

## SYLLABUS

Here is the list of assignments, class by class, for Texts and Ideas. Always bring the assigned text to class: take notes and underline on paper; no open computers will be allowed during class or tests. When you make a comment in class (or on a test), make sure to cite at least one line or paragraph of text: close reading is always the key to persuasive interpretation. Because of the requirement of close reading and exact citation we will all need to use the same translations: that means that you must buy, beg or borrow the books and printouts that will be used in class. Otherwise you will be at a serious disadvantage in all the work that you do for class. (Note that shorter excerpts--such as those from the Clouds and the Republic and from Dante--will be posted as a link on our Blackboard Documents pages.)

1. Heraclitus, fragments.
2. Homer, The Odyssey, I-VI
3. VII-XII
4. XIII-XVIII
5. XIX-XXIV
6. Plato, Symposium
7. Plato, Apology (with short excerpts from Aristophanes, The Clouds).
8. Plato, Phaedo to 77c.
9. Plato, Phaedo to end and the excerpted Myth of the Cave from The Republic.
10. Sophocles, Antigone.
11. Vergil, Aeneid I-III
12. IV-VI
13. VII-IX
14. X-XII
15. Genesis.
16. Exodus.
17. Gospel of Luke. Cf. Judas and Thomas excerpts.
18. Acts and first and last verses of John.
19. Augustine, Confessions I-V .
20. VI-X.
21. Some passages from Dante, especially on Vergil and Ulysses (=Odysseus).
22. Montaigne, Essays.
23. Montaigne to end.
24. Shakespeare, Selected Sonnets.
25. Selected Sonnets.
26. Shakespeare, Lear
27. Lear cont'd.
28. Review or makeup.

Here is some guidance for you on our expectations, our grading and testing procedures, and class participation, including the schedule for what I will call your 'primary responsibility' days:

I. EXPECTATIONS. We expect you to be in class for each meeting, prepared to comment on the readings for that day. We will take attendance by scanning a seating chart that we will soon hand out. This means that you should sit in the same self-assigned seat each time (there are only a few extra seats in the room). Be in touch right away with me and the Preceptor by email if an emergency keeps you away on a given day. You will need to bring the assigned book or reading to class so that together we can examine particular passages with care. You will not be allowed to use your computers in class, for notes or texts. Quizzes will always require that you have the readings with you; this means that you will be at a disadvantage if you use texts or translations different from the ones assigned.

II. TESTS AND GRADES. Grading will be as follows: 10% of the grade will be the grade you receive in your

linked section of Writing the Essay; 20% will be for participation and attendance, including in-class quizzes and written responses, on paper or by email, occasional brief homework assignments and, finally, one sonnet due when we read Shakespeare's sonnets; 30% will be for the midterm exam, a take home with very specific questions and a fixed word limit; 40% of the grade will be for the final exam, a longer test than the midterm but again one with very specific questions and definite limits on the length of each answer.

### III. PARTICIPATION.

We hope that you will often volunteer your ideas, in class and out. We welcome emails--always make them to both of us--with ideas that you may have had as you read or after discussion. In addition, we will make three or four of you 'primarily responsible' for each class. That means that I will call on you with my questions; you will not be required to make a presentation, only to try to answer a question or two put to the class as a whole. But, especially if you are shy, this gives you time to make a special effort to prepare. (Should you feel, after class, that you did not express yourself well, please write a follow-up email.)

I will usually call first on those who are assigned to a given day--as well as on those who have not spoken often. If you find that you want to speak more often than I call on you, please realize that I value your involvement and commitment but also need to bring others who may be more reticent into the discussion.

The list that follows coordinates the class roster with the syllabus, beginning with class 2. Find your name with its number and make sure to know when the number comes up, both on the calendar and in the syllabus of readings. The night before class, send me a brief comment on a point that you'd like to bring up in class. I will call on you to comment (with a particular text) either on the point you mention or something that it brings to mind. (Make sure to write me an email if you will miss class: then prepare the next class or the next one you can attend.)

2. Patel, Vishan; Urbaite, Ieva; Hyatt, Denali; 3. Chavez, Gabriela; Webman, Ethan; Gilchrist, Christina; 4. Excell, Jane; Demler, Kenyon; 5. King, Loretto; Kazmir, Sima; Preza, Elizabeth; 6. Min, JeeEun; D'Angelo, Meredith; Johnson, Sean; 7. Kennis, Kevin; Hashmi, Mahvish; 8. Hansen, Jacob; Kass, Alexandra; Ghorashi, Hannah; 9. Sharif, Sonya; Degbo, Sika; Bady, Sana; 10. Gallo, Giulia; Silverman, Joseph; Valkai, Benjamin; 11. Duran, Antonio; Hoeffel, Claire; Oppenheimer, Harry; 12. McLaughlin, John; Waldek, Stefanie; 13. Laubersheimer, Megan; Lewis, Barton; Desimone, Jason; 14. Epstein, Justin; Caraballo, Rachel; Pienaar, Claire; 15. Dillman, Kathleen; Jameel, Sabeeh; Steiner, Megan; 16. Pons, Sandra; Goodfriend, Rachel; 17. Weiner, Amy; Langrais, Frank; Wilner, Jacob; 18. Duba, Nicholas; DiNicola, Melissa; Fazli, Zeba; 19. Gugliuzza, Samantha; Harrell, Cristina; Murray, Rachel; 20. Reynolds, Margaret; Hutchinson, Katherine; Gonzalez, Estela; 21. Whitmyre, Emma; Winograd, Chanya; Arnold, James; 22. Lee, Mabel; Eckstein, Nicholas; Muir, Ashley; 23. Visone, William; Kashtan, Megan; Luz, Olivia; 24. Kim, Soyoon; Seppo, My; Wallace, Julie; 25. Watkins, Jacob; Madison, Anjali; Torres, Melisa; 26. Reed, Chelsea; Chang, Erica; Bauer, Ziandrea; 27. Bodapati, Arun; Nottenburg, Arthur.

Contact information for me and Muisi Krosi is as follows: TG, 510 Vanderbilt Hall (NYU Law School), 40 Wash. Sq. S., 212-998-6379, [tom.gerety@nyu.edu](mailto:tom.gerety@nyu.edu); MK [muisi.krosi@gmail.com](mailto:muisi.krosi@gmail.com). Both of us will try to meet you promptly for individual out-of-class discussions. MK will have regular office hours and voluntary discussion sessions more or less each week. Email either of us for a meeting, always including in your message three or four times and days when your schedule is free; that way we can work out a meeting in one exchange. (Should you have an emergency, whether personal or academic, please feel free to call me on my cell: 917-992-3503.)