CONVERSATIONS OF THE WEST:
ANTIQUITY AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT

PROFESSOR H. GOLDWYN
Spring 2005 – SILVER 207 – V55.0403.001 – M/W 3:30-4:45p.m.

Conversations of the West begins with the early roots of Western culture: the Biblical, Greek and Roman traditions. Its aim is to acquaint students with some of the central themes and concerns which dominated antiquity and how these ideas came to be so influential in shaping the modern Western world.

Our section of Conversations of the West – bridging a large historical jump from late Antiquity to the Enlightenment – will focus on voyage, geographic displacement, errantry, exile, discovery, the emergence of new borderland culture areas and a double consciousness which questions the obliquities of “belonging” (be it spiritual, geographic, ethnic or gender).

We will examine key texts of Antiquity and the way in which Enlightenment thinkers revisited, reinterpreted, redefined and, at times, rejected their intellectual and cultural legacy. Much of the thinking in Contemporary Western Society has been profoundly affected by the Enlightenment, a turbulent and revolutionary juncture in the history of the Western world.
Professor H. GOLDWYN
Email: hg3@nyu.edu

Lecture: V55.0403.001    MW 3:30 -  4:45p.m. SILV 207

Office Hours: M 2:00 - 3:00p.m. Room 632
              W 5:00 - 6:00p.m. Room 632
Department of French, 19 University Place, 6th floor
Tel: 212-998-8722

PRECEPTORS

BREGTJE HARTENDORF-WALLACH   bh313@nyu.edu

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<td>V55.0403.002</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>8:00 – 9:15a.m.</td>
<td>25 West 4th St., Rm C-18</td>
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<td>V55.0403.003</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>9:30 – 10:45a.m.</td>
<td>25 West 4th St., Rm C-12</td>
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Office hours: W 1:00 – 3:00p.m. Room 317
Department of Comparative Literature, 19 University Place, 3rd floor

MADHU H KAZA        mhk4@nyu.edu

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<td>11:00 – 12:15p.m.</td>
<td>48 Cooper Square, Rm 121</td>
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Office hours: W 5:00 – 6:30p.m. Room: 317
Department of Comparative Literature, 19 University Place, 3rd floor.

MICHAEL RITCHIE     mike.ritchie@nyu.edu

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<td>11:00 – 12:15p.m.</td>
<td>25 West 4th St., Rm C-5</td>
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Office hours: M & W 2:15 – 3:15p.m. Room: 622
Department of French, 19 University Place, 6th floor
READING LIST


SYLLABUS

JANUARY
1/19, 24, 26 GENERAL INTRODUCTION
Major theme: travel, exploration, geographical displacement, cultural migrancy, exile, diaspora, discovery, self-discovery, transnationalism, the “enigma” of the other. Different genres covered in the course, tragedy, epic poem, dialogue, narrative (stories), first person narrative (the confession as a genre), travel tales (satire, religious and political propaganda), letters, correspondence and epistolary form.

- Life in Greece, birth of drama, tragedy, mythology, the Greek Gods
  - Emergence/origin of drama (seasonal festivals)
  - Honoring Dionysus in 700 BC
  - Chorus/costumes/masks/dialog
  - The physical site
  - Acting/the plot/structure of the play
  - The tragic flaw

- Aristotle’s Poetics (selections of sections 1, 2 and 3) click on link in blackboard.
  http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.html

- Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides
- Analysis of Medea (complete)
  http://www.showgate.com/medea/colchis.html

JANUARY - 1/31 and FEBRUARY 2/2, 7
Introduction to Roman life, politics of the time (Augustus), Virgil, The Aeneid. How Aeneas differs from his predecessors, Achilles (The Iliad) and Odysseus (The Odyssey). The destruction of Troy. Displacement and dislocation of the Trojans. The emergence of new maps: borderland culture areas. An unmoored group of people. Virtuous Aeneas, the leader, the “culture-bearer”, the son, the father and the lover.

