The Western Cultural Tradition I-II

The western cultural tradition has its roots in the combination and confrontation of the classical and biblical traditions. This class will read and discuss some of the major texts of these two traditions. We will read authors who raise and try to answer some of the fundamental human questions: What is the nature of the world we live in? What is justice? What is happiness? What is our relation to God?

The overall orientation of this course will be philosophical -- with considerable emphasis on politics, religion, and poetry. Themes that will be pursued over the year include: faith and reason, God and man, justice and power, freedom and necessity, grace and free will.

In conjunction with the reading of primary sources, assignments will be made to related essays in *Introductions for Freshmen: Short Essays on Ideas in the Liberal Arts (IFF)* written by the instructor.

Additional short readings available on the class web site are marked Web.

week

1  
Tues 9/2  Introduction
*The Abolition of Man*  C. S. Lewis

Thurs 9/4  The Abolition of Man
*IFF 27 Experience and Reason*
*IFF 28 Dogmatism and Skepticism*
*IFF 31 Subjective and Objective*
*IFF 32 Neutral and Objective*
*IFF 33 First-Person and Third-Person*
*IFF 34 Facts and Values*
*IFF 22 Ancient and Modern*
*IFF 23 Modern and Post-Modern*

2  
Tues 9/9  *Odyssey* books 1-4  Homer
*Theogony* 27-28  Web  Hesiod
*Fate in the Iliad*  Web  Homer
*The History 2.53.1-2*  Web  Herodotus
*The Wisdom of the Ancients: Proteus*  Web  Bacon
*IFF 3 Cosmos and Chaos*
*IFF 5 Painting and Poetry*
*IFF 8 Love and Friendship*

Thurs 9/11  *Odyssey* books 5-8

3  
Tues 9/16  *Odyssey* books 9-10
Thurs 9/18  *Odyssey* books 11-12
4  Tues 9/23  *Odyssey* books 13-18
  Thurs 9/25  *Odyssey* books 19-24

5  Tues 9/30  *Antigone*  
      IFF 6 Tragedy and Comedy
      Aristotle’s Definition of Tragedy  Web
  Thurs 10/2  *Antigone*

6  Tues 10/7  *The Clouds*  
      IFF 16 Promises and Obligations
  Thurs 10/9  *The Clouds*

7  Tues 10/14  *Republic* book 1  
  Thurs 10/16  *Republic* book 1
      IFF 2 Hypocrisy and Irony
      IFF 31 Subjective and Objective

8  Tues 10/21  *Republic* book 2
  Thurs 10/23  *Republic* books 3-4
      the *Principle Of Non-Contradiction*  Web
      IFF 7 Public and Private
      IFF 9 Love of One’s Own and Love of the Good
      IFF 30 Appearance and Reality
      IFF 1 Imagination and Conception
      IFF 19 Equality and Freedom
      IFF 39 Particular and Universal

9  Tues 10/28  *Republic* book 5
  Thurs 10/30  *Republic* book 6
      *Euthyphro* 10a  Web
      *Beyond Good and Evil: Preface*
      *Aphorism* 1  Web
      the *Four Causes*  Web
      IFF 25 Philosophy and Ideology
      IFF 29 Philosophy and Science

10  Tues 11/4  *Republic* books 7-9
  Thurs 11/6  *Republic* book 10
      IFF 13 The Idea of America
      IFF 14 Equality and Majority Rule
      IFF 15 Human Rights and Civil Rights
      IFF 17 Natural Rights and Man-Made Rights
      IFF 18 Liberalism and Limited Government
      IFF 19 Equality and Freedom
      IFF 20 Liberalism and Conservativism
      IFF 21 Individual and Community

11  Tues 11/11  *Ethics* book 1  
      IFF 12 Theory and Practice
  Thurs 11/13  *Ethics* book 2
12
  Tues 11/18  Ethics book 3
  Thurs 11/20 Ethics books 3-4
                IFF 10 Honor and Glory
                IFF 11 Envy and Emulation
                IFF 24 Nature and Culture
                IFF 36 Causes and Reasons
  Tues 11/25  Ethics book 5

14
  Tues 12/2  Ethics books 5-6
  Thurs 12/4  Ethics books 7

15
  Tues 12/9  Ethics books 8-10

Semester Break
  Aeneid
  Virgil
Requirements

Papers

One-page paper
-- due **every Monday** at 9 A.M by email
   on a *Reading Question* posted on the class website
   or one of your design
-- submit as a Word or WordPerfect attachment
-- the document when opened should display at the top of the page
   your name, class start time, and the question
-- use a font size and line-spacing to insure the paper fits on one page
-- *filename* of document should not include more than one period
-- you may skip one week but notify me by email by the due date

Five-Seven page paper
-- due **Thursday, November 20**
-- in print at the beginning of class
   from a choice of topics assigned
   or a topic of your own with prior approval of the instructor
-- pages should be numbered
-- paper should have a title that is justified by the content

Oral Presentation

Each student will present and defend his or her response to one week’s question
   orally *instead* of in writing.
Weeks will be assigned at the second class.

Class Participation

The course is conducted as a seminar which requires active participation.
You are expected to bring questions on the readings to class and you should expect
to be asked questions in turn – *even if you do not raise your hand*.
In particular, you should *be prepared to explain and defend your one-page papers*.

Final Exam

Two one-hour essays (no choices) to be taken from a list of six
   which will be distributed at the penultimate class of the semester.

Tues 12/16 9-11 AM

Grading

[approximate]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-page papers</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-Seven page paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommended Editions – Available at the BC Bookstore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>author</th>
<th>title</th>
<th>translator</th>
<th>publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. S. Lewis</td>
<td>Abolition of Man</td>
<td></td>
<td>Macmillan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer</td>
<td>Odyssey</td>
<td>Fagles</td>
<td>Penguin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophocles</td>
<td>Antigone</td>
<td>Fagles</td>
<td>Penguin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(in Sophocles: Three Theban Plays)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristophanes</td>
<td>Clouds</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>Cornell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(in Four Texts on Socrates)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plato</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>Basic Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle</td>
<td>Nichomachean Ethics</td>
<td>Rackham</td>
<td>Loeb Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil</td>
<td>Aeneid</td>
<td>Fagles</td>
<td>Penguin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended Editions -- Available Online (see class website in Web)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>author</th>
<th>title</th>
<th>translator</th>
<th>publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. S. Lewis</td>
<td>Abolition of Man</td>
<td></td>
<td>Macmillan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle</td>
<td>Nichomachean Ethics</td>
<td>Rackham</td>
<td>Loeb Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Web Site

http://cms.bc.edu

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education. You are expected to observe the highest standards of academic integrity in this course. Please review the standards and procedures that are published in the university catalog and on the web at:

http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity.html

Make sure that the work you submit is in accordance with university policies. If you have any questions, please consult with me. Violations will be reported to the Deans’ Office and reviewed by the College's Committee on Academic Integrity. This could result in failure in the course or even more severe sanctions.

For examples of what does and does not constitute plagiarism consult

http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz.html

Office Hours

Stokes 272S -- Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment