

## The Seven Deadly Sins: Honors Introductory Seminar

HONR 101 – 3 credits

Dr. Philip Whalen (History)

Coastal Carolina University

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**Course Description:** This is a writing intensive, humanities-based, team-taught, interdisciplinary course designed to investigate the territory between moral philosophy and developmental psychology. We will explore the theme of “The Seven Deadly Sins” in different cultural contexts and through different genres in order to better understand how past concerns inform present society. Students are expected to think creatively about the ideas and topics examined, interpret multiple forms of evidence primarily drawn from different disciplines, recognize similar cultural patterns in different historical contexts, participate in class discussions, and demonstrate the ability to reason soundly and logically. (There will be three sections of 17 students)

### Texts:

The “Seven Deadly Sins” course-pack is available electronically via Blackboard

### Syllabus

Date	Topic
22 Aug	Philip Whalen (History) Introduction: Moral Philosophy Meets Social Psychology.
27 Aug	Julinna Oxley (Philosophy) Ethics and Virtue: What is a vice? Have read- Gabrielle Taylor, “Vices and Virtue- Theory” in <i>Deadly Vices</i> (selections).
<b>Gluttony</b>	
29 Aug	Philip Whalen (History) - The Gastronomical Turn. <b>Readings</b> - M.F.K. Fischer, “Define this Word” from <i>The Gastronomical Me</i> and Whalen, “Food Palaces Built of Sausages” from <i>The Business of Tourism</i>
3 Sept	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
5 Sept	Dan Ennis (English) - The Rewards of Gluttony. <b>Readings</b> - Satyricon Petronius’ “Dinner with Trimalchio” and Dante’s “The Hog Incident” from <i>Inferno</i> , ch. 5.
10 Sept	Jen Shinaburger (Technology Instruction) - Tablet PC Computer Instruction (MEET in U-HALL Building).
12 Sept	Shannon Stewart (English) - From What to so What: How to Win Readers and Influence College Professors. Have read <b>Readings</b> - Kimberly Wesley, “The Ill Effects of the Five Paragraph Essay.”
<b>Pride</b>	
17 Sept	Nils Rauhut (Philosophy) - Christianity and the Greeks on Pride. <b>Readings</b> - Aristotle (selections from the Nicomachean Ethics and Aristotle on Pride).
19 Sept	Eliza Glaze (History) - Medieval Synthesis of the Sins and Virtues. <b>Readings</b> - von Hildegard von Bingen, <i>The Play of the Virtues</i> (selections).
24 Sept	Jaimi Graham (Library Instruction) - Online data research instruction (J-Stor, MUSE) MEET IN LIBRARY

