

LIBERAL STUDIES 1: HUMAN DILEMMAS

FALL 2003

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To examine what it means to be human from biological, social, and aesthetic perspectives
- To learn and practice critical thinking
 - recognizing choices
 - examining assumptions
 - taking a skeptical stance
- To learn to identify and formulate questions that will produce knowledge
- To learn to explore a question from a variety of perspectives
 - disciplinary
 - interdisciplinary
 - cross-cultural
- To gain an appreciation for ambiguity and complexity
- To develop the habit of mind of making connections among ideas
- To commit to action beyond the recognition of ambiguity
- To create a community of learners among the students and faculty of Skidmore College

COURSE STRUCTURE

- Large group presentation
once a week (Mondays, 1:25-2:20 or Tuesdays, 1:05-2:00)
- Discussion seminars
twice a week, 80 minutes each

COURSE ORGANIZATION

- Three main sections presenting a "human dilemma"
Anchor texts for each unit
Supplementary readings
- Introductory Unit
- Human identities
- Justice
- Human Ecologies

COURSE WORK

- Three papers focusing on developing skills in critical thinking
- Informal self-assessment writing tasks
- Problem Analysis term project