

HUM 124.004---The Ancient World

Spring 2009, M Lipinsky Hall (LH) 125; TR 11:00-12:10, New Hall (LH) 014

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Office Hours

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is a study of antiquity, 3000 BCE to 400 CE. Much of the reading we will do in the course to learn about antiquity will be world literature in translation. The works include prose and poetry, including epic, drama, lyric poetry, history, philosophy, biographies, and others. We will perform many analyses of the great works of the western and non-western literary tradition. These analyses include thematic, aesthetic, stylistic and linguistic features of the works.

In this course an ambitious goal is for students to appreciate the cultural and historical contexts in human values, including friendship, love, courage, purpose, destiny, meaning, sacrifice, and community.

## READINGS

The Humanistic Tradition, Vol I, by Gloria Fiero, McGraw Hill  
(Later referred to as F)

The Asheville Reader, Vol 1, by Brian Hook and others  
(Later referred to as AR)

The Epic of Gilgamesh, translated by Maureen Galley Kovacs, Stanford

Tao Te Chiang, translated by D. C. Lau, Penguin

The Analects by Confucius, translated by D. C. Lau, Penguin

The Bhagavad Gita, translated by Barbara Stolen Miller, Bantam

Buddhism, A Very Short Introduction by Damien Keown, Oxford

The Iliad by Homer, translated by Robert Fagles, Penguin

The Trojan Women by Euripedes, translated by Diskin Clay, Focus

The Trial and Death of Socrates by Plato, translated by B. Jowett, Dover

The Aeneid by Virgil, translated by Allen Mandelbaum, Bantam

There are a few additional internet readings, the addresses are provided.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Weekly Routine

Our class meets on Mondays for the common lecture, in LH 125. Everyone taking and teaching the course attends the common lecture. Then, our section meets TR, in NH 014. On Tuesdays we will begin with a question and answer session about the common lecture. Then we will have a quiz on the common lecture and the readings. We may watch a video. I'll conclude class with a lecture. On Thursdays members of the class will have a discussion of a text (see below, 4. Participation).

### 2. Preparation for Class

We are reading a lot in this course. It is essential that you set aside enough time to do the readings so as to prepare for class. I encourage you to set aside 1-2 hours per day for reading and thinking about the material in this course. You should read ahead for the longer readings, for example, *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid*.

### 3. Attendance

It is very important that you commit to attend this class. You are graded on your participation, and frequent absences will reduce your participation grade. In bad weather, check the snow line 828-259-3050, or check on-line. Our late start time is 12:05 PM. If classes are held in bad weather, and you live remotely and don't feel safe to travel, don't travel on those occasions. I will work with you about this.

Tardiness is frowned upon, and if excessive (e.g., 30 minutes late) or chronic (late repeatedly), this will affect your participation grade.

### 4. Participation

I ask that you come to every Tuesday and Thursday meeting prepared and able to discuss the material. As stated above, I will be presenting and leading class on the Tuesday meetings. Members of the class will lead class discussion on Thursdays. The discussion leaders will be graded for their discussion leadership every Thursday discussion day. All members of the class are graded for their contributions to discussion.

Here are the standards for grading of Discussion

#### Discussion Leaders

A (Excellent) = The Leader brings excellent discussion questions to class which stimulate excellent discussion. The discussion highlights the important aspects of the text. The discussion Leader encourages and engages every member of the class in discussion. The Leader allows for an excellent exchange of ideas. The class discusses for 70 minutes.

B (Good) = The Leader brings good discussion questions which stimulate good discussion. The discussion highlights some of the important aspects of the text. The Leader is able to engage most members of the class in discussion. The Leader mostly allows a good exchange of ideas. The class discusses for 60 minutes.

C (Average) = The Leader brings mediocre discussion questions which lead to a mediocre discussion. The discussion touches on several aspects of the text. About half of the class engages in discussion. The Leader allows for a mediocre exchange of ideas. The discussion lasts 40 minutes.

D (Below Average) = The Leader provides poor discussion questions which leads to a poor discussion. The discussion rarely touches on important matters in the text. About one quarter of the class engages in discussion. The discussion lasts 20 minutes.

F (Failing) = The Leader is unprepared. The discussion question do not lead to any fruitful discussion. The members of the class are at a loss to understand what the purpose of the discussion is. The discussion lasts X minutes, but is pretty much worthless.

#### Discussion Participants

A (Excellent) = Contributes regularly and enthusiastically to discussion every discussion class. States ideas clearly. Supports ideas and opinions with specific references to text. Takes the lead in helping classmates participate. Is well recognized and respected by peers in class.

B (Good) = Contributes well to nearly all class discussion class. States ideas clearly. Supports ideas with general references to text. Sometimes engages in taking the lead to help classmates participate. Known to peers in class.

