Syllabus
Syllabus for V55.O402 Conversations of the West: Antiquity and the Renaissance
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The course assignments and readings are listed below. The books have been ordered through the NYU Book Center and should be available under the course heading on the lower floor. (Note that books for later assignments will come in later.)

Preceptors or section leaders in this course are Sarah E. Danziger, sed231@nyu.edu, and Osman S. Umurhan, osu200@nyu.edu.

Please check this Blackboard site from time to time to keep up with notes, writing assignments, and additional texts and images—as well as changes or additions to assignments.

Grading for the course will be apportioned as follows: 1. 25% each for two papers of 5 to 7 pages on topics to be assigned (here on the Blackboard site) and due at your fifth and eleventh section meetings; 2. 25% for attendance, preparation and participation in class, including the lectures; 3. 25% for the final examination.

Each week except the two weeks on which your 5-7 page papers will be due you should bring a short 'reaction' to your section. Each reaction paper should be no less than 150 and no more than 200 words. It should respond to a theme or question that I will present to you either in class or in a note through Blackboard. Ms. Danziger and Mr. Umurhan will grade these brief papers on a check, check plus or check minus basis: that is, acceptable, more than acceptable or less than acceptable. These grades will count as a significant portion of your class participation. They will also allow us to identify strengths and weaknesses in your writing and organization so as to prepare you for the completion of the two longer papers and the exam.

Each of you should participate actively in your section discussions. I will use a seating chart in the lectures and call on you randomly for participation in them as well. Should you have a medical or personal emergency you should communicate as soon as possible with your section leader. All other absences (and lateness) will count against your grade. Late submission of work will also count against the grade.

The assignments for the 28 class sessions are as follows:
1. Heraclitus, fragments.
2. Homer, The Odyssey, I-VI
3. VII-XII
4. XIII-XVIII
5. XIX-XXIV
6. Plato, Meno.
7. Plato, Phaedo to 77c.
8. Plato, Phaedo to end.
9. Aeschylus, Agamemnon.
10. Sophocles, Antigone.
11. Aristotle, Poetics.
12. Vergil, Aeneid I-IV
13. V-VIII
14. IX-XII
15. Genesis.
19. Augustine, Confessions I-VI.
20. VII-XIII.
21. Montaigne, Essays
22. Mont. cont'd.
23. Mont. cont'd.
24. Leonardo, Notebooks, Biography, Paintings etc.
25. Shakespeare, Selected Sonnets on Love.
26. Selected Sonnets on Death and an excerpt from Villon.
27. Shakespeare, Lear
28. Lear cont'd.

Books and texts:

You should purchase new or used copies of assigned books and print off all web-based materials so as to have texts or images with you at the lectures and in the sections:

1. Heraclitus, fragments, to be printed off from the website, http://community.middlebury.edu/~harris/Philosophy/heraclitus.pdf
You will, of course, need to have the Bible texts for class. I leave it to you which translations you will use. Differences in translation may well be informative. The New Oxford edition, which is available new and used in the Book Center, is the one I will use. Materials on Leonardo da Vinci will be identified later in the semester from the many websites available on his work, including his writings.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me or the preceptors throughout the semester. The three of us will make ourselves available to meet with each of you—or groups of you—for discussion outside of class. During the second week I will poll the class to determine whether or not fixed office hours will be helpful. But I hope you will email me to request a meeting time whenever you feel it might be helpful. Simply identify three or four times when you are free and I will respond by picking one of them or by offering some other times.