Instructors:
Conor Creaney (section leader)
Stephanie Hsu (section leader)
Hal Momma (lecturer)
Christopher Nicholls (section leader)

Classes:
Section 1 (lecture): Momma; Monday & Wednesday, 2 p.m.—3:15 p.m.
Section 2 (discussion): Thursday, 8 a.m.—9:15 a.m.
Section 3 (discussion): Thursday, 9:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.
Section 4 (discussion): Friday, 9:30 p.m.—10:45 p.m.
Section 5 (discussion): Friday, 11 a.m.—12:15 p.m.
Section 6 (discussion): Friday, 9:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.
Section 7 (discussion): Friday, 11 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

Office Hours and locations:
Momma: Monday, 3:30 p.m.—5 p.m. & Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.—3 p.m.
Or by appointment: (212) 998-8813; hal.momma@nyu.edu
19 University Place, Room 528
Creany: t.b.a.
Hsu: t.b.a.
Nicholls: t.b.a.

Required Texts:
Plato, Symposium, translated by Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff (Hackett, 1989)

Sophocles, Sophocles I: Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone, translated by David Grene, 2nd edition (University of Chicago Press, 1991)


Homer, The Odyssey (online): http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~joelja/odyssey.html

Homer, The Iliad (online): http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~joelja/iliad.html


Saint Augustine, Confessions, translated by Henry Chadwick (Oxford World's Classics, 1992)

*The Tain*, translated by Thomas Kinsella (Oxford University Press, 1969)

Chrétien de Troyes, *Lancelot: the Knight of the Cart*, translated by Burton Raffel (Yale University Press, 1997)


Thomas Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur* (online)
http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/Mal2Mor.html

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (online)
http://academic.booklyn.edu/webcore/murphy/canterbury/4miller.pdf

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*, vol. 1 *Inferno* (translated by Allen Mandelbaum (Bantam, 1982)

**Course Description:**

This medieval section of the Conversation of the West will concern a wide range of literature composed before the modern period, in different languages, and by authors with different backgrounds. We will consider how medieval Europe resembles or differs from the ancient Mediterranean world, and how these varied cultures constitute the foundation of the West as we know it. The topics will include literature and performance, different genres of writing, transmission of knowledge, the idea of human, and ethics manifested in different belief systems.

In the first half of this course, we will read texts from Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern antiquity including a philosophical dialogue (Plato's *Symposium*), Greek tragedies (Sophocles's *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*), epics (Virgil's *The Aeneid* and excerpts from Homer's *The Iliad*), the Bible (Hebrew and Christian), and an autobiography of a church father (St. Augustine's *Confessions*).

In the second half, we will read medieval texts including a Latin philosophical dialogue (Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*), an Old Irish "epic" poem (*The Tain*), an Old French romance (Chrétien de Troyes's *Lancelot*), narratives from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Each week, you will read one or more assigned texts, attend two lectures on historical backgrounds and characteristics of the text(s), and discuss points of interest in a small group led by your section leader. In order to maximize your progress, we will ask you to stick to two principles: to come to the class regularly, and to read the assigned text(s)
before each class. You may miss up to three lectures and two discussion classes, but you will start losing marks after the fourth lecture or the third discussion class you have missed without a medical excuse (with a doctor's note) or a family/personal emergency. Chronic lateness may affect your grade.

The mid-term examination (October 25) will consist of explanation of key terms (which will be given in each lecture class), identification of key passages from some of the classical texts, and brief comments on them. The final examination (December 13) will consist of explanation of key terms, identification and interpretation of key passages from some of the medieval texts, and an essay on Chaucer or Dante. Further information will be provided a week before each exam. All questions on the exams should be addressed to the lecturer (Momma).

The first essay will be a close text analysis (with ca. 750 words) of one of the passages chosen from Plato and Sophocles. Topics will be provided on September 14-15, at your discussion meeting. The essay is due on October 5 or 6, at your discussion meeting. Please submit your essay to your section leader. The second essay will be a more developed discussion (with ca. 1,750 words) of one or more texts read in the weeks of September 25 through November 13 (Virgil, Homer, the Bible, St. Augustine, Boethius, The Tain, and Chrétien de Troyes). Topics will be provided on October 26 or 27 at your discussion meeting. The essay is due on November 30 or December 1, at your discussion meeting. Please submit your essay to your section leader. All questions on essays should be addressed to your section leader.

