

THE ANCIENT WORLD (HUMANITIES 124.H19): Spring 2009

Time: M 11.25-12.35; WF 11.25-12.35

Place: M Lipinsky 125; rows IJK; left side of the auditorium; WF NH 111

Instructor: Sophie Mills, NH 122: work phone 251-6296; home phone 253-2721; email smills@unca.edu

Office hours: MW 9-10, TR 3-4 and by arrangement.

Objectives of the Humanities courses (full version on Humanities web page)

- To lead students to realize that they are the heirs of ages of accumulated thought, decisions, and productions, and co-creators of contemporary culture.
- To familiarize students with major trends in the development of Western civilizations; with aspects of the development of other cultures; and with human accomplishments which are both noteworthy and representative.
- To develop awareness of the validity of different perspectives, and to go beyond relativism to appreciate underlying human values.
- To understand the concept of "community" and to realize the ways in which individuals both develop, and are developed by, their communities; to question social conventions critically and responsibly; and to realize the effects of one's decisions upon the community.
- To realize the presence and role of power-structures throughout history, and to understand their effects upon human development.

Skills

- Critical listening skills are fostered by guiding students to learn from large-group weekly lectures; lectures and textual clarification given by their individual instructors in the small-class setting; and classmates' comments made in open discussions in class.
- Writing skills are fostered by requiring students to compose their thoughts in a variety of written forms (e.g. essay tests; quizzes; textual analyses; formal research papers). This class has been designated as a Writing Intensive class, and particular emphasis will be therefore placed on student writing.
- Speaking skills are fostered by encouraging students' participation in class discussion and presentations.
- Reading skills are fostered by the program's focus on understanding and contextualizing primary-source texts.

Some relevant questions not only to many of the ancient texts we will be discussing over the semester but also to you as individuals in Asheville, N.C. in January 2009: - is there a common "human nature"? What is it? How can we be sure? What can we know? How do we know that we know it? What are the relationships between the individual and the divine? Those we love? Society? The natural world? Art? Good and evil? Is war ever justified? Is civilisation a good thing? What is a good life?

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 (AR)

Miller, ed. The Bhagavad Gita

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

Kovacs, ed., The Epic of Gilgamesh

Fagles, ed., The Iliad

Clay Euripides: Trojan Women

The Aeneid, Allan Mandelbaum (trans.)

In addition to these, you will be required to read material from a few websites (listed under each week's work where applicable.) It is your responsibility to go to these sites in good time each week and acquire the material

and if there is a problem, to notify me asap before class. The Humanities website is <http://www.unca.edu/humanities/> from which you should download outlines for each week's lectures.

1/14-1/16/09: (W) Introduction to the course.

Readings: (F) Fiero 1-17, 36-45; **Epic of Gilgamesh** Tablets 1-6 : "Reading a Primary Text from Antiquity", "Essay on Translation" (appendices to AR).

1/19-1/23: No Lecture (MLK day):

Readings: Gilgamesh 7-11 (W); (F) Hammurabi (AR 17-25)

1/26-30: Lecture: Egypt (Dr. Hopes)

Readings: (W); Fiero 19-35; Sinuhe (AR 145-158) (F) Love Poems, Instruction of Amenemope.

1/30: ONE-PAGE OUTLINE OF FIRST PAPER DUE

2/2-6: Lecture: China (Dr. Hardy)

Readings: Fiero 61-65, 160-72; (W) Confucius, Laozi (AR 212-225), The Book of Songs (AR 202-212), Han Feizi (231-235).

2/6 FIRST EXAM (1 HOUR)

2/9-2/13: Lecture: India (Dr. Maitra)

Readings: Fiero 58-61; (WF) The Bhagavad Gita.

2/16-2/20: Lecture: Buddhism (Dr. Falls)

Readings: (W) <http://www.as.miami.edu/phi/bio/Buddha/Milinda.htm> and Selected Buddhist Texts (AR 264-269); The Iliad (F) in its entirety but with special reference to books 1,3,4,6.

2/20: FIRST DRAFT OF FIRST PAPER DUE

2/23-2/27: Lecture: War and the Iliad (Dr. Hardy)

Readings: (W) Iliad with special reference to Books 9, 14, 16, 18; (F) 22-24.

3/2-3/6: Lecture: Greek City-States and Tragedy (Dr. Mills)

Readings: (W) Lyric poetry (AR 285-291); Herodotus (AR 297-321); Fiero 78-93, esp. 80-81 (abbreviated funeral speech of Pericles; (F) The Trojan Women; Thucydides (AR 322-330).

3/9-3/15 SPRING BREAK

3/16-3/20: Lecture: Ancient Philosophy (Dr. Hook)

Readings: (W) Fiero 94-105; Pre-Socratic Philosophers (AR 278-284); The Apology; (F) Aristotle (AR 338-354).

3/18: FINAL DRAFT OF FIRST PAPER DUE.

