

Fall 9-1-2017

GH 151L.01: Introduction to Western Humanities Antiquity

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Recommended Citation

Hanson, Mark J., "GH 151L.01: Introduction to Western Humanities Antiquity" (2017). *Syllabi*. 8698.
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INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES

Liberal Studies 151—01, Fall 2017

MWF 1:00-1:50

LA 138

CRN: 75002

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LA 152, ext. 6844

Office Hours: M, F 2:00 – 3:00; T, 11:00 – 12:00

and by appointment

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A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. A classic is something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of background noise, but at the same time this background noise is something we cannot do without. (Conversely) A classic is something that persists as a background noise even when the most incompatible momentary concerns are in control of the situation.

—Italo Calvino

Course Structure, Objectives, Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of the humanities through a focus on selective texts from the ancient to the medieval periods that have shaped Western civilization. We will explore the formation and transformation of some Western worldviews and themes, and reflect on how they have shaped and influenced society and culture today. The emphases of the course are engaging in close readings of the primary texts, discussing, and writing about texts.

Course Objectives

- Become familiar with the study of the humanities
- Read a sample of classic texts in the humanities from the Ancient to the early medieval period and use these texts to learn and consider their central themes, learn major developments in the history of the Western humanities, and develop skills in critical reflection and writing.

Learning Outcomes for Writing Courses

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

REQUIRED TEXTS

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, fourth edition, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Homer, *The Odyssey* (trans. E. V. Rieu; Penguin edition)

Sophocles, *Sophocles I / Three Tragedies*, second edition (trans. Grene; Univ. Chicago press)

Euripides, *Three Plays of Euripides* (trans. Roche; Norton publ.)

Plato, *Five Dialogues* (trans. Grube; Hackett press)

St. Augustine, *The Confessions* (trans. Boulding; Vintage press)

ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASSES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
I. The Hebrew Bible		
8/31	Course Introduction	None
9/1	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible	None
9/4	No Class: Labor Day	
9/6	The Creation Story Genesis: Introduction	Genesis, Ch. 1-2
9/8	The Temptation Story and Aftermath	Genesis: 3-4
9/11	Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 6-9, 11:1-9, 11:27-ch.13, ch.15-22
9/13	Law (Torah) and Covenant: Moses	Exodus: Introduction Ch. 1-4, 7-8, 11-12, 14-16
9/15	Law (Torah) and Covenant: Moses (cont.)	Exodus 19-20, 24, 32 – 34
9/18	The Prophets: Amos and God's Judgment	Amos: Introduction, Ch. 1-9
9/20	Wisdom Literature	Proverbs 1-4 Ecclesiastes 1-12
9/22	Introducing Job	Job: Introduction: Ch. 1-2
9/25	Job's Friends: Reasons for Suffering?	Job: 3-21
9/27	God's Response	Job: 22-31, 38-42
II. Homer: <i>The Odyssey</i>		
9/29	Homer: <i>The Odyssey</i>	Books 1-4
10/2	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Books 5-8
10/4	<i>The Odyssey</i> Bible Paper Due 10/4 (for some)	Books 9-12
10/6	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Books 13-16

10/9	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Books 17-20
10/11	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Books 21-24
10/13	Midterm Exam	

III. The Later Greek Writers

10/16	Lyric Poetry; Introduction to Greek Tragedies	Selections from Sappho
10/18	Sophocles: <i>Oedipus the King</i> I	Greene and Lattimore: 11-43
10/20	Sophocles: <i>Oedipus the King</i> I	Greene and Lattimore: 44-76
10/23	Sophocles: <i>Antigone</i>	Greene and Lattimore: 161-191
10/25	Sophocles: <i>Antigone</i>	Greene and Lattimore: 192-212
10/27	Euripides: <i>The Bacchae</i>	Roche: Introd., vii-xi; 78-96
10/30	Euripides: <i>The Bacchae</i>	Roche: 97-126

IV. Greek Philosophy: Plato's Dialogues

11/1	Plato: <i>Euthyphro</i>	Grube: Intro ix-x, 1-20
11/3	Plato: <i>Apology</i>	Grube: 21-44

V. The Christian New Testament

11/6	Video: <i>Mythos</i> (the Greek mystery religions) Greek Paper Due (11/6, for some)	None
11/8	Introduction to the New Testament: Gospels plus <i>Introduction</i> to each Gospel	John 1-2; Matthew 1-4; Mark 1
11/10	Veterans Day: No Class	
11/13	The Beginning of Jesus' Life	Luke: 1-4
11/15	Jesus's Ministry in Galilee	Luke 4:14 – 9:50 Matthew 5 – 7
11/17	Jesus in Jerusalem: Death and Resurrection	Luke 9:51 – 24, Acts 1-2
11/20	Paul: Justification by Faith	Romans 1-8, 13