F.Y.I.: Additional assistance for this course is available to you free of charge at the College Learning Center located on the 1st Floor of Weinstein Hall (right behind Java City). For information on one-on-one and group peer tutoring, please stop by the Center or go to their website: http://www.nyu.edu/cas/clc

Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15% (10% and 5%, respectively)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Tentative Schedule:

Sep. 6  Introductory lecture
        7-8  Introductory meetings for discussion sections

Part 1: Antiquities

13  Lecture on Plato, The Symposium (2), pp. 40-77 (from "Socrates Questions Agathon" to end)
14-5 Discussion sessions; first essay topics assigned

18  Lecture on Sophocles, Oedipus the King
20  Lecture on Sophocles, Antigone
21-22 Discussion sessions

25  Lecture on Virgil, The Aeneid (1), Books I-VI; emphasis on Books I, II, and IV; Homer, The Odyssey, Books I and V
27  Lecture on Virgil, The Aeneid (2), books VII-XII; emphasis on Books VI, X, XII; Homer, The Iliad, Books XX and XXII
28-9 Discussion sessions

Oct. 2  Lecture on Genesis and Exodus; emphasis on Genesis, Chapters 1-25; Exodus, Chapters 1-24
        4  Lecture on the Gospel according to Luke
        5-6 Discussion sessions; first essay due

9  Columbus Day, no class
11  Lecture on the Acts of the Apostles
12-3 Discussion sessions

16  Lecture on Augustine's Confessions, books I-VI; emphasis on Books I, II, III, and VI
18  Lecture on Augustine's Confessions, books VII-XII; emphasis on Books VIII, X, and XI
19-20 Discussion sessions

23  Lecture on Augustine's Confessions, Book XIII; Antiquities, conclusions
25  Mid-Term Exam, Antiquities
26-7 Discussion sessions; second essay topics assigned
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Lecture on <em>The Consolation of Philosophy</em> (1), books I-III</td>
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<td>Lecture on <em>The Consolation of Philosophy</em> (2), books IV-V</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Discussion sessions</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Lecture on <em>The Tain</em>, &quot;Before the Tain&quot; and <em>The Tain</em>, Chapters I through VII; <strong>focus on pp. 1-92</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Lecture on <em>The Tain</em>, Chapter VIII to end; <strong>focus on pp. 137-208, 238-53</strong></td>
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<td>9-10</td>
<td>Discussion sessions</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Lecture on Chrétien's <em>Lancelot</em>, ll. 1-3673; Gildas, <em>Concerning the Ruin of Britain</em></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Lecture on Chrétien's <em>Lancelot</em>, ll. 3674-7120; Malory, <em>Le Morte D'Arthur</em>, Book XX, Chapters 3-10, Book XXI, Chapters 1-5</td>
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<td>16-7</td>
<td>Discussion sessions</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Guest lecture, “Preface to Chaucer and Dante” by Professor Robert Hanning (Columbia)</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>23-4</td>
<td>No discussion sessions</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Lecture on Chaucer, <em>The Canterbury Tales: The Miller’s Tale</em></td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Lecture on Chaucer, <em>The Canterbury Tales: The Pardoner’s Tale</em></td>
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<td>30-Dec.1</td>
<td>Discussion sessions; <strong>2nd essay due</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Lecture on Dante’s <em>Inferno</em>, cantos I-IX, <strong>emphasis on cantos I-V</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Lecture on Dante’s <em>Inferno</em>, cantos X-XXVI, <strong>emphasis on cantos X, XV, and XXVI</strong></td>
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<td>7-8</td>
<td>Discussion sessions</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Lecture on Dante’s <em>Inferno</em>, cantos XXVII-XXXIV, <strong>emphasis on cantos XXXII-XXXIV; conclusions, Middle Ages</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Final Exam, Middle Ages</td>
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