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LS 151.00: Introduction to Western Humanities

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Fall 1998

Liberal Studies 151: Introduction to Western Humanities

Professor Ruth Vanita

Tuesday, Thursday, 9.40 to 11 a.m.
Office: Liberal Arts 158 Tel: 243-2302(W) 721-6184(H)
Email: Rvanita@selway
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 1-2 p.m.

Texts

Homer: The Odyssey
The Bible
Sappho
Sophocles, Three Plays
Euripides, Three Plays
Plato, Five Dialogues
St Augustine, The Confessions
Faculty Pack

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes and plenary lectures regularly and participate in group discussions. Excessive unexplained absences (more than three) will result in a zero for class attendance and participation
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading and bring the text to class
- (c) write a short paper (5-6 pages, double-spaced typed), due October 13 in class
- (d) rewrite the paper, possibly extending it to include more texts (8-10 pages), due November 17 in class
- (e) take a final exam on December 16, which will cover both texts and plenary lectures, and in which the student will be required to focus on texts not covered in her/his papers.

Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures may be given in class from time to time. Written responses to the video films may also be assigned in class.

Topics for papers must be decided in individual consultation with me. Sample topics: Parent-child relationships; Sibling relationships; Journeys and Returns; Ideas of Love/Friendship/Marriage; The Non-human/Natural World; Violence and its Resolution; Revenge and Forgiveness; Ideas of the Divine.

Grades

The short paper will be worth 20%, the revised paper 20%, attendance and participation (this includes class assignments) 20%, and the final exam 40%.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as outlined, please notify me by September 10.

Plenary Lecture Schedule

Sept. 3 - Intro to Course (Andrew)
Sept. 10 - The Odyssey (Hay)
Sept. 17 - Greek Art (Todd)
Sept. 24 - Women in Ancient Greece (Gillison)
Oct. 1 - Greek Lyrics (Welch)
Oct. 8 - Torah (Kreisberg)
Oct. 15 - Women in the Bible (Mapes)
Oct. 22 - The Prophets (Kreisberg)
Oct. 29 - Wisdom Literature (Scott)
Nov. 5 - Greek Drama (Bigley)
Nov. 12 - Plato (McGlynn)
Nov. 19 - The Gospels (Crunk)
Dec. 3 - The Confessions (Fandozzi)
Dec. 10 - Charlemagne (Farr)

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any changes announced in class.

September 3 Read The Odyssey, I-V

September 8 Read The Odyssey VI-XII

September 10 Read The Odyssey XIII-XVIII

September 15 Read The Odyssey XIX to end

September 17 Read Sappho (entire)

September 22 Read Genesis 1-25

September 24 Read Genesis 26 to end

September 29 Read Exodus 1-24

October 1 Read Ruth; Isaiah 11; and Job 1-3

October 6 Read Job 38-42; Ecclesiastes 3-4 and Sirach 24

October 8 Read Oedipus the King (entire)

October 13 Oedipus the King (continues) **Paper due in class**

October 15 Read Antigone (entire)

October 20 Read Medea (entire)

October 22 Read Plato, The Apology (entire)

October 27 Plato continues

October 29 Read Plato, Crito (entire)

November 3 Election Day

November 5 I will be away at a conference. A class assignment will be given.

November 10 Read Plato, Phaedo (entire)

November 12 Read Luke 1-14

November 17 Read Luke 15 to 21 **Paper due in class**

November 19 Read Luke 22 to end

November 23 Read 1 Corinthians (entire)

November 26 Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1 Read Ephesians (entire)

December 3, 8, 10, 12 St Augustine: The Confessions

December 16, 8-10 a.m. Examination