

Legacy of Success

UHON 122-003 | M W | 10:00-11:15 | SHC 9 | 42454

Fulfills UNM Core Group V: Humanities

Richard Obenauf

How do you measure success?

Money? Power? Fame? Sex? Friendship? Love? Freedom? Happiness?

Although success is universally valued, there is no universal concept of success. In this course we will examine how success and other human values are defined within the works we read, and how they manifest through various characters, themes, and forms. We will focus on how these values both reflect and affect the values not only of the cultures that produced them but also of our own culture. Along the way, you will develop a deeper knowledge of literature, of history, and of yourself.

Readings

Our lively reading list will include a Kurt Vonnegut short story, Roman satires, medieval romances, a medieval morality play, Doctor Faustus, an eighteenth-century Oriental tale, a Mozart opera, autobiographies by Benjamin Franklin, Frederick Douglass, and Virgil Wyaco, and two great American novels—both published in 1925—The Great Gatsby and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.

Requirements

Consistent attendance and active participation are required. Students are expected to keep a reading journal, which will form the basis for a series of ungraded one-page response papers. There will be two short analytical essays, a longer personal or creative paper, and a group presentation.

About the Instructor

A product of the University Honors Program, Richard Obenauf earned his M.A. in English and American literature at Loyola University Chicago, where he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Medieval and Renaissance literature. He is grateful to be home in the Land of Enchantment while he writes his dissertation on censorship and tolerance in England before 1776.