

*Humanities 124*  
*Spring 2009*

Cynthia Ho

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

1:30-3:30 New Hall 214

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***COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS***

This course is a study of representative works of world literature from antiquity (3000 BCE-400CE). The focus of this course will be the analysis of the thematic, symbolic, aesthetic, stylistic, generic, and linguistic features of some of the great works of the western and non-western literary tradition. An important goal of the class is to promote an understanding of the works in their cultural and historical contexts and of the enduring human values that unite the different literary traditions. Those values include friendship, love, courage, fame, purpose, destiny, meaning, sacrifice, and community; the more you think about these things, the better our class will be. All the literature is read in translation; there are works of prose and poetry, including epic, drama, lyric poetry, history, philosophy, biographies, and other works.

***COURSE EXPECTATIONS:***

***ATTENDANCE:*** I will take attendance at class meetings and lectures. After the third absence I will lower your overall grade 1 point for each absence. If you have an emergency or extenuating circumstance, it is **your** responsibility to contact me immediately and make arrangements. A discussion at the end of the semester will be moot.

***READING QUIZZES:*** We will have *an open note* reading quiz over the week's reading assignments and the lecture each Tuesday at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted on the syllabus. We will begin on time. If you have a scheduling problem please let me know. Because you may drop the lowest grade, you may not make up a quiz.

***PAPERS:*** You will write two papers this semester, using MLA format. Detailed assignments and time lines will be given for each project. All papers are due on the day they are assigned. Late papers will lose 5 points each calendar day they are late. *If you plagiarize on this or any other work of the semester, you will automatically fail the course.*

***EXAMS:*** You will have three exams this semester. Each will have three sections: a take home essay, an in-class essay, and an in-class objective exam. Take home essays are due at the beginning of the exam period. You will lose 5 points each calendar day they are late (including the day of the exam).

***SPECIAL NEEDS:*** If any student has specific, diagnosed, individual learning needs that will require special arrangements such as more time to complete assignments or tests, using

someone else's notes, taping class sessions or lectures, or typing rather than handwriting in-class tests or exams, please discuss those needs with me during the first week of the semester. Do not wait until the day of a test or exam, or on the day an assignment is due, or late in the semester.

**CULTURAL EVENTS:** You will attend two cultural events this semester--note the deadlines on the syllabus. After you attend your event, submit on Moodle a discussion about how it was a "cultural event" for you and how it relates to a topic in this course. This cannot be an event that you would attend normally in the course of your usual interests. See further discussion of this on the assignment sheet. You may only attend one of any type of event, such as music performance, play, etc.

**MOODLE:** Significant course materials are posted on the web and you are responsible for being sure you can log on and access appropriate class resources. Study guides and specific reading assignments will be listed there.

**EMAIL:** I will reply as promptly as possible to email enquiries (cho@unca.edu). However, I do not accept any work (homework, papers, take home essays) submitted to me by email.

**GRADES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

20% each:

Paper #2

Reading quizzes

10% each:

Cultural events

In class projects, in-class writing, preparation, and participation

Paper #1

Exam #1

Exam #2

Final Exam

**GRADE SCALE**

100-95 A, 94-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-73 C, 72-70 C-, 69-60 D

**TEXTS** (These specific titles and editions are available at the UNCA Bookstore):

Fiero, ed., *The Humanistic Tradition*, 5th edition, Vol 1

Hook, Moseley, Peters, eds., *The Asheville Reader*, Vol 1

Miller, ed., *The Bhagavad-Gita*

Weller, ed., Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*

Kovacs, ed., *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

Fagels, ed., *The Iliad*

Clay, *The Trojan Women*

Virgil, *The Aeneid*

## *COURSE CALENDAR*

### *Week 1*

*Thurs. Jan. 15*

Readings: Fiero 1-17, 36-45, The Asheville Reader (**AR**): “Reading a Primary Text from Antiquity”, “Essay on Translation” (appendices), Hammurabi

