Syllabus
CONVERSATIONS OF THE WEST: ANTIQUITY/RENAISSANCE
V55.0402.022
LECTURES: MW 3:30 - 4:45 (Silver 714)

The Renaissance understands itself as an age bearing witness to the "rebirth" of classical antiquity. In art, philosophy and literature it also assumes the task of reconciling the cultural inheritance of Greece and Rome with the Christian tradition (itself entering into a moment of crisis as allegiances split between the Catholic church and the "reformed" church of Luther and Calvin). Our first task will be to look at antiquity. Our second, to explore the ways in which European culture between 1400 and 1700 invents itself-and us-by making itself conversant with the past.

Instructor:

Professor Ernesto Gilman
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Office hours: MW 2-3 and 4:30-5:30; T 1-3

Required texts:

Bible The Oxford Study Bible (Oxford)
Augustine, Confessions. Tr. Chadwick. (Oxford World Classics)
Homer, Odyssey. Tr. Allen Mandelbaum (Bantam)
Sophocles Sophocles I (2nd Ed) Tr. David Grene (Chicago)
Plato, Five Dialogues Tr. Grube (Hackett)
Plato, The Symposium, ed. Gill
Virgil, Aeneid. Tr. Allen Mandelbaum (Bantam)
Castiglione, Book of the Courtier. Tr. George Bull (Penguin)
Machiavelli The Prince Tr. Robert Adams (Norton Critical)
Erasmus, Praise of Folly Tr. Robert Adams (Norton Critical)
More, Utopia Tr. Robert Adams (Norton Critical)
Montaigne Essays Tr. J.M Cohen (Penguin)
Shakespeare, The Tempest Ed. Stephen Orgel (Oxford)

Course requirements:

Three five-page papers (30%)
Midterm examination (15%)
Final examination (25%)
Attendance (10%)
Work in recitation (20%)

Course policies:
All work is due when it is due. Late work will be penalized in fairness to students who hand in assignments on time. All course requirements must be completed for a passing grade. Attendance will be taken both at lectures and in recitation; only four unexcused absences are allowed. Any instances of academic dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism (including e-plagiarism) will result in a failure in the course and a letter of notification to the Dean. Ignorance is no excuse: if you are unsure about the proper use of sources it is your responsibility to consult your section leader.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

SEPTEMBER

3: Introductory
8: Genesis
10: Exodus
15: Luke, John
17: Acts of the Apostles
22: Homer, Odyssey
24: Homer, Odyssey [paper 1 due]
29: Sophocles, Antigone

OCTOBER

1: Plato, Phaedo
6: NO CLASS (YOM KIPPUR)
8: Plato, Symposium
13: Virgil, Aeneid
15: Virgil, Aeneid
20: MIDTERM EXAMINATION
22: Augustine, Confessions
27: Augustine, Confessions
29: Bridge Lecture: Antiquity to the Renaissance

NOVEMBER
3: Bridge Lecture: What is the "Renaissance"?

5: Castiglione, The Courtier (Books 1 and 4)

10: Machiavelli, The Prince [paper 2 due]

12: Machiavelli, The Prince

17: More, Utopia

19: More, Utopia

24: Erasmus, Praise of Folly

26: Informal Discussion: No attendance taken

DECEMBER

1: Montaigne, Essays
   "Of Repentence"
   "Of Cannibals"
   "Of Experience"

3: Shakespeare, The Tempest

8: Shakespeare, The Tempest [paper 3 due]

17: FINAL EXAMINATION (4:00 - 5:50 pm)