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### GH 151L.01: Introduction to Western Humanities Antiquity

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Fall 2018

GH 151L, Introduction to Western Humanities (Antiquity)

Dr. Vanita, Director, Global Humanities & Religions

This class fulfills the General Education Intermediate Writing requirement and the Literature requirement. This is a required course for both options (1. Global Humanities, and 2. Religious Studies) in the Global Humanities & Religions major, and is also a required course for the Music (General BA) major. It is an elective for the major in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education, and for the minor in European Studies.

Tuesday, Thursday, 9.30-10.50 a.m.

Room: LA106 3 credits

Office: LA 146-A.

Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30; Thursday 2.00-3.00, and by appointment.

Texts (all required)

To be purchased:

*Sappho*, translated Mary Barnard (Berkeley: U of Cal. Press, 1999)

Plato, *The Symposium*, translated Robin Waterfield

Euripides, *Antigone*, translated George Young (Dover Thrift Edition)

**Please use only the translations prescribed above. No other translations are to be used.**

Texts are available at the UM bookstore. You can also order them more cheaply and reliably from Amazon.

On Moodle

Extracts from Homer, *The Odyssey*, translated Robert Fitzgerald.

Extracts from *The Bible* (Authorized King James' Version with Apocrypha)

Extracts from Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (Oxford World Classics)

Extracts from Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations*

Learning Outcomes

- to acquire an introductory understanding of some major trends of thought in the Western world since antiquity
- to become acquainted with some of the Great Books of the Greco-Roman, Jewish and early Christian traditions.
- to develop your writing skills and improve your writing by a process that will allow me to measure your improvement.

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes regularly. More than four absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and class participation, and seven or more absences will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations (preferably in advance of the absence) must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in writing and accepted by me.
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in discussion;
- (c) bring to class a **typed** question/comment on the text that we are reading for that class, use it in discussion and give it to me at the end of class. Handwritten questions will not receive credit. If you are ever unable to hand in a question, it is your responsibility to tell me this and to have yourself marked present.
- (d) write two papers
- (e) edit and rewrite whichever of the two papers gets a lower grade. The rewritten paper must follow guidelines provided by me. **You are strongly advised to meet me during office hours to discuss your paper before you rewrite it.**
- (f) take the mid-term exam, all tests and quizzes, and complete all assignments.
- (g) Quizzes on texts and plenary lectures will be given in class; they may be given according to schedule or unexpectedly. **Quizzes can be made up within the week (not more than thrice in the semester), but not later.** To make up a quiz, contact me in person or on email to make an appointment.
- (h) **Check UM email regularly**, especially the day before class. I send out notifications and changes by email. UM policy forbids me to write to you on any email address other than the UM one. The best way to communicate with me is by email.

### Grades

The two papers will be worth 10% each, the rewritten paper 15%, class attendance and participation 20%, typed questions/comments 10%, quizzes 20%, the mid-term exam 15%. Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) and adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax.

Please note that the rewritten paper will be graded on the thoroughness of the rewriting. If, for example, you get a B for a paper, and your rewritten version of it shows hardly any changes, you will not get a B again. You will get a lower grade or no points at all.

**Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties such as expulsion from the University (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).**

Quizzes will be given at the start of class. Therefore, you need to be on time to take them. Quizzes may contain both multiple-choice type questions and short-answer questions and are designed to test (a) whether you have read the prescribed texts (b) whether you remember basic facts about the author and the text, (c) whether you remember information communicated in class lectures and in plenary lectures.

Topics for papers will be given in class. Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade. The rewritten paper must be handed in on time, as I will be leaving the country soon after; late papers will not be accepted.

If you take this course to fulfill General Education requirements or for the GHR major, you cannot take it Credit/No Credit, and you must earn a C minus to pass.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

### “Trigger Warning”

Please note that every text we read in this class deals with difficult issues, including but not restricted to unrequited love, murder, rape, poverty, slavery, illness, old age and death (in addition to love, beauty, friendship, different types of gender and sexuality, comfort and peace).

### Reading Schedule

**This schedule is tentative. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with any changes and to obtain any hand-outs given in class in her/his absence.** Readings indicated for a certain class are to be read in advance of that class, e.g. come to class on 30 August 30, having read “Ancient Greece: A Timeline,” and “The Greek/Roman Gods.”