### *Week 2*

No lecture: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*Tues. Jan. 20*

RQ on *Gilgamesh*

*Thurs. Jan. 20*

Continue *Gilgamesh*

### *Week 3*

*Mon. Jan. 26* Egypt (Dr. Hopes)

*Tues. Jan. 27*

RQ Fiero 19-35; **AR**: Sinuhe, Love Poems, Instruction of Amenemope

*Thurs. Jan. 29*

In class project

### *Week 4*

*Mon. Feb. 2* China (Dr. Hardy)

*Tues. Feb. 3*

RQ Fiero 61-65, 158-170; **AR**: Confucius, Laozi, The Book of Songs, Han Feizi

*Thurs. Feb. 5*

Exam #1

### *Week 5*

*Mon. Feb. 9* India (Dr. Ho)

*Tues. Feb. 10*

RQ Fiero 58-61; *Bhagavad Gita*

*Thurs. Feb. 12*

Additional Hindu readings, see Moodle

### *Week 6*

*Mon. Feb. 16* Buddhism (Dr. Falls)

*Tues. Feb. 17*

RQ: Fiero Vol 2:12-16, 35-44; **AR**: Selected Buddhist Texts (all)

### *Week 7*

*Mon. Feb. 23* The Iliad and Warfare (Dr. Hardy)

*Tues. Feb. 24*

Selections from *Iliad*; Fiero vol. I 67-73, 76-77

*Thurs. Feb. 26*

Paper #1 due

Week 8

Mon. Mar. 2 Greek City-States and Greek Tragedy (Dr. Mills)

Tues. Mar. 3

RQ Fiero 78-93; *The Trojan Women*; **AR**: Lyric Poetry (all); Herodotus (excerpt on 297-321), Thucydides

Thurs. Mar. 5

First cultural event due

Week 9

Spring Break

Week 10

Mon. Mar. 16 Ancient Philosophy (Dr. Hook)

Tues. Mar. 17

RQ Fiero 94-105; Plato's "Apology of Socrates" from *Trial and Death of Socrates*; **AR**: Pre-Socratic Philosophers, Aristotle

Thurs. Mar. 19 No class

Week 11

Mon. Mar. 23 Persia, Zoroastrianism and Alexander the Great (Dr. Hopes)

Tues. Mar. 24

RQ Fiero 56-57, 122-128; **AR**: Plutarch, Zarathustra, Epicurus, Cleanthes, Epictetus

Thurs. Mar. 26

Exam #2

Fri. March 27 Undergraduate Research Symposium Day

Week 12

Mon. Mar. 30 Second Temple Judaism (Dr. Kaplan)

Tues. Mar. 31

RQ Fiero 46-57; **AR**: Judges, Maccabees, Josephus

Thurs. Apr. 2

In-class project

Week 13

Mon. Apr. 6 Rome, Republic to Empire (Dr. Hook)

Tues. Apr. 7

RQ Fiero 129-143; **AR**: Livy (excerpts on 447-455, 468-481), Polybius; Empire Readings; **AR**: Augustus, Tacitus; *Aeneid* selections

Thurs. Apr. 9

In-class project

Week 14

Mon. Apr. 13 Early Christianity (Dr. Moseley)

Tues. Apr. 14

RQ Fiero Vol 2:3-12, 17-25; **AR**: Dead Sea Scrolls, Matthew, Acts, 1 Corinthians;

Diary of Perpetua at [www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua-excerpt.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua-excerpt.html)

**Thurs. Apr. 16**

Second cultural event due;

**Week 15**

**Mon. Apr. 20** Gender and Sexuality in Antiquity (Prof. Driggers)

**Tues. Apr. 21**

RQ: Gorgias, Musonius Rufus; Sappho, poems 1, 4, and 8, as well as the Shorter Fragments, found at <http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/rayor.shtml>.

**Thurs. Apr. 23**

Paper #2 due

**Week 16**

**Mon. Apr. 27** Art of the Classical World (Dr. McClain)

**Tues. Apr. 28**

RQ Fiero 106-122, 143-157

**Thurs. Apr. 30**

Discussion

**Week 17**

**Mon., May 4** No lecture, meet in classroom