

Humanities 124 Section 017
The Ancient World
2009 Spring Semester

Class Meetings: Monday 6:00-9:30 p.m. New Hall 016
Instructor: Rob Parsons
Office: 212 Karpen Hall
Phone: (828) 749-1543 (home) or 606-3452 (cell)
Email: rparsons@unca.edu
Office hours: Monday 9:30 p.m. or by appointment

Course Goals:

- 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

A complete overview and description of the objectives and skill assessments for the Humanities program at UNCA may be found at: <http://www.unca.edu/humanities/goals.htm>

Course Description:

This course is the first of UNCA’s four interdisciplinary Humanities courses. Our focus is the ancient world, from Mesopotamia to China, and how in each culture human beings relate to themselves, to others, to nature, and to deity. Our goal is to think seriously and critically about ourselves and our world.

Attendance:

Attendance is life in this class and being prepared is the oxygen that supports life. There are no free absences. You will lose points on your final grade the first class you miss unless you inform me ahead of time and have an approved excuse. After one excused absence, you will lose points regardless of reasons. We only meet for 15 classes. Because each night class is equal to one week of a regularly scheduled class, you have to be there. Missing three classes is grounds for failing the class.

Contact me by phone or e-mail regarding an absence. An excused absence must have a doctor’s note, court document or YouTube footage documenting the spectacular reason why you are not

there. I can be reasonable. Talk to me. Students are responsible for any material covered, assigned or due during an absence.

Late Work:

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date.

Late work is subject to a 5 point penalty for each day beyond the due date.

Make-up exams may be made possible only in the most extreme, unusual, and documented circumstances. Any make-up exam must be taken within one week of the original exam. The Final Exam must be taken at the time scheduled by the University.

Quizzes:

You will have a quiz each week (unless otherwise noted) covering the Monday lecture and Fiero reading, (or other reading as specified). You may not make up any missed quiz. You may drop your lowest quiz grade. Quizzes usually come at the very beginning of class, so you must be on time to take the quiz and receive points.

In-Class writings:

Each week you will write during class on the lectures, the texts or the class discussion. They will be graded Pass/Fail (you may drop your lowest grade).

Class Participation:

You are expected to participate in all aspects of the class: discussion, experiments, questions, answers, activities and general mayhem. Your level of engagement will be evaluated and will have a bearing on your grade. I am like Santa Claus who sees you when you're sleeping and knows when you're awake.

Papers:

You will write two papers this semester (3pp. and 6pp.). Assignments and time lines will be given for each project. The first paper will be a close reading (or exegesis) of a primary text. The second paper will be a compare/contrast paper using only primary texts of the era. I am mainly interested in your ability to read the text(s). You must show a command of the text(s) and its nuances. All papers are due on their assigned date. Late papers will lose five points each calendar day they are late. If you plagiarize on this or any other work of the semester, you will automatically fail the assignment and possibly the class.

Essay Format:

1. The final copy should be prepared and printed on a computer following correct MLA guidelines.
2. An academic heading (your name, my name, course designation and section and due date) should appear on upper left margin of the first page of the final draft above the title of any assignments turned in. Please do not use any type of cover; **staple your paper in the top left corner.**
3. All papers should be double spaced in standard 12 point type.
4. I do not accept handwritten assignments (except for those completed in class).
5. **I do not accept essays sent as emails or as attachments to emails. It is your responsibility to make sure you have a printed copy ready to turn in at the assigned class meeting.**

Plagiarism:

Since one of the primary aims of the course is to develop your writing voice, it is expected that the work you submit be your own. If you submit plagiarized material as your own, you fail the assignment and potentially the course.

Equity:

This is a class where it is vital to be able to express personal viewpoints, ideas and beliefs in a safe, open forum for discussion. I pledge to act, and I will expect you to act, with civility and integrity. We will strive to engage in equitable behavior with respect to all differences – whether arising from age, sex, race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or any other condition of our respective personal backgrounds.

Special Needs:

If you are a person with a disability requiring accommodations – especially learning disabilities related to language processing –speak to me either in person or through e-mail. Also, you must contact the Disability Services Coordinator in LH 107 to arrange those accommodations.

Exams:

You will have three exams this semester. They will contain both objective and essay components, and will cover specified materials. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Cultural Events:

You will attend two cultural events this semester
After you attend an event, turn in a one page single spaced reflection/reading/analysis of it.

Moodle:

There is a Moodle component to this class which is required because of the scarcity of face-to-face class time. You will take at least one quiz online. You are responsible for being sure you can log on and access appropriate class resources.

Grades:

Quizzes on Readings and Lectures-----	10%
2 exams (10% each)-----	20%
Final Exam-----	20%
Paper One-----	10%
Paper Two-----	20%
Class Participation, Cultural Events and In-Class Writings-----	20%

Grading Scale:

A 94-100 A- 93-90 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 77-79 C 73-76 C- 70-72 D 60-69
F below 60

Late Start:

If we miss a class due to bad weather / snow, prepare the work for the next scheduled class day.
UNCA Snow Line: (828) 259-3050

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 (the Fagels translation is required)
Clay, The Trojan Women
Virgil, The Aeneid

This schedule is subject to change at anytime.

The lecture information is provided as reference for the podcast.

(no meeting till Jan 26, work on readings and moodle quiz begin with week 3)

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, Jan. 19 no meeting work on readings and moodle quiz)

No lecture: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Readings: Continue epic of **Gilgamesh**, other Mesopotamian literature

(Week 3, Jan. 26)

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 4, Feb. 2)

Egypt (Dr. Hopes)

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

(Week 5, Feb. 9)

China (Dr. Hardy)

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

• **First Paper Due**

(Week 6, Feb. 16)

India (Dr. Ho)

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

(Week 7, Feb. 23)

Buddhism (Dr. Falls)

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

• **First Midterm Exam**

(Week 8, Mar. 2)

The Iliad and Warfare (Dr. Hardy)

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

•First Cultural Event Due

(Week 9, begins Mar. 9)
Spring Break: No Lecture

(Week 10, Mar. 16)
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 11, Mar. 23)
Ancient Philosophy (Dr. Hook)
Readings: Fiero 94-105; Plato's "Apology of Socrates" from **Trial and Death of Socrates**; **AR**:
Pre-Socratic Philosophers, Aristotle

•Second Paper Thesis Due

(Week 12, Mar. 30)
Persia, Zoroastrianism and Alexander the Great (Dr. Hopes)
Readings: Fiero 56-57, 122-128; **AR**: Plutarch, Zarathustra, Epicurus, Cleanthes,
Epictetus

•Second Midterm Exam

(Week 13, Apr. 6)
Second Temple Judaism (Dr. Kaplan)
Readings: Fiero 46-57; **AR**: Judges, Maccabees, Josephus

(Week 14, Apr. 13)
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 15, Apr. 20)
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

•Second Paper Due

(Week 16, Apr. 27)
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>.

•Second Cultural Event Due

(Week 17, May 4)
Art of the Classical World (Dr. McClain); Fiero 106-122, 143-157
Final Exam May 11 6:30-9:00 p.m. New Hall 016