CONVERSATIONS OF THE WEST: ANTIQUITY AND THE 19TH CENTURY

New York University – Fall 2005 – V55.-0404.036

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Preceptors: Edna Epelbaum (eye201@nyu.edu), Julia Goesser (jcg239@nyu.edu), Alexandra Huster (ah456@nyu.edu)

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  SILVER (Main) 713

Recitations:

  037  R  08:00AM-09:15AM    Edna Epelbaum
  038  R  09:30AM-10:45AM    Edna Epelbaum
  039  R  02:00PM-03:15PM    Alexandra Huster
  040  R  03:30PM-04:45PM    Alexandra Huster
  041  F  09:30AM-10:45AM    Julia Goesser
  042  F  11:00AM-12:15PM    Julia Goesser

Reading List:  (Note: Please obtain copies of the appropriate editions.)

  1. The Oxford Study Bible, Oxford University Press
  2. Sophocles, Sophocles I, Chicago
  3. Plato, Symposium, Hackett
  4. Augustine, Confessions, Oxford
11. Franz Kafka, The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and Other Stories, Simon and Schuster
Course Requirements:

The course will be divided into three parts: the first two parts will focus on the intellectual conversation between celebrated works from antiquity and the 19th century. The final part of the course will examine two early-20th century works of fiction in light of the concepts derived from our previous readings. Grades will be comprised of the following components:

- Two short papers (approximately 5 pages each, typed in 12 Point Times New Roman, double-spaced); the first will be worth 10%, the second 20%; late papers will be penalized.
- There will be a midterm examination (20%) and a final examination (20%).
- Attendance at all lectures and recitations is mandatory. You are allowed one unexcused absence from lecture. For every other unexcused absence from lecture, ten points will be deducted from your total lecture attendance grade. If you attend every lecture, you will automatically receive a perfect score on this component of your final grade (10%).
- Recitations: Contribution to class discussions and preparation for discussions in recitation are equally important and will be considered in your final grade (20%). You may not be absent for any reason except serious illness attested by a letter from Health Services or a personal physician.
COURSE CALENDAR

Wed, Sept. 7: INTRO
Mon, Sept. 12: Sophocles, Antigone
Wed, Sept. 14: Sophocles, Antigone
Mon, Sept. 19: *The Oxford Study Bible*, The Book of Genesis
Wed, Sept. 21: *The Oxford Study Bible*, The Book of Job
Mon, Sept. 26: Plato, Symposium
Wed, Sept. 28: Plato, Symposium
Mon, Oct. 3: **First Paper due in lecture**
Wed, Oct. 5: Augustine, *Confessions* (selections)
Mon, Oct. 10: No Class: Columbus Day
Wed, Oct. 12: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
Mon, Oct. 17: Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*
Mon, Nov. 7: Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* (selections)
Wed, Nov. 9: Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* (selections)
Mon, Nov. 14: Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (selections)
Wed, Nov. 16: **Second Paper due in lecture**
Mon, Nov. 21: Mann, *Death in Venice*
Wed, Nov. 23: Mann, *Death in Venice*
Mon, Nov. 28: Mann, *Death in Venice*
Wed, Nov. 30: Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
Mon, Dec. 5: Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
Wed, Dec. 7: Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
Mon, Dec. 12: Summary
Wed, Dec. 14: Summary

**Final Examination Period:** Dec. 19 2pm – 3:50pm.