HONR 1201 10: WESTERN CULTURAL TRADITION V-VI

Prof. Vanessa Rumble
Philosophy Department
Office: Stokes 239N
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Class Times and Location: MWF 11:00
Stokes Hall 286S

Office Hours:
Monday 1:30 – 3:00
Wednesday 1:15 – 2:15
Friday 10:30 – 12:00

Requirements:

Attendance and careful preparation of the texts for the day are required. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in substantial lowering of the final grade. Preparation of texts involves not only reading the texts prior to class, but also taking notes on your private reflections and questions.

Two 6-8 page papers 20% each
One final paper on Cervantes depiction of modern man/modernity as reflective of the themes of the semester 30%

Final Exam 30%

Academic integrity is vital and is assumed. See www.bc.edu/integrity.

Schedule of Readings:

The Break with Classical and Medieval Thought: Machiavelli and Realpolitik

Monday, 9/8: Machiavelli, The Prince

Reformation, Doubt, and the Desire for Certainty

Wednesday, 9/10: Luther, Selections from Christian Liberty and The Bondage of the Will

Monday, 9/15 Montaigne, Selections from the Essays

Wednesday, 9/17 Montaigne, Selections; Popkin essay on Skepticism

Monday, 9/22 Bacon, selections from The New Organon, in The Great Instauration; Descartes, Meditations, Meditation I-2

Wednesday, 9/24 Descartes, Meditations

Monday, 9/29 Pascal, Pensées, selections.
Wednesday, 10/1   Pascal, *Pensées* selections  
Monday, 10/6   Shakespeare, *Hamlet*  
Wednesday, 10/8   Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (view Branaugh’s film)  
Monday, 10/13   Shakespeare, *Hamlet*; John Muller, “Psychosis and Mourning in Lacan’s Hamlet”  

**Social contract theory/ Humans in the State of Nature**  
Wednesday, 10/15   Hobbes, *Leviathan*, selections  
                   Paper on Montaigne/Descartes due.  
Monday, 10/20   Hobbes, *Leviathan*, selections  
Wednesday, 10/22   Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, selections  
Monday, 10/27   Shakespeare, *King Lear*  
Wednesday 10/29   Shakespeare, *King Lear*  
Monday, 11/3   *King Lear*, discussion  

**Faith and Reason:**  
Wednesday 11/5   John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, selections  
Monday 11/10   Milton, *Paradise Lost*, selections  
Wednesday 11/12   Voltaire, *Candide*  
Monday 11/17   Voltaire, *Candide*  

**Cervantes**  
Wednesday 11/19   Cervantes, *Don Quixote*  
Monday 11/24   *Don Quixote*  
Wednesday 11/26 -11/28   HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
Monday, 12/1   *Don Quixote*  
Wednesday 12/3   *Don Quijote*
Monday 12/8  
*Don Quixote*

Wednesday 12/10  
*Don Quixote*

Final Exam: Thurs, Dec. 16, 12:30 p.m.

**Required Texts:**

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*
Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*
Luther, *Selections*
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, tr. Mansfield
Montaigne, *Essays*
Pascal, *Pensées*
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Shakespeare, *King Lear*
Voltaire, *The Portable Voltaire*