- Analysis of The Aeneid (Books I, II, III, IV, VI, XII)
- The tale of the destruction of Troy by Aeneas
  - Dido and Aeneas
  - The battle of the Gods
  http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/2471/Aeneid.html#Gods3
  - The Underworld
  - The new land
- The last battle
- Revision for the first quiz


2/9 SPEAKER on Greek and Roman Art

Wednesday, February 9  FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON MEDEA OR THE AENEID (10%)

Monday, February 14  FIRST QUIZ: ON MEDEA AND THE AENEID (10%)

2/16, 23, 28  2/21 (President’s Day – NO CLASS)

- The Old Testament: Genesis and Exodus (selections)
  - Problems of translation
  - Analysis of the two creation stories
  - Early mankind: creation, good/evil, expulsion, the flood
  - The wanderings, the covenants and the code of laws
  - Belonging: the community vs. the individual

MARCH

3/2, 7

  - The teachings and healings of Jesus
  - Christianity emerging as a world religion
  - Universalism of Christianity
  - Paul’s conversion
  - His travels and missionary work

3/9  SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON THE OLD or NEW TESTAMENT (10%)

3/9  SPEAKER: Professor Broderick on Biblical Representation in the Sistine Chapel.

3/14 – 3/20  SPRING BREAK

3/21  SECOND QUIZ ON THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS (10%).
3/23,28,30

- Plato’s *Symposium*
  - Greek Philosophy
  - Dialogs
  - The search for Truth and Beauty
  - The Whole (complementary self)
  - Socrates

- Saint Augustine’s *Confessions (Books I,II,VII,X)*
  - Subjectivity (I am my own subject)
  - First-person narrative
  - Memory
  - The role of literature (epic poem and drama)
  - The will
  - Importance of conversion, the notion of Grace
  - Revision for the Quiz

**SPEAKER: Brad Engelstein on Saint Augustine**

APRIL

4/4 THIRD PAPER DUE IN CLASS on The *Symposium or the Confessions* (15%).

4/4

**LINK BETWEEN ANTIQUITY AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT.**

- Martin Luther and the Reformation, “the individual”
- *Pascal’s* notion of Grace, “the wager”.
- Introduction to the Enlightenment (Kant’s the meaning of Enlightenment on the web).
- Christopher Columbus and the metaphor of Space: new cosmologies, new worlds – The notion of Travel. Travel literature and its reception.
- Religious wars (France, England and Holland). Holland as a Refuge for religious exiles, freedom of the press. How Protestant minister’s see their role as the last prophet, Ezekiel.
- Alliance of the Dutch and the British against France. Queen Ann, the apogee of England and the last years of Louis XIV, the decline of France.
- Battle over sea hegemony (commerce and colonialism).
- The concept of Covenant and how it affects protestant theology and politics. Covenant Philosopher: *John Locke* (human rights, civil liberties and the right to depose a monarch who has failed to uphold his share of the contract, legitimization of “regicide”).
- Paving the way to the French Revolution.
4/6, 11  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/kant-whatis.html
          http://www.phil.upenn.edu/~cubowman/kant.html

- **Diderot’s *The Supplement to the Voyage of Bougainville* (complete)**
  - The Encyclopedia
  - Notion of utopia/eutopia, the Pacific Islands
  - Nature vs. culture: the myth of the “noble savage” (man is good in a state of nature and is corrupted by society – a literary construct through travel literature.
  - Women’s role in the Tahitian society (a procreation engine)
  - Parody.
  - Bregtje’s Presentation (Bougainville’s travel log)

4/13, 18

- **Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* (Parts I: A Voyage to Lilliput and II: A Voyage to Brobdingnag).**
  - Historical (discovery of new cultures, relativism, political satire through the innocent gaze of a stranger), political (Tories and Whigs) and literary introduction (satiric tales).
  - *A Modest Proposal*
  - Mike’s presentation: Unstable Irony in Gulliver's Travels.

4/20, 25

- **Voltaire’s *Candide* (complete).**
  - Deism, materialism, libertinage,
  - dissociation of morality and religion,
  - the individual’s happiness in this world.
  - Pangloss’ optimism.
  - The Burlesque and the philosophical tale.
  - Madhu’s Presentation.

4/27

Mme de Graffigny’s, *Letters from a Peruvian Woman* (complete)
The critique of nation-ness and the imagined homogeneous singularity of national identity which insists on the autonomy, purity and/or superiority of “one’s own” culture.
  - The oblique gaze
  - The trope of abduction/abandonment
  - The heroic novel/the epistolary novel
  - Tradition of the tragic love letter
    - Ovide’s *Heroides*.
    - Guilleragues’ *The Portuguese Letters*
    - Montesquieu’s *The Persian Letters*.