Date	Assignment (to be completed before class)	Class Plan	In-class assignment
28 August		Explanation of syllabus, introduction to the Western Humanities, and to this course.	
30 August	Read “Ancient Greece: A Timeline,” and “The Greek/Roman Gods” (on Moodle)	Lecture on ancient Greek culture and society, and its contribution to the modern world.	
4 September	Read Odyssey Background and Summary; Odyssey Book 9 (on Moodle).	Discuss readings	<b>Quiz</b> on background information
6 September	Read Odyssey, Books 10, 12.	Discuss readings.	
11 September	Read Odyssey, Books 14, 19.	Discuss readings.	<b>Quiz</b> on Odyssey 9-12.

13 September	Read Odyssey Books 21, 23.	Discuss readings	
18 September		Background lecture on Sappho and the lyric.	<b>Quiz on Odyssey 14, 19, 21, 23.</b>
20 September	Read Sappho	Discuss readings. Review as required	
25 September	Read "The Ancient Israelites/Jews: A Timeline" and "Timeline of Hebrew Bible Composition" (on Moodle).	Background lecture on creation stories, on the Israelites, Judaism, and the Bible. Discuss the paper and good writing methods.	
27 September	Read <i>Genesis</i> , chapters 1, 2; Hymn from the Rigveda; <i>Metamorphoses</i> , pp.1-6. (on Moodle)	Discuss readings.	
2 October	Read Genesis Chapters 3-5 and notes pp. 321-326 (on Moodle).	Discuss readings.	<b>Paper due in class.</b>
4 October	Read <i>Leviticus</i> chapters 16-21; notes pp. 332-33 and 369-71 (on Moodle).	Discuss readings	<b>Quiz on Genesis</b>
9 October	Read <i>1 Samuel</i> chapters 1, 15, and <i>The History of Susannah</i> (Bible)	Discuss readings	
11 October	Read <i>Book of Judith</i> and notes pp. 384-85; 392-93 (on Moodle)	Discuss readings	<b>Mid-term Exam</b>
16 October	Prepare for mid-term exam	Review materials covered; Background lecture on Greek drama.	<b>Quiz on Hebrew Bible excluding Genesis.</b>
18 October		<b>Mid-term exam</b>	
23 October	Read Greek Tragedy: Background (on	Discuss materials	

	Moodle) and <i>Antigone</i> .		
25 October		Continue <i>Antigone</i> . Discuss how to edit and rewrite paper.	
30 October	Read "Symposium: Background and Summary" (on Moodle) and <i>Symposium</i>	Discuss reading	<b>Quiz</b> on Greek tragedy and <i>Antigone</i>
1 November	Read "Study Guide for Plato" (on Moodle)	Continue <i>Symposium</i>	
6 November	No class. Election Day		
8 November		Continue <i>Symposium</i>	<b>Rewritten Paper due in class</b>
13 November	Read from Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> : "Teiresias" and "Narcissus," pp. 60-66; "Pyramus and Thisbe," pp. 76-79; "Hermaphroditus," pp. 83-85; "The Rape of Proserpine" and "Arethusa," pp. 109-118 (on Moodle).		<b>Quiz on Symposium</b>
15 November	Read from Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> : "Icarus," 176-78; "Philemon and Baucis," pp. 190-93; "Venus and Adonis," pp. 241-48; "Midas," pp. 252-55.	Discuss readings.	
20 November	Read from Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> : "Tereus, Procne and Philomela," pp.134-42.	Discuss readings.	<b>Quiz on Metamorphoses.</b>

22 November	Thanksgiving break. No class.		
27 November	The Early Church: A Timeline,” and <i>Luke</i> , chapters 1-6; notes on pp. 408-410 (all on Moodle).	Discuss readings	
29 November	Read <i>Luke</i> , chapters 7-14 (on Moodle)	Discuss readings	
4 December	Read <i>Luke</i> , chapters 15-24.	Discuss readings.	<b>Quiz on Luke</b>
6 December	Read Romans 1 and extracts from Meditations of Marcus Aurelius	Discuss readings	<b>Paper due in class</b>
12 December 10.10- 12.10	Film: A Greek play, probably <i>Medea</i>		<b>Quiz on Romans and Marcus Aurelius</b>

### There is no final exam

*This course requires you to make an electronic submission (via Moodle) of an assignment stripped of your personal information. This paper should be the “Rewritten paper” submitted to me on 8 November. Your paper will be stored in a database and used for educational research and assessment of the university’s writing program. A random selection of papers will be assessed by a group of faculty and staff using a rubric developed from the following Writing Learning Outcomes:*

- *Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose*
- *Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing*
- *Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts*
- *Revise written work based on constructive feedback*
- *Find, evaluate, and use information effectively*
- *Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions (largely style conventions like APA or MLA)*
- *Demonstrate appropriate English language usage*

*This assessment in no way affects either your course grade or your progression at the university.*