*, Anatole France, *The Gods Will Have Blood*, Film, *A Trip to the Moon*, Film – *In the Land of the Headhunters*
- Week 8 - March 5th** Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (Excerpt), Camus, *The Rebel*, Film - Hiroshima, *Mon Amour*
- Week 9 - March 12th** George Manuel, *The Fourth World*, Excerpts from Leanne Simpson, Excerpt, Glen Coulthard, short films of Alanis Obomsawin
- Week 10 - March 19th** Simone De Beauvoir, Excerpts from *Second Sex*, Annie Ernaux, *The Years*, Film, *Breathless*
- Week 11 - March 26th** Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*
James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*
- Week 12 - April 2nd** Achille Mbembe, *Excerpts*, Excerpts from Arundathi Roy, *Living with the Comrades* and Byung-Chul Han, *Vita Contempliva*
- Week 13 - April 9th** Julietta Singh, *The Breaks*, Beatrice Marovich, *Sister Death*, podcast – Michael Hardt, *The Politics of Love*