LITERATURE AND THE SCIENTIFIC IMAGINATION

Prof. John Freccero

11:00 AM-12:15 PM MW
V55.-0400001
Casa Italiana Auditorium
24 West 12th Street

RECITATIONS:

Sara Diaz:
V55.-0400002 TH 8:00 – 9:15 WAVE 566B

Paola Ureni:
V55.-0400004 F 9:30 – 10:45 48 CS 119
V55.-0400005 F11:00 – 12:15 145F 207

INTRODUCTION

Wed., January 17:
Paradigms of Order and Disorder in the Macrocospm, the Microcosm and the State

THE MACROCOSM

"In the beginning..."

Monday, January 22: Plato, Timaeus

Wednesday, January 24: Lucretius, De Rerum Natura; Ovid, Metamorphoses

Required reading:
Genesis 1 & 2
Ovid, Metamorphoses I & II
Plato, Timaeus (exerpt)
Lucretius, On the Nature of Things Bk. I-
II

Suggested further reading:
Steven Weinberg, The First Three Minutes
Ancient Astronomy: Center, Circumference, Sphere

Monday, January 29: Genesis

Wednesday, January 31: Dante's Cosmos - Hell, Paradise

Required reading:
Dante, Inferno, 3, 11, 34
Paradiso, 1, 2, 10, 23

Suggested further reading:
Liba Chaia Taub, Ptolemy's Universe

Mystic Geometry: Maximum, Minimum, Hypersphere

Monday, February 5: Dante's Cosmos - Paradiso, Nicolas of Cusa (the hypersphere)

Wednesday, February 7: Dante's Cosmos - Paradiso, (Anticipating the Copernican Revolution)

Required reading:
Dante, Paradiso 29,33
Nicholas of Cusa, On Learned Ignorance, (exerpts)

Suggested further reading:
E. Cassirer, The Individual and the Cosmos In the Renaissance
(on Nicholas of Cusa)

From the Closed World to the Infinite Universe

Monday, February 12: John Donne, The Anniversary I

Wednesday, February 14: Giordano Bruno, The Ash Wednesday Supper

Monday, February 19: Presidents' Day – NO CLASS

Wednesday, February 21: (Ash Wednesday): Galileo, Sidereus Nuncius

Required reading:
Galileo, Sidereus Nuncius
John Donne, The Anniversary I
Giordano Bruno, The Ash Wednesday Supper
Suggested further reading:
Alexander Koyre', *From the Closed World To the Infinite Universe*
T. Kuhn, *The Copernican Revolution*

THE MICRO COSM

The Cycle of Time, The Arrow of Time

Monday, February 26: Augustine, *Confessions* (The unquiet heart)

Wednesday, February 28: *The Confessions of Zeno* (The last cigarette)

**Thursday, March 1, “Macrocosm” papers due sections 002, 003**

**Friday, March 2: “Macrocosm” papers due sections 004, 005**

Required reading:
Augustine, *Confessions*, Bks. VII-VIII, X-XI
Italo Svevo, *The Confessions of Zeno*, first and last chapter

Suggested further reading:

The Great Chain and a Missing Link

Monday, March 5: Pico Della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*


March 12-16: Spring Break. NO CLASS

Monday, March 19: Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*

Required reading:
Pico Della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*
Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man*
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memorium A.H.H.* (exerpt)

Suggested further reading:
A.O. Lovejoy, *The Great Chain Being*
**The Web of Affinities**

Wednesday, March 21: *Origin of the Species*, con't...

**The Possible and the Actual**

Monday, March 26: Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*

**Required reading:**

Darwin, *The Origin of the Species* Chp. VI, VII (pp.140-198) & chp. XIV (pp. 371-396)


**Suggested further reading:**

Francois Jacob, *The Possible and the Actual*

**THE STATE**

**Utopia**

Wednesday, March 28: Plato's *Republic*

Monday, April 2: Thomas More, *Utopia*

**Thursday, April 5:** "Microcosm" papers due recitations 002, 003

**Friday, April 6:** "Microcosm" papers due recitations 004, 005

**Required reading:**

Plato, *Republic* Bks. VII & X

Thomas More, *Utopia*, Introduction, Bk. II,

Selections: "of their traffic," "of their slaves and marriages," "of their religions"

**Order out of Chaos**

Wednesday, April 4: Niccolò Machiavelli and the Prince

Monday, April 9: Machiavelli's *Discourses* Bk. I and II

**Required reading:**

Machiavelli's *The Prince*: chap. 1 to 3, 5 to 10, 15 to 21, 23 to 26

*Discourses*: Bk. I, chap. 1 to 5, 11 to 15, 29, 58;

Bk. II, intro., chap. 1 & 2; BK.III, chap.1 to 3
Monster or Patriot

Wednesday, April 11: William Shakespeare, Richard III

Monday, April 16: William Shakespeare, Macbeth

Wednesday, April 18: Antonio Gramsci, The Modern Prince

Monday, April 23: Summary and Conclusions

Required reading:
William Shakespeare, Richard III, Macbeth
Antonio Gramsci, The Modern Prince

Wednesday, April 25: Summary and Conclusions

Thursday, April 26: "State" unit papers due sections 002, 003
Friday, April 27: "State" unit papers due sections 004, 005