

HUM 2051.03: Civilization 1: Ancient & Medieval

Andrew Aberdein

Crawford S624 ☎ (321) 674 8368

aberdein@fit.edu my.fit.edu/~aberdein

Office Hours: 12.30–1.30 & 3.30–4.30 pm Tuesday & Thursday

January 13, 2010

Class Location & Time

TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 2pm, Grissom 122.

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

Norton *The Norton Anthology of Western Literature*, 8th Edition, Volume 1, ISBN: 9780393925722.

West & West *Four Texts on Socrates*, Cornell, ISBN: 9780801485749.

Perry *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics, and Society*, Houghton Mifflin, 9th Edition, ISBN: 9780547147017.

There are links to other helpful resources on the class wiki, aberdein.pbworks.com.

Grading & Evaluation

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

1. Midterm Exam (Eighth Week: **Thursday 4th March**);

2. Final (Cumulative) Exam (**Thursday 6th May, 10.30 am–12.30 pm**)—the date of this exam has already been fixed and **cannot** be changed;
3. Contribution to the class: (Best quiz grades + Presentation grade) × **Participation quotient**;
4. 3000 Word Essay (Due Thirteenth Week: **Thursday 15th April**)

will each contribute one quarter to the overall grade.

Contribution to the Class

The **participation quotient** is proportional to the number of weeks in which you make a contribution to the class. Contributions include, but are not limited to:

- delivering a class presentation;
- participation in discussion;
- asking intelligent questions;
- work on the class wiki, aberdein.pbworks.com.

Class Presentations

Each student will make a presentation on one of the reading assignments. Presentations should last no more than ten minutes, and answer at least the following questions:

- A. Who wrote it? An account of the text's authorship;
- B. What does it say? A (brief) recap of the text's content—note that all students are expected to read all assignments, so detailed restatement should be unnecessary;
- C. What doesn't make sense? What questions do you have after a first reading?

Course Regulations

- Students are expected to attend **all** classes.
- All cell phones (including text messaging), MP3 players, &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. Late essay submissions will be penalized by one letter grade. Essays late by more than one class session will receive a grade of 0.
- Essay submission is final: whatever you submit as your essay is your essay.
- 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/documents/plagiarism.pdf).
- ‘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

Dates indicate the class in which 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.

WEEKS 1–2: Ancient Near East

Perry: Chp 1–2.

1/14 Norton: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

1/19 Norton: *Genesis*

WEEKS 3–8: Greece and the Hellenic World

Perry: Chp 3–5.

1/21,26 Norton: Homer: *The Odyssey*

1/28 Norton, Lualdi: Sappho

2/2 Norton: Herodotus

2/4 Norton: Sophocles: *Antigone*

2/9 Handout: Zeno of Elea

2/11 West & West: Aristophanes: *The Clouds*

2/16 West & West: Plato: *Euthyphro*

2/18 West & West: Plato: *The Apology of Socrates*

2/23 Norton: Plato: *Republic*

2/25 Norton: Aristotle: *Poetics, De Anima, & c.*

3/4 MIDTERM EXAM

WEEKS 9–11: Rome and Christianity

Perry: Chp 6–8.

3/16 Norton: Catullus

3/18,23 Norton: Virgil: *Aeneid*

3/25 Norton: Petronius: *The Satyricon*

4/6 Norton: *New Testament*

WEEKS 11–15: The Medieval World

Perry: Chp 9–12.

4/8 Norton: *Beowulf*

4/13,15 Handout: Mediaeval Philosophy

4/20,21 Norton: Dante: *Inferno*

4/27 Norton: Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales*