

## Humanities 124: The Ancient World

Instructor: Grant Hardy  
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Office hours: MTWR 1:00-2:00  
Extra consultation by appointment

Required Texts (available at UNCA Bookstore):

*Bhagavad-Gita* (Miller trans.)  
*Epic of Gilgamesh* (Kovacs trans.)  
Euripides, *Trojan Women* (Clay trans.)  
Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition*, 5th ed., vol. 1  
Homer, *The Iliad* (Fagles trans.)  
Hook, Moseley, Peters, eds., *The Asheville Reader*, vol. 1 [AR]  
Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates* (Dover ed.)  
Virgil, *The Aeneid* (Mandelbaum trans.)

### Course Description:

This four-semester-hour course on the Ancient World is the first in the series of Humanities classes that make up the heart of the liberal education offered at UNCA. The course begins with the ancient civilizations of the Near East, India, and China, and continues up to the disintegration of the Western Roman Empire. Humanities 124 will focus on the careful reading of selected texts from the Ancient World, presented within a historical context. Each week begins with a large lecture for all students, during which the broad background and main issues of the week are presented. In the two subsequent classes during the week students meet with their instructors to discuss the readings in detail. Two papers, various shorter writing assignments, quizzes and other class activities, as well as three major exams are designed to help students develop and consolidate their understandings.

### Course Requirements:

Quizzes: as needed. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Tests: two midterms and a final. These exams will always include essay questions.

Papers: two papers (4 pp, 8 pp). Late papers will be penalized at least one full grade.

Attendance: required. Any more than three absences will directly affect your grade. Generally, three further absences will lower your final grade by a letter.

Cultural events: attendance at three cultural events is required. For each event attended, a one-page statement of your reflections on or reactions to the event is to be submitted. 12 points is an average score for these reports (with five extra points possible for informing your experience).

<u>Grading</u> : participation	100 points
cultural events	50 points total
midterm exams	100 points each
papers	250 points (1st=100, 2nd=150)
final	200 points

Tentative Reading Schedule:

- Week 1 1/14 Introduction  
1/16 Fiero, 1-17, 36-45; AR: “Reading a Primary Text,” “Translation” (at end)  
*Gilgamesh*, tablet I
- Week 2 1/19 Martin Luther King Holiday  
1/21 *Gilgamesh*, tablets II-V  
1/23 *Gilgamesh*, tablets VI-XI; AR: Hammurabi
- Week 3 1/26 “Egypt” - Dr. Hopes  
1/28 Fiero, 19-35; AR: Sinuhe, Love Poems  
1/30 AR: Instruction of Amenemope, Aspelta
- Week 4 2/2 “China” - Dr. Hardy  
First cultural event due  
2/4 Fiero, 61-65, 158-170; AR: Book of Songs, Confucius  
2/6 AR: Laozi, Han Feizi; also look at the complete Daodejing at  
<http://www.wright-house.com/religions/taoism/tao-te-ching.html#1>
- Week 5 2/9 “India” - Dr. Ho  
First paper due  
2/11 Fiero, 58-61; *Bhagavad-Gita*, Teachings 1-12  
2/13 AR Selected Buddhist Texts (all); also read  
<http://www.as.miami.edu/phi/bio/Buddha/Milinda.htm>
- Week 6 2/16 “Buddhism” - Dr. Falls  
2/18 First Midterm  
2/20 Fiero, 69-77; Homer, books 1, 2, 3, 4
- Week 7 2/23 “The *Iliad*” - Dr. Hardy  
2/25 Homer, books 6, 8, 9, 16, 18  
2/27 Homer, books 22, 23, 24
- Week 8 3/2 “Greek City-States and Greek Tragedy” - Dr. Mills  
Second cultural event due  
3/4 Fiero 78-93; AR: Herodotus, Thucydides  
3/6 AR: Lyric Poetry; *Trojan Women*
- Week 9 3/9 Spring break  
3/11 Spring break  
3/13 Spring break
- Week 10 3/16 “Ancient Philosophy” - Dr. Hook  
Research paper thesis due  
3/18 Fiero 94-105; AR: Pre-Socratic Philosophers; Plato’s “Apology” from the *Trial and Death of Socrates*

- 3/20 AR: Aristotle
- Week 11 3/23 “Persia, Zoroastrianism, and Alexander the Great” – Dr. Hopes  
3/25 Second Midterm  
3/27 Undergraduate Research Day
- Week 12 3/30 “Second Temple Judaism” – Dr. Kaplan  
4/1 Fiero, 56-57, 122-128; AR: Plutarch, Zarathustra, Cleanthes  
4/3 Fiero, 46-57; AR Judges, Maccabees, Josephus
- Week 13 4/6 “Rome, Republic to Empire” - Dr. Hook  
4/8 Fiero, 129-143; AR: Epicurus, Epictetus  
4/10 AR: Livy (pp. 447-455, 468-480), Polybius
- Week 14 4/13 “Early Christianity” – Dr. Moseley  
Second paper due  
4/15 AR: Augustus, Tacitus; *Aeneid*, books 1-4, 6  
4/17 AR: Dead Sea Scrolls, Matthew, Acts
- Week 15 4/20 “Gender and Sexuality in Antiquity” – Prof. Driggers  
4/22 AR: 1 Corinthians; “Diary of Perpetua” at  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/perpetua-excerpt.html>  
4/24 AR: Gorgias, Musonius Rufus; Sappho, # 1, 4, 8 and shorter fragments at  
<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/rayor.shtml>
- Week 16 4/27 “Art of the Classical World” - Dr. McClain  
Third cultural event due  
4/29 Fiero, 106-122  
5/1 Fiero, 143-157
- Week 17 5/4 Review

Final Exam: Wed., May 6, 11:30-2:00