C (Average) = Contributes sporadically to class discussion. Does not often support ideas with reference to text. Rarely engages others in dialogue. Little known by peers.

D (Below Average) = Occasionally tardy. When in class physically present and listens, but contributes little to discussion. Unknown to peers.

F (Failing) = Absent, tardy, unprepared, inattentive, often does not contribute to discussion, or when contributing offers unproductive comments and belittles the contributions of others.

#### 5. Notebook

Keep a composition notebook. Write a reaction essay, 2-3 pages, for every ancient text we read in the course, starting with the Epic of Gilgamesh. You do not need to write reactions to Fiero or AR readings.

## 6. Cultural Events

Attendance at two cultural events is required. Approved events are announced every Monday before the start of the common lecture. Events are also on the Humanities webpage. A one-page, typed, double-spaced reaction essay is required. These are to be submitted on paper (not by Email). Submit the first one by February 26<sup>th</sup>; submit the second one by March 26<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Quizzes

We will have a quiz every Tuesday covering the readings and the common lecture. Your best ten quizzes will count in your grade for quizzes.

## 8. Exams

There are three exams in this course, including a cumulative final. Please try not to miss any exam, make-ups are by their very nature, much more difficult. The exams will be February 19<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and during the final exam period.

## 9. Papers

A term paper is required in this course. You will choose a person from the Ancient World, do research, and write a 10-12 page paper about this person. This will be submitted on paper, not Email. Additional guidelines will be provided in class.

## 10. Academic Honesty

Please see the catalog regarding Academic Honesty. If you engage in Academic Dishonesty, you will receive a Failing Grade in this course.

COMMON LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (complete the readings in preparation for class that week )

### Week 1

Classes begin Wednesday, January 14, no common lecture this week

### Week 2

Because of the Rev. Martin Luther King Holiday, no common lecture this week

Classes resume Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

F 1-17, 36-45; AR 540-551; The Epic of Gilgamesh

### Week 3

January 26<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Egypt—Dr. David Hopes

F 19-35; AR 148-158; 165-188

Week 4

February 2<sup>nd</sup>—Lecture—China—Dr. Grant Hardy  
F 61-65; 158-170; Tao Te Chiang; The Analects; AR 202-211; 231-235

Week 5

February 9<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—India—Dr. Cindy Ho  
F 58-61; The Bhagavad Gita

Week 6

February 16<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Buddhism—Dr. Eddie Falls  
(readings from F vol 2 provided); Buddhism—A Very Short Introduction; begin The Iliad

Week 7

February 23<sup>rd</sup>—Lecture—The Iliad and Warfare—Dr. Grant Hardy  
F 67-73; 76-77; The Iliad

Week 8

March 2<sup>nd</sup>—Lecture—Greek City States and Greek Tragedy—Dr. Sophie Mills  
F 78-93; The Trojan Women; AR 285-330

Week 9

Spring Break

Week 10

March 16<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Ancient Philosophy—Dr. Brian Hook  
Fiero 94-105; The Apology of Socrates from The Trial and Death of Socrates; AR 271-284; 336-354

Week 11

March 23<sup>rd</sup>—Lecture—Persia, Zoroastrianism and Alexander the Great—Dr. David  
Hopes  
F 56-57; 122-128; AR 26-33; 355-360; 371-373; 393-410

Week 12

March 30<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Second Temple Judaism—Dr. Sam Kaplan  
F 46-57; AR 34-40; 68-81; 126-141

Week 13

April 6<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Rome, Republic to Empire—Dr. Brian Hook  
F 129-143; AR 445-455, 468-481; 500-509, 516-529;  
The Aeneid

Week 14

April 13<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Early Christianity—Dr. Merritt Moseley  
(reading from Fiero vol 2 is provided); AR 82-87, 92-122

Diary of Perpetua at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua-excerpt.html>

Week 15

April 20<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Gender and Sexuality in Antiquity—Dr. Jim Driggers

AR 331-335, 510-515,

Poems 1, 4, and 8 by Sappho as well as the shorter fragments, found at

<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/rayor.shtml>

Week 16

April 27<sup>th</sup>—Lecture—Art of the Classical World—Dr. John McClain

F 106-122, 143-157

Week 17

No lecture, we'll meet Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> in ZH 140

#### GRADING

Best 10 quizzes (10@)	=	100
Notebook	=	100
Exam 1, 2 (100@)	=	200
Final Exam	=	200
Discussion Leader	=	100
Participation	=	100
Paper	=	150
Cultural Event paper (25@)	=	50
TOTAL	=	1000

950 and higher	=	A
900-949	=	A-
870-899	=	B+
830-869	=	B
800-820	=	B-
770-799	=	C+
730-769	=	C
700-729	=	C-
600-699	=	D
Below 600	=	F