3/23-3/27: Lecture: Persia, Zoroastrianism and Alexander the Great (Dr. Hopes)

Readings: (W) Fiero 56-7; 122-128; Plutarch (AR 394-410), Zarathustra (AR 26-33); Epicurus (AR 355-360), Epictetus (AR 384-392).

3/27: NO CLASS: Undergraduate research symposium (attendance at 3 or more papers, with a written critique, can count as one cultural event)

3/30-4/3: Lecture: Second Temple Judaism (Dr. Kaplan)

Readings: (W) Fiero 46-57; Judges (AR 34-40, Maccabees (AR 57-81); Josephus (AR 126-141). (F) **SECOND EXAM** (1 Hour). I will be out of town at a conference.

4/6-4/10: Lecture: Rome, Republic to Empire (Dr Hook)

Readings: (W) Fiero 129-43; Livy (AR 447-55, 468-81) Polybius. (F) Augustus (AR 500-509), Tacitus (AR 516-527); Aeneid 1-3 (Mandelbaum)

4/10: FIRST DRAFT OF SECOND PAPER DUE

4/13-17: Lecture: Early Christianity (Dr. Moseley)

Readings: (W) Aeneid 4 and 6; (F) Dead Sea Scrolls (AR, 82-87), Matthew, Acts, 1 Corinthians (AR 92-122); Diary of Perpetua at www.fordham.edu/halsall From there follow the hot link "Medieval Sourcebook," then go to the left sidebar and click on "End of Rome." Scroll down to "Christian Late Antiquity" and its subheading "Persecution of Christians." Click on "Passion of SS. Perpetua and Felicity" for the text.

4/20-24: Gender and Sexuality in Antiquity (Prof. Driggers)

Readings: (W) Gorgias (AR 331-5); Musonius Rufus (AR 510-515); (F) Sappho, poems 1, 4, and 8 and the Shorter Fragments, found at <http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/rayor.shtml>;

4/27-5/1: Lecture: Art of the Classical World (Dr McClain); (W) Fiero 106-22, 143-157. (F). Connections.

5/4: No lecture. Connections continued. **FINAL DRAFT OF SECOND PAPER DUE**

5/6: 11.30-2.00 FINAL EXAM.

As well as the standard attendance at lectures and classes, everyone is also required to attend two cultural events during the semester, including one listed on the Humanities webpage (<http://www.unca.edu/humanities/events.htm>) and one of your own choosing with my permission. You must write (at least) a one-page critique of each event.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- A) Three written tests: February 6th and April 3rd (both 1 hour); May 6th (2 1/2 hrs)
- B) Two papers. One close reading paper, of c. 6-8 pages, first drafts due January 30th and February 20th; final due March 18th (W); one taking a broader view and encompassing at least two texts, c. 10-12 pages, first draft due April 10th, final draft due May 4th in class
- C) TWO cultural events, at least one to be written up and handed in by Spring break.

On Tuesdays there may be short quizzes on the Monday lecture. I may also give a few writing assignments in class for which you are not expected to prepare except by having done the week's reading. I may also post relevant articles on the OnePort class page from time to time and encourage you to look out for material to share with others through this, or other, media.

CLASS POLICIES

Grading

Research papers 35% (15% and 20%)

Examinations 35% (10%, 10%, 15%)

Class participation (including quizzes and in-class writing) 20%

Cultural events 10%

94% or above = **A**; 90-93% = **A-**; 86-89% = **B+**; 83-85% = **B**; 80-82% = **B-**; 76-79% = **C+**;
73-75% = **C**; 70-72% = **C-**; 60-69% = **D**. Below 60% = **F**

Attendance

You may miss up to three sessions over the semester without penalty. Any more than that without a very good and documented reason (medical or emergency of other kind) and your grade will be lowered by one notch per subsequent absence. Anyone missing more than 5 classes cannot get an A, however good his or her work is otherwise. I am not a tyrant, but we have a lot to cover and you will have a horrible time catching up. If you foresee that you are going to have problems, *please* come and talk – I am always willing to be accommodating if I know what is going on. If the weather is bad, your safety is paramount and I will work with you to catch up.

Attendance means more than sitting mutely in the back of the room. It means participation and it means that it is mandatory to make yourselves familiar with the syllabus and bring the texts under discussion. It is lazy, discourteous and unprofessional to turn up without them. Where you are required to download texts, please do save paper and share with a friend if you need to, but you must have a text between no more than two of you. Persistent offenders will be penalised in their attendance grade.

Classroom Conduct

An honest but courteous exchange of ideas is fundamental to this class, and as such I strongly encourage you to voice your points of view, to be prepared to have them challenged (courteously) by students or myself and to listen with an open mind to what others have to say. Being prepared to express your ideas orally is also fundamental to a successful class, for all of us.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic failure of the assignment at minimum and may result in more serious consequences depending on the circumstances. If you are not sure what counts as academic dishonesty, please feel free to ask.

Special Needs: Students with documented learning differences should speak to me at the beginning of the semester so that we may arrange what you need in this class.