Conversations of the West: Antiquity and the Renaissance

Fall 2005

Lecturer: William Klein   Lectures: Monday/Wednesday 12:30-1:45
726 Broadway, Room 628           Silver 206
Office Hours MW 2-3, or by appointment         992-9054
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Preceptors:
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Course Description:
This is a survey of influential texts in the Western tradition from 5th century B.C. Athens to the Renaissance. The emphasis will be on exploring the roots of ideas about the soul and about the city which are still with us, and also on noticing ideas that are alien and forgotten.

Requirements:
1. Attendance at lectures.
2. Attendance at weekly recitations.
3. Once a week turn in a 1-2 page response paper at either the Monday or Wednesday lecture. This will not be graded separately from class participation, but it will be a necessary part of class participation. Of course, this must be original work and make specific reference to the assigned text (with page numbers).
4. Two 6-8 page papers. Topics to be announced.
5. A midterm exam.
6. A Final Exam.

Grades: The two papers, the exams and class participation are all given equal weight (1/5).

Books to Buy at NYU Bookstore:

Shakespeare, Hamlet, any edition.
Sophocles, Antigone, any edition.
Machiavelli, The Prince, translated by Peter Bondanella, Oxford University Press.
Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, Penguin.
Plato, Republic, Hackett.
----- Last Days of Socrates, Penguin.
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, ed. JCA Gaskin, Oxford University Press.
The Bible (Old and New Testaments), any edition is fine, but Oxford Study Bible is recommended.

Schedule:

Sept.  7  Introduction. No recitations first week.
       12  Genesis 1-20, 32-50.
       14  Exodus 1-24, 28, 36-40.
       19  Sophocles, Antigone.
       21  Antigone, continued.
       28  Thucydides, continued.

Oct.  3  Plato, Euthyphro (In Last Days of Socrates).
       5  Plato, Apology  “
       12  Plato, Crito  “
       17  Plato, Phaedo  “
       19  Phaedo, continued.
       24,  Plato, Republic.
       26  Republic
       31  Republic

Nov.  2  MIDTERM.
       9  Epicurus, continued.
      21  Thomas More, Utopia.
      23  Utopia, continued.
      30  The Prince, continued.

Dec.  5  Shakespeare, Hamlet.
       7   Hamlet, cont.
       12  Hobbes, Leviathan.
       14  Leviathan, cont.

Dec.  21  Final  12:00-1:50.