Conversations of the West: Antiquity and the Enlightenment
"Imagination"

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This course brings together three important and dynamic moments in the history of the
Western engagement with concepts of the imagination. What roles does the imagination
play in religion, philosophy, and literature? What does it mean to “imagine” for the
writers of Hebrew scripture, for Plato, or for Descartes, Hume, or Jane Austen? What are
the limits of imagination, and what do those limits tell us? How does imagining relate to
thinking, desiring, and knowing?

Course requirements:
30% two 3-5 pp. papers (due dates set in section)
20% midterm
30% final
20% section component

Wednesday 19 January  Introduction
Monday 24 January    Genesis
Wednesday 26 January  Job
Monday 31 January    Job
Wednesday 2 February  Luke
Monday 7 February    Revelations
Wednesday 9 February  Plato    Symposium
Monday 14 February    President’s Day
Wednesday 16 February  Phaedo
Monday 21 February    Phaedrus
Wednesday 23 February   Homer   Odyssey (Books 1-10)
Monday 28 February       Odyssey (Books 11-16)
Wednesday 2 March        Odyssey (Books 17-24)
Monday 7 March           Midterm
Wednesday 9 March        Virgil   Aeneid (Books 1-6)
Monday 14 March          Spring Break
Wednesday 16 March       Spring Break
Monday 21 March          Aeneid (Books 7-12)
Wednesday 23 March       Augustine Confessions (pp. 1-132)
Monday 28 March          Confessions (p. 133 ff.)
Wednesday 30 March       Marlowe   Doctor Faustus
Monday 4 April           Descartes Meditations
Wednesday 6 April        Gulliver’s Travels
                          (Voyages 1 and 2)
Monday 11 April          Gulliver’s Travels
                          (Voyages 3 and 4)
Wednesday 13 April       Hume    Enquiry
Monday 18 April          Enquiry
Wednesday 20 April       Diderot Jacques the Fatalist
Monday 25 April          Jacques the Fatalist
Wednesday 27 April       Pope    “Rape of the Lock”
Monday 2 May             Austen   Northanger Abbey
Texts

*Oxford Study Bible.* Oxford. (0195290011)


Augustine. *Confessions.* Oxford. (0192833723)

Plato. *Symposium.* Hackett. (0872200760)

Plato. *Phaedrus.* Hackett. (0872202216)

Plato. *Five Dialogues.* Hackett. (0872206335)

Austen. *Northanger Abbey.* Longman (0321202082)

Marlowe. *Doctor Faustus.* Oxford (0192834452)


Hume. *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding.* Hackett (0872204200)

Diderot. *Jacques the Fatalist.* Oxford. (0192838741)

Descartes. *Meditations.* Hackett. (0872204200)

Homer. *Odyssey.* Bantam (0553213997)

Virgil. *Aeneid.* Bantam. (0553210416)

Pope. *Rape of the Lock.* Bantam (0451528778)