11/22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class

VI. Christian Autobiography and Reflection: Augustine

11/27	Augustine: <i>The Confessions</i>	Preface (xiii-xxvi) Books 1- 3: chs. 1-8
11/29	Augustine: <i>The Confessions</i>	Bk 4, all; 5, ch. 10, 13-14
12/1	Augustine: <i>The Confessions</i>	Bk 6, chs. 4-6, 15; Bk 7: 1-5, 9, 12-13, 17, 21
12/4	Augustine: <i>The Confessions</i>	Bk 8, chs. 5, 11-12; Bk 9, chs. 1,
12/6	Augustine: <i>The Confessions</i>	Bk 10: 1-8, 17, 24-31, 35, 40, 43
12/8	Catch up & Discussion of Themes	None/TBA
12/11	Exam Review	

Final Exam: Thursday, December 14, 1:10 – 3:10 p.m.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

REQUIREMENTS

- Major paper draft one (4-5 pages) (10 pts.)
 - Major paper draft two (40 pts.)
 - Online posts/Quizzes: (app. 50 pts.)
 - Midterm exam: (50 pts.)
 - Final exam: percent (50 pts.)
 - Regular class attendance and satisfactory participation (or lack thereof) in class participation assignments and discussion (demonstrating a grasp of the reading assignments) will affect your grade.
1. Major Papers: You will have a choice on the formal paper for the course—either on the Hebrew Bible or a selection from the Greek literature. You will submit a first draft on the due date listed on the syllabus; you will then submit a revision of that paper will based on feedback on a date to be announced. Details about these papers will be given in class and on the course website.

Late papers will penalized two points per day (beginning the date it is due) up to 50 percent of the grade total unless prior permission from the instructor is obtained. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, with one to one-and-one-half-inch margins. Use page numbers, and give references to page numbers from the primary text and full citations to

all outside sources. Papers should be uploaded to Moodle, if possible, and a hard copy brought to class. Also note that papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be returned ungraded for correction *and* marked down as late. Written work will be evaluated in terms of the strength of your critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and clarity and grammatical accuracy of your writing.

2. Online Responses, Quizzes, and Other Assignments: Students will be asked to post answers to discussion questions online and occasionally take quizzes or have other short assignments. Please check the course page in Moodle or ask if assignments are due if you are unable to attend a class period. Late responses will be penalized one point per day until zero is reached.
3. Midterm Exam: will cover material from the plenary lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. The format will likely be mixed, possibly including multiple choice, quotation identifications, short-answer essays, and/or longer essay questions. You must write your exam during the exam period. Failure to do so without instructor's prior permission—except in case of an emergency—will result in a failing grade for the exam.
4. Final Exam: The final will **not** be comprehensive. It will cover material since the midterm exam. Approximately two weeks prior, I will hand out a study guide. You must write your exam during the final exam period. Failure to do so without instructor's permission will result in a failing grade for the exam. Final exams can only be rescheduled if the student can demonstrate that he or she has two additional exams scheduled for the same day.
5. Attendance and Participation:

All classes are communities of learners, and each voice is valuable and essential to the course narrative. When you are absent you compromise the narrative's plot.

—Robert Klose

Attendance is important (i.e., central to learning) and expected. Active, regular participation will improve your grade up to a half letter grade. Failure to make efforts to participate, or general disinterestedness (including laptop surfing) can lower your grade up to a half letter grade. Unexcused absences may affect your grade. If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as illness, disability or other conflicting commitments, you still *must* speak with the instructor. (Documentation may be required.) Participation requires bringing your text to class, taking notes, being attentive, and trying to make thoughtful contributions to class discussions. Participation also requires responding satisfactorily to weekly participation requirements, such as submission of questions or ideas. Please talk to me if you have concerns about participation.

General Grading Criteria:

- F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
- D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
- C: Satisfactory; met minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
- B: Good to Very Good: thoughtful reflection, good analysis, and clear writing style
- A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection in discussion and writing; demonstrated creativity and mature analytical skills

Grades will be recorded using pluses and minuses.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

All work submitted is expected to be the student's own. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in failure of the assignment and may result in further academic punishment. If you have any doubts about definitions of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please review the relevant sections of the University Catalog.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In accordance with the University of Montana's mission to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, necessary accommodations for students with disabilities will be made whenever possible. If you require accommodations, please provide written information regarding your disability from the Disability Services as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- Please arrive on time and do not walk out on classes early or in the middle of discussion without prior permission. Doing otherwise is disrespectful.
- Please give others a chance to share in class conversations and be respectful of them and their views.
- Give the class full attention: no side discussions, newspaper reading, crossword puzzles, or use of electronic devices. Anything other than full attention will count as an absence.
- Cell phones: Please turn off all cell phones prior to class unless you have informed me that you have a legitimate reason: for example, you are an EMT or a firefighter, parent of a young child, or are expecting an emergency call. If you are expecting a call, please keep the phone on the vibrate mode and step outside to take the call. Each instance of texting in class will count as an absence.
- Laptop and smart phones: The use of laptops and smart phones is not permitted without permission. Laptops used for text reading and/or note-taking must be used in the first two rows of seats.
- Sleeping is not permitted and will be counted as an absence.