

THE ANCIENT WORLD

Professor Seamus McNerney

232-2437

Email smcnerney@unca.edu

Office hours: MWF 10-1115 in New Hall 207

For this semester, we'll be examining old books from old cultures. Their relevance to our current modern condition is of the utmost importance. While they may have been written thousands of years ago, we cannot overestimate their importance for us today. Questions examined will include the following:

Is war a natural condition specific to human beings? What is the distinction between revelation and philosophy? Why do we produce works of art and why are they important (or not)? What are some of the universal traits of humans as beings? What is culture? What constitutes the tension between the individual and the state? What is the distinction (if any) between nature and civilization?

Attendance: Strict. 2 unexcused absences allowed. After that, your overall letter grade drops by one grade per absence. This includes main group lecture.

Cell phones, text messaging, etc. Keep these instruments dead while in class.

Conduct: Do not get up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom, throw out a cup, etc.

Snow/Late Start—If a paper or exam is scheduled for a day when classes are cancelled, the paper or exam will occur the following class. If a paper or exam is scheduled for a late start day, the exam or paper will occur on that day.

***All work must be completed for the class. For example, you may have an A heading into the final and decide not to turn in a cultural event. You would receive an F for the course.

Grading:	2 papers	60%
	Midterm	15%
	1 final exam	25%
	Class Participation/Cultural Events	10%

Texts (These specific titles and editions are available at the UNCA Bookstore): Fiero, ed.

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

Sun Tzu, The Art of War

(Week 1, begins Wed. Jan. 14)

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

(Week 2, begins Jan. 19)

No lecture: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Readings: Continue epic of **Gilgamesh**,

(Week 3, begins Jan. 26)

Egypt (Dr. Hopes)

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

Begin Sun Tzu

(Week 4, begins Feb. 2)

China (Dr. Hardy)

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

(Week 5, begins Feb. 9)

India (Dr. Ho)

Readings: Fiero 58-61; **Bhagavad Gita**

(Week 6, begins Feb. 16)

Buddhism (Dr. Falls)

Readings: **AR**: Selected Buddhist Texts (all); begin reading

Iliad

(Week 7, begins Feb. 23)

The Iliad and Warfare (Dr. Hardy)

Readings: **Iliad**; Fiero vol. I 67-73, 76-77

(Week 8, begins Mar. 2)

Greek City-States and Greek Tragedy (Dr. Mills)

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

(Week 9, begins Mar. 9)

Spring Break: No Lecture

(Week 10, begins Mar. 16)

Ancient Philosophy (Dr. Hook)

Readings: Fiero 94-105; Plato’s “Apology of Socrates” from **Trial and Death of Socrates**; **AR**: Pre-Socratic Philosophers, Aristotle

(March 27: Undergraduate Research Symposium Day-No Classes)

(Week 11, begins Mar. 23)

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

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

(Week 12, begins Mar. 30)

Second Temple Judaism (Dr. Kaplan)

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

(Week 13, begins Apr. 6)

Rome, Republic to Empire (Dr. Hook)

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

(Week 14, begins Apr. 13)

Early Christianity (Dr. Moseley)

Readings: **AR**: Dead Sea Scrolls, Matthew, Acts, 1 Corinthians;

Diary of Perpetua at www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua-excerpt.html

(Week 15, begins Apr. 20)

Gender and Sexuality in Antiquity (Prof. Driggers)

Readings: **AR**: 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>.

(Week 16, Apr. 27)

Art of the Classical World (Dr. McClain); Fiero 106-122, 143-157

(Week 17, May 4)

No lecture, meet in sections