Western Cultural Tradition III-IV (HP 003-004 08)
Spring 2014
Professor Constas
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Syllabus

Course Description
The second part of the course continues our investigation into the meaning and legacy of the Western cultural tradition. Our central focus will be on the development of Christianity as a part of the tradition. What is the relationship between Judaism and Christianity? Between Classical Greece and Rome and Christianity? How are faith and reason related? Do ideals change under the influence of Christianity? What about attitudes towards morality? Towards life? Towards the afterlife?

Course Requirements
*Regular and prompt class attendance. Two unexcused absences will lower your class participation grade a full grade. Three will result in a failing class participation grade.
*One short reflection on a film (and other assignments, mostly assigned via e-mail).
*Class participation (25% of grade).
*Four interpretive essays of 5-7 pages each (25% of grade).
*Reports on two public lectures or performances.
*One essay and presentation on a canto of Dante's Comedy (25% of grade).
*A midterm and a final (25% of grade)

Books to Purchase
New Oxford Annotated Bible (Oxford: 9780195289558)
Dante Alighieri, Divine Comedy, trans. Hollander (3 volumes)
  • Inferno (Anchor: 9780385496971)
  • Purgatorio (Anchor: 9780385497008)
  • Paradiso (Anchor: 9781400031153)

Grading
The grading system consists of twelve categories, as follows:

A is excellent; B is good; C is satisfactory; D is passing but unsatisfactory; F is failure.

Failure to complete any course requirement will result in a course failure.