Divided into four units, this course studies the concepts of Origin, Morality, Community, and Self in antiquity and the modern period. The lectures and recitations look at a wide range of literary, scientific, philosophical, and religious texts: Genesis and Exodus; Plato’s Phaedrus; Euripides’s Medea; The Gospel According to St Luke and Acts of the Apostles; selections from Virgil’s Aeneid, St Augustine’s Confessions, and Darwin’s On the Origin of Species; Marx and Engels’s The Communist Manifesto; John Stuart Mill’s Utilitarianism and On Liberty; Nietzsche’s On the Genealogy of Morals; and Sigmund Freud’s Civilization and Its Discontents. Requirements are a one-page weekly theme, a midterm exam, and a final exam. Students are graded on the written work and on participation, which includes attendance at both recitations and lectures.
V95.0404.015 Conversations of the West: Antiquity and the Nineteenth Century

Professor Krabbenhoft
Preceptors Elizabeth Bearden, Daniel Just, Rachel Kranson

Syllabus, September-December 2004

Unit I. Origins [3 weeks]

-- September 14-16: Charles Darwin, selections from *On the Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man*.
-- September 21-23: Additional topics to be posted on the class website.

Unit II. Morality [4 weeks]

-- October 5-7: Plato, *Phaedrus*.
-- October 12-14: Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*.
-- October 19: review of course to date.

Midterm Exam (in class):

-- October 21

Unit III. Community [4 weeks]

-- November 2-4: Virgil, selections from the *Aeneid*.

Unit IV. The Self [3 weeks]

-- November 30-December 2: Augustine, selections from the *Confessions*.
-- December 7-9: Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*.

Final Exam:

-- December 14 (last day of class)
V55.0404.015 Conversations of the West: Antiquity and Nineteenth Century

Fall 2004

Prof. Kenneth Krabbenhoft
Preceptors Elizabeth Bearden, Daniel Just, Rachel Kranson

Requirements, Gradings, and Incompletes

A. Course Requirements:

1. Absences: Students are reminded that University policy requires attendance at all lectures and recitations. Absence is allowed only for documented medical reasons or religious observance. For NYU’s rules on religious holidays and withdrawal from courses, see the CAS bulletin.

   NB: Attendance will be taken in the lectures and recitations. Students will be penalized for absences as follows:

   four unexcused absences: the grade for Participation (25% of the course grade) will be reduced by one point (for example, from B to C);
   five unexcused absences: reduction of Participation grade by one and half points (e.g. from B to C-);
   six unexcused absences: reduction by two points (e.g. from B to D);
   more than six unexcused absences: automatic F for Participation.

2. Weekly theme: You will be required to write a one-page essay every week on an assigned topic related to that week’s reading and lectures. These themes will be graded for clarity of thought as well as correct usage and grammar.

3. Class participation: This means your presence in the recitations, timely completion of the readings and the weekly themes, oral presentations, and other work specified by your Preceptor.

4. Exams: There are two of these in the course of the semester, a midterm and a final. The dates will be announced in class.

   NB: University policy stipulates that students be present for these exams, and students are expected to make travel plans accordingly. There will be NO special arrangements for taking exams and NO make-ups, except for students with incapacitating illness or the equivalent (e.g. serious family crisis). If you have not made and received a prior request for an excused absence and fail to show up for an exam, you will receive an F for that portion of the course grade.

B. Grading:

The final grade is calculated as follows:
Weekly Themes 25% (see below for policy on make-ups)
Participation 25%
Midterm exam 25% (""")
Final Exam 25% (""")

Make-ups:

1. Make-ups for the weekly theme: There are *no make-ups* for the weekly theme under any circumstances. If you fail to hand it in on time *without an acceptable excuse*, you will receive an F. If you have an *acceptable excuse*, you will not be penalized but simply receive no grade for that week's theme.

2. Make-ups for the exams: If you are unable to take the midterm or final exam because of an incapacitating medical condition, you will be required to notify Prof. Krabbenhoft by a specified date and provide written justification.

C. Incompletes: Incompletes are only granted in cases of serious emergency. If you cannot hand work in on time because of such an emergency, inform Prof. Krabbenhoft and your Preceptor as soon as possible.