Class Location & Time

Skurla A103
5–6.15 pm Tuesday & Thursday

Course Objectives

The course presents a survey of the career of western civilization from its origins in the ancient Near East to the European Renaissance. Emphasis is given to the close reading and interpretation of primary sources that reflect the intellectual and historical changes in society. Goals include

• acquaintance with some of the principal texts of the Western canon and their historical contexts;
• development of skills in critical thinking and written and verbal communication.

Required Texts


Lualdi  Sources of the Making of the West, ed. Lualdi, Second Edition. (Free with Hunt.)

There are links to other helpful resources on my webpage, my.fit.edu/~aberdein.

Grading & Evaluation

As usual, 90%+ = A; 80–89% = B; 70–79% = C; 60–69% = D; 0–59% = F.

1. Midterm Exam (Eighth Week: Thursday 12th October);
2. Final (Cumulative) Exam (Tuesday 12th December 6 – 8 pm)—the date of this exam has already been fixed and cannot be changed;
3. Contribution to the class (including, but not limited to, grades for class presentation and quizzes);
4. 3000 Word Essay (Due Fourteenth Week: Tuesday 21st November)

will each contribute one quarter to the overall grade.
Course Regulations

- Students are expected to attend all classes.
- All cell phones (including text messaging), personal stereos, &c to be switched off during classes and exams.
- Essays to be word processed, with a full bibliography, and to be submitted in paper and electronic form (see below). Late essay submissions will be penalized by one letter grade. Essays late by more than one class session will receive a grade of 0.
- Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of 0 for the course. You are responsible for knowing all Florida Tech policies on academic dishonesty (see www.fit.edu/current/plagiarism.pdf).
- Essay submission is final: whatever you submit as your essay is your essay.
- “Florida Tech has contracted with a private company, TurnItIn.com, to help identify plagiarized papers. Essays written for this course will be submitted electronically to the TurnItIn.com web site for screening prior to being graded. Essays that are not submitted to TurnItIn.com will not be graded. Your instructor will show you how to use this service.”

Course Outline

WEEKS 1–2: Ancient Near East
- **Hunt**: Chp 1–2.
  8/24 Norton: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
  8/29 Norton: *Genesis*

WEEKS 3–7: Greece and the Hellenic World
- **Hunt**: Chp 2–4.
  8/31,9/5 Norton: Homer: *The Odyssey*
  9/7 Norton, Lualdi: Sappho
  9/12 Norton: Sophocles: *Antigone*
  9/14 Norton: Herodotus
  9/19 Handout: Zeno of Elea
  9/21 West & West: Aristophanes: *The Clouds*
  9/26 Plato: Plato: *The Symposium*
  9/28 West & West: Plato: *The Apology of Socrates*
  10/3 Norton: Plato: *Republic*
  10/5 Norton: Aristotle: *Poetics, De Anima, & c.*

WEEK 8: Midterm Exam

WEEKS 9–11: Rome and Christianity
- **Hunt**: Chp 5–7.
  10/19,24 Norton: Virgil: *Aeneid*
  10/26 Norton: Catullus
  10/31 Norton: Petronius: *The Satyricon*
  11/2 Norton: *New Testament*

WEEKS 12–16: The Medieval World
- **Hunt**: Chp 8–13.
  11/9 Norton: *Beowulf*
  11/14,16 Norton: Dante: *Inferno*
  11/21 Norton: Heloise & De Pizan
  11/28,30 Handout: Mediaeval Philosophy
  12/5 Norton: Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales*

- Dates indicate when each text will be discussed—and the point by which you should have read it!
- In many cases you need only read parts of the text: I will indicate which parts in class.