**MAY**
Wrap-up the course and revision for the final exam.

FOURTH AND FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS on Gulliver's Travels, Candide, The Supplement to the Voyage of Bougainville or Letters to a Peruvian Woman (15%).

Third and Final Quiz (10%)

GRADED REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

E-MAIL ACCOUNTS

BOBST LIBRARY

20% Attendance (required at all lectures and sections) + participation and presentations in recitation sections.

50% 4 papers (5 pages, double spaced, the first two will count 10% each and the two last 15%).

30% 3 quizzes (10% each).

REQUIREMENTS (Attendance, class presentations, spot quotations, class courtesy and cell phones)

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED

The lectures set out the key directions and concepts of the course. They function in tandem with the discussion sessions. Students are expected to have read each of the works on the reading list, be prepared for the discussions and participate actively in them.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS.

20% of your grade is based on your attendance to the lectures as well as attendance and active participation in the recitation sessions. Specific topics for oral presentations as a team project will be assigned by your preceptors. Each student will have the opportunity of speaking on a chosen topic. Preceptor will go over their class requirements in detail in their respective classes.
SPOT QUOTATIONS

Spot quotations enable you to select key passages which shed light on and convey meaning to the entire work and also establish links within the text and with other texts on the Reading List. They also allow you to identify the form (how is the text written, in verse or prose, who is the narrator, is it a story or direct speech) as well as the context (role of the passage in the work) and its significance (what does the quotation reveal and how does it relate to the ideas of the work as a whole and to what other key passages can it be linked to)? Spot quotations are key for the written assignments.

COURTESY

As a matter of courtesy to the instructors and your fellow students, arrive at class promptly, and, apart from emergencies, remain in the classroom for the duration of the lecture or recitation.

Make sure that all PAGERS and CELLULAR TELEPHONES are shut off at the beginning of class.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (4)

Writing assignments offer students the opportunity to formulate for themselves central insights encountered in the course and to improve their writing skills. There will be FOUR five-page papers assigned to be written at home, with a choice of topics specified for each. Papers are clear, coherent and well-formulated (check your grammar and spelling).

*** Preceptors will discuss at great length writing assignments***

THE NYU WRITING CENTER

For assistance on specific writing tasks and help in developing strategies for writing make an appointment at the WRITING CENTER located at 269 Mercer Street, 2nd floor, 212-998-8866.

NOTIFICATION POLICY

You must notify Professor Goldwyn or your preceptors by telephone or email before the class if you will be absent because of a religious holiday or illness (documented medical emergency).

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION. A failing grade may be assigned to any student with three absences from the lecture and/or recitation.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, QUIZZES AND PAPERS

You are expected to read each text listed on the Reading List, to attend all lectures and meetings of your recitation section, to arrive at class meetings promptly. Required readings are to be completed before the first lecture date.
Assigned books should be brought to every lecture and recitation. There will always be revision of material before quizzes.

**READINGS**

REQUIRED BOOKS (Be sure to buy the edition indicated so we will all be on the same page in class).

**GETTING STARTED ON E-MAIL/INTERNET/BLACKBOARD**

- Activate your email account online at [http://www.nyu.edu.its.start/or](http://www.nyu.edu.its.start/or) at Information technology Services (ITS) Client Services Centre, 2nd floor or any ITS Student Computer Lab: Multimedia Lab, 35 West 4th Street, 2nd floor; Tisch Hall (LC8); Third Ave North Residence Hall, C3; 14 Washington Place, lower level.

**GETTING STARTED AT BOBST LIBRARY**

- Take a library class (schedule at Bobst: Info Desk, 1st floor)
- Take a virtual tour of Bobst Library online.
STUDENT INFORMATION (please print clearly)

NAME:

RECITATION SECTION NUMBER
PRECEPTOR
STUDENT ID NUMBER
ANTICIPATED YEAR OF GRADUATION
NYU SCHOOL, ADVISOR’S NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS:

MAJOR PROGRAM OR DEPARTMENT
MINOR
LOCAL ADDRESS
LOCAL TELEPHONE NUMBER
EMAIL ADDRESS
HOMETOWN ADDRESS
WHERE DID YOU ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL

INTERESTS

WHAT ARE YOUR OBJECTIVES IN THIS COURSE?