26 Sept	Philip Whalen (History) - Discussion of Pride. <b>Readings</b> - Thomas Mann, Death in Venice, Introduction and chapters 1-3.
<b>Envy</b>	
1 Oct	Gary Stegal (Music) - Envy and the Representation of Emotion in Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca"
3 Oct	Margaret Fain (Library) - Art-Stor Library Instruction (MEET IN LIBRARY).
8 Oct	Cheryl-Green Munn (Art) - Representing Vice. <b>Readings</b> - Matilde Battistini, "The Vices" from <i>Symbols in Art</i> and Anne D'Alleva, "Formal and Contextual Analysis," <i>Look! The Fundamentals of Art History</i> , ch. 2.
10 Oct	Cynthia Port (English) Envy in Modern America. <b>Readings</b> - Edith Wharton, "Roman Fever."
<b>Anger</b>	
15 Oct	Brian Nance (History) - The Renaissance Wellsprings of Vicious Humors. <b>Readings</b> - Brian Nance, "Determining the Patient's Temperament," <i>Bulletin of the History of Medicine</i> 67 (Fall, 1993): 417-38 and selections from Andre DuLaurens, <i>On Melancholy</i> (1599).
17 Oct	Steve Earnest (Theater) The Dramaturgy of Vice. Have read- <b>Readings</b> - Bertold Brecht's "The Seven Deadly Sins of the Petty Bourgeoisie"
22 Oct	Ken Martin (Theater) Staging Anger across the Ages. <b>Readings</b> - Euripides, Medea (selected passages).
24 Oct	Philip Whalen (History) Discussion. Have read- <b>Readings</b> - Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado" and W. H. Auden, "Anger" from <i>Seven Deadly Sins</i>
<b>Greed</b>	
29 Oct	Jack Riley (Politics) - The Acquisitive Impulse: From John Locke to Bernard Mandeville. <b>Readings</b> - "On Property" from Locke's "Second Essay on Understanding."
31 Oct	Dennis Earl (Philosophy) - Mall Wart. <b>Readings</b> - Charles Fishman, "Salmon, Shirts, and the Meaning of Low Prices" from <i>The Wall-Mart Effect</i> .
5 Nov	Ron Green (Religion) - Greed and Violence in the Bodhisattva Ideal. Have read- <b>Readings</b> - Ron Green, "Institutionalizing Buddhism for the Legitimization of State Power in East Asia," <i>Mediators</i> 2007.
7 Nov	Philip Whalen (History) - Greed in Modern Society. <b>Readings</b> - D. H. Lawrence, "The Rocking-Horse Winner" and listened to Ira Glass, "This American Life" episode (#208) on Office Politics @: <a href="http://www.thisamericanlife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=208">http://www.thisamericanlife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=208</a>
<b>Lust</b>	
12 Nov	Maggie Ivanova (English) - Lusting after De Sade. <b>Readings</b> - "Philosophy in the Bedroom" (selections).
14 Nov	Nils Rauhut (Philosophy) - Desire, Creativity and Self-Destruction. <b>Readings</b> - Thomas Mann "A Death in Venice."
26 Nov	Michael Ruse (Philosophy) - The Structuring of Desire. <b>Readings</b> - Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Notes from the Underground (ch. 1).
28 Nov	Philip Whalen (History) - Desire's Gender. <b>Readings</b> - Listen to Ira Glass, "This American Life" episode (#220) on Testosterone @: <a href="http://www.thisamericanlife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=220">http://www.thisamericanlife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=220</a> and read "Desire" in <i>Science Times</i> 10 April 2007.
<b>Sloth</b>	

3 Dec	Steve Hamelman (English) - Languor, Liquor and Disillusionment. <b>Readings</b> - Ernest Hemmingway and "A Well-Lighted Place."
5 Dec	Philip Whalen (History) - Sloth and "The Good Life." <b>Readings</b> - William Faulkner, "Dry September" and Evelyn Waugh, "Sloth" from Ian Fleming, <i>Seven Deadly Sins</i> .
10 Dec	Julinna Oxley (Philosophy) - Conclusion: Virtue, Vice or Something Else? <b>Readings</b> - J. Kourany, "Sex-Role Socialization."

**Grading:**

In addition to occasional dialogic reading exercises, students will write 4 (4-5-page) thesis-driven response essays directly related to the course readings and lectures. Students must hand in all assignments on the Monday following the last reading on a particular sin. Late essays will lose one half of a letter grade per day late. This will also apply to papers returned for not properly following the formatting instructions. Also, remember to put your name, course number, and section number on your work. You are responsible for the mechanical and organizational aspects of your essays.

A= This paper is insightful. It addresses the assignment in a way that indicates your comprehension of and control over the assignment itself as well as an understanding of the underlying issues. The message is communicated clearly, concisely, and directly. There is confidence in this writing.

B= This paper meets and, at times, exceeds the basic requirements of the assignment. The paper indicates that you are beginning, at times, to think through and deal with major ideas in the assignment. The message is communicated with generally effective clarity, directness, and conciseness. Some unevenness in writing may be apparent.

C= While the paper offers little insight into the greater issues of the assignment, it meets the basic requirements. The message, for the most part, is reasonably clear, concise, and direct, although there may be unevenness in the writing.

D= The basic requirements of the assignment are partially met; however, additional revision is necessary if you are to communicate the message clearly. There is considerable unevenness in the writing.

F= The assignment's basic requirements are met only marginally or are not met at all. The writing is not clear, concise, or direct.

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