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
Tel: 212-998-8722
Lecture: V55.0403.022 MW 3:30 - 4:45p.m. SILV 207
Office Hours: M 2:00 - 3:00p.m. & W 5:00 - 6:00p.m. Room 632
Department of French, 19 University Place, 6th floor, bear right when you exit the elevators.

PRECEPTORS

Alberto GABRIELE
Email: ag356@nyu.edu
V55.0403.023 R 9:30 – 10:45a.m.
V55.0403.024 R 11:00 – 12:15a.m.
Office hours: Room:
Department of Comparative Literature, 19 University Place, 3rd floor

Bethany HETRICK
Email: bah237@nyu.edu
V55.0403.025 R 2:00 – 3:15p.m.
V55.0403.026 R 3:30 – 4:45p.m.
Office hours: Room: 624
Department of French, 19 University Place, 6th floor, bear right when you exit the elevators.

Fayçal FALAKI
Email: ff273@nyu.edu
V55.0403.027 F 9:30 – 10:45a.m.
V45.0403.028 F 11:00 – 12:15p.m.
Office hours: Room: 628
Department of French, 19 University Place, 6th floor, bear right when you exit the elevators.
READING LIST


SYLLABUS

SEPTEMBER

9/7 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.

9/12,14
- **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):** section 1 in its entirety. In section 2, read only parts XIII and XIV and in section 3, parts XXV, paragraph 5 which is about Sophocles and Euripides and XXVI).
  [http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.html)
- Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides
- **Analysis of Euripides’ Medea (complete)**

9/19,21,26
- Introduction to Roman life, politics of the time (Augustus)
  - What is an epic poem?
  - Homer
  - How Aeneas differs from his predecessors, Achilles (*The Iliad*) and Odysseus (*The Odyssey*).
- **Analysis of Virgil’s Aeneid** (Books I, II, III, IV, VI, XII)
  - 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.
  - The tale of the destruction of Troy by Aeneas
  - Dido and Aeneas
  - The battle of the Gods
The Aeneid

- The Underworld
- The new land, Latium
- The last battle
- An ambiguous ending.

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| [http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/2471/Aeneid.html#Gods3](http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/2471/Aeneid.html#Gods3) | - The Underworld  
- The new land, Latium  
- The last battle  
- An ambiguous ending. |

9/28 – Wednesday, September 28 -- FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON MEDEA OR THE AENEID (10%)  
9/28 -- FIRST SPEAKER on Greek and Roman Art

### OCTOBER

10/3 -- Monday, OCTOBER 3  --  FIRST QUIZ IN CLASS: ON MEDEA AND THE AENEID (10%)

10/5,12/17 (October 10 is an NYU holiday)

- **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

10/19,24

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

10/26 – Wednesday, October 26 -- SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON THE OLD or NEW TESTAMENT (10%)  
10/26 -- SECOND SPEAKER: Professor Broderick on Biblical Representation in the Sistine Chapel.
10/31 – Monday, October 31 -- SECOND QUIZ IN CLASS ON THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS (10%).

NOVEMBER
11/2,7,9
➢ Plato’s Symposium
  o Greek Philosophy
  o Dialogs
  o The search for Truth and Beauty
  o The Whole (complementary self)
  o Socrates

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

http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jod/augustine/gozzoli.html
Alberto Gabriele’s talk on Augustine, Subjectivity and Early-Christian Iconology

SPEAKER: Brad Engelstein on Saint Augustine

11/14 Monday, November 14 – THIRD QUIZ IN CLASS ON THE SYMPOSIUM AND THE CONFESSIONS (10%).

11/16 Wednesday, October 16 – THIRD PAPER DUE IN CLASS on THE SYMPOSIUM OR THE CONFESSIONS (10%).

11/16
LINK BETWEEN ANTIQUITY AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT.
➢ Martin Luther and the Reformation, “the individual”
➢ Pascal’s notion of Grace, “the wager”.
➢ Introduction to the Enlightenment (Read Kant’s the meaning of Enlightenment on the web).
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/kant-whatis.html
http://www.phil.upenn.edu/~cubowman/kant.html
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, absolutism and 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.

11/21,23

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).
- The oblique gaze
- Use of satire in Gulliver.

11/28,30

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.

Fayçal Falaki’s talk on the Quarrel between Voltaire and his nemesis, Rousseau.

DECEMBER

12/5,7,12

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.
Bethnay Hetrick’s talk on Diderot’s *Supplement*

- Mme de Graffigny’s, *Letters from a Peruvian Woman* (complete)
  - Impact of narrative fiction: the heroic novel/the epistolary novel
  - Literary Tradition of the tragic love letter
    - Ovide’s *Heroïdes*
    - Guilleragues’ *The Portuguese Letters*
    - Montesquieu’s *The Persian Letters*.
  - 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 trope of Female abduction/abandonment

LAST DAY OF CLASSES IS WEDNESDAY -- 12/14

FOURTH AND FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS on *Gulliver’s Travels, Candide, The Supplement to Bougainville’s Voyage or Letters from a Peruvian Woman* (10%).

FOURTH AND FINAL QUIZ IN CLASS ONLY ON THE FOUR ENLIGHTENEMENT TEXTS (15%)
Date to be announced
15%  Attendance (required at all lectures and sections) + participation and presentations in recitation sections.
40%  4 papers (5 pages, double spaced, the first two will count 10% each and the two last 15%).
30%  3 first quizzes (10% each)
15%  The fourth and last quiz.

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

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.

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.

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.**
15% 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.

**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). You will find writing guidelines and writing examples on blackboard posted by previous preceptors which are extremely helpful.

*** 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.

**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.
REQUIRED BOOKS (Be sure to buy the edition indicated so we will all be on the same page in class). If you have your own edition of the Bible, that is fine.

GETTING STARTED ON E-MAIL/INTERNET/BLACKBOARD

- Activate your email account online at 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.

Here ARE FOUR EASY STEPS to access blackboard according to the blackboard directions:
1) Log in to NYUHome at http://home.nyu.edu with a valid NYU NetID and password.
2) Click on the "Academics" tab located in the top right corner of NYUHome right next to the "home" tab. Once you have clicked on "Academics" look under the "Classes" channel for the course name.
3) Click on the course name to enter the NYU Blackboard course site: CONWEST-ANTIQUITY AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT V55.0403.001.FALL05. This should take you directly to the course site's first page where you can see "The announcement" which has the title of the course, the number, my name and the representation of the flood.
There are keys on the lefthandside which list "staff information", "syllabus", "course information", etc...
4) All users will access the course site through NYUHome. If you do not yet have NetIDs, you can activate your NYUHome account by accessing http://start.nyu.edu, then proceed to http://home.nyu.edu.

GETTING STARTED AT BOBST LIBRARY

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

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offense and might jeopardize your career as a student at NYU

Please read very carefully (www.nyu.edu/cas/map) under "Program Guidelines": (a) Statement on Academic Integrity and (b) Academic Guidelines.

**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?**