

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Integrated Liberal Studies 205: Western Culture: Political, Economic, and Social Thought I

Fall 2008

Instructor: R. Avramenko
Office: 201c North Hall
Office Hours: T 1:00 – 3:00

Course: ILS 205
Location: SS 6210
Time: TR 12:00–12:50

TA's: Colette Smith: colettesmith@wisc.edu, Ethan Alexander-Davey: alexanderdav@wisc.edu,
Rebecca LeMoine: rlemoine@wisc.edu

Objective:

The objective of this course is two-fold. First, this course introduces students to the roots of Western political, economic, and social thought. Through a careful reading of canonical texts, the foundational symbols and concepts of Western thought will come to light. The second objective is to learn how these symbols and concepts can be brought to bear on contemporary problems and how they can inform questions about our own political and personal order. What part, for instance, does honor play in our world? What does a good citizen look like? What is the role of reason? What is the place of violence? What does justice look like? Students are encouraged to keep both these objectives in mind for both discussion sections and their written work.

Required Texts:

Aristophanes. *The Complete Plays of Aristophanes*, ed. Moses Hadas (Bantam Classic, 1988). ISBN 0553213431.

Aristotle. *Politics*, transl. T.A. Sinclair (Penguin Classics, 1981). ISBN 0140444211

Augustine. *City of God*, transl. Bettenson (Penguin Classics, 2003). ISBN 0-140-44894-2.

God. *Bible*. Any edition.

Homer. *The Iliad of Homer*, transl. Richmond Lattimore (University of Chicago Press, 1961). ISBN 0226469409.

Herodotus. *The Histories*, transl. de Selincourt (Penguin Classics, 1996). ISBN 0-140-44908-6

Plato. *The Republic*, transl. Sterling and Scott (Norton, 1985). ISBN 0-393-31467-7.

Plato. *Four Texts on Socrates*, transl. West and West (Cornell University Press, 1984). ISBN 0-8014-9282-3.

Students are **strongly** encouraged to purchase these translations. This is a text-based course and full participation requires that we navigate and explore the text together—that we be on the same page, so to speak. Students must bring the text under consideration both to class and sections.

Requirements:

Section Participation:	10%	Second Midterm:	20%
First Midterm:	20%	Final Exam	30%
Midterm Paper	: 20%		

Itinerary:

I. Honor and Warrior Citizenship

September 2: Introduction

September 4: The Ancient World and Homer (*Iliad*, Books 1-16)

September 9: Honor and Manly Courage in Homer (*Iliad*, Books 17-24)

September 11: Herodotus and the Spartan 300 (*Histories*, Book vi, sections 94-121; vii, 1-200)

September 16: Cowardice and Dishonor (*Histories*, Book vii, 201-239; viii, 83-96; ix, 28-90)

September 18: Shame and the Civic Good of Courage (Read: Suzanne Mettler “Bringing the State Back Into Civic Engagement: Policy Feedback Effects of the G.I. Bill for World War II Veterans” available on JSTOR)

II. Justice and Discursive Citizenship

September 23: **First Midterm (bluebook)**

September 25: Introduction to Socrates, Plato, the Peloponnesian War, and Athenian Empire (Read: “Melian Dialogue”)

September 30: Plato, *The Apology* (17a-28b)

October 2: Plato, *The Apology* (28b-42a)

October 7: Plato, *Crito*

October 9: Plato, *Crito*

October 14: Aristophanes, *The Frogs*

October 16: Aristophanes, *The Frogs*

October 21: Aristophanes, *Ecclesiazusae* (a.k.a., *The Assemblywomen*)

October 23: Plato, *The Republic*, Book I

October 28: Plato, *The Republic*, Book II (**midterm paper due 4-6pp**)

October 30: Plato, *The Republic*, Book III, IV

November: 4: Plato, *The Republic*, Book V, VI

November: 6: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VII

November 11: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VIII

November 13: Plato, *The Republic*, Book IX, X

November 18: **Second Midterm (bluebook)**

November 20: Aristotle, *Politics* (Bk I: Chs. 1-7, 13, Bk III: Chs. 1-13) (lecture by Ethan Alexander-Davey)

November: 25: Aristotle, *Politics* (Bk VI: Chs. 1-5; Book VII: Chs. 1-4, 13-17) (lecture by Ethan Alexander-Davey)

November 27: **Thanksgiving Break**

III. Faith and Universal Citizenship

December 2: Bible, Genesis and Exodus; St. Augustine, *City of God* (Bk I., preface, Chpts 1-9, 11, 12, 20, 21, II.20; IV.5, 15, 33;)

December 4: Bible, Matthew and John; Augustine, *City of God* (V.12-24, VII.21, 32; VIII.3-13; IX.14, 15, 17, 18)

December 9: St. Augustine, *City of God* (X.14, 20; XI.1-8, 16-24)

December 11: St. Augustine, *City of God* (XII.14, 15, 18, 20-22; XIX.4, 11-14, 17, 24-28)

December 15, 10:05 am – 12:05 pm (Monday): Final Exam

Course Rules:

Exams. The exam days are set. Clear your schedule now. There will be no second sittings and no make up exams. If you are seriously sick or critically injured and miss an exam, you need to provide evidence (cast, severed limb, sputum sample, etc.) to your TA. If, and only if, an exam is missed for a valid reason (catching a flight to the family cabin in Aspen, didn't feel ready, too hung over, need to leave early for vacation, & etc., are not valid reasons for missing an exam, except for me), your TA will give you a substitute assignment. **This will be an essay of 10 pages based on the material covered in the exam and will be due two days after the date of the missed exam.** If the exam is missed for an invalid reason, you will receive an F for the exam.

McBurney Students: You must present your McBurney Visa to your TA in the first week of the class. Your exams will be the same as the regular exams, with two exceptions: they will be from 11:25 – 1:15 in a room TBA. Please discuss the specifics of this accommodation with your TA.

Paper. The paper is due in class, before the lecture begins, on October 28th. Papers not received before the lecture begins are **LATE**. Late papers will be penalized one half letter grade per 24 hour period. Thus, if you are 1 minute late, or 24h, it costs you one half letter grade (A/B becomes B, for example). 24 hours and 1 minute late costs you a full letter (A/B becomes B/C) and so on.

Grades. Upon return of exams and papers, TA's will not discuss your grade for at least 48 hours. If, after two days, you would like to discuss your grade, you must schedule an appointment with your TA. You must provide a written memo detailing how and why you think your grade ought to be different than assigned. Your TA will evaluate your memo, reread the paper/exam and determine whether the grade was accurate. There are no further appeals.

Honor Code. This course demands adherence to a certain code of honor. As such, I will construe all cheating in this class as a personal insult. Since it is no longer acceptable to get satisfaction in a duel, I will recur to a less-than-honorable action: I'll tell on you and fail you. In short, plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize or cheat, you will receive an F for the course and the case will be referred to the Dean's Office. There are no exceptions. I'm ruthless on this matter.