ANGER, HATRED, AND ENMITY

“There is hatred by far the longest pleasure; Men love in haste but they detest at leisure.”

Byron: Don Juan

Overview: We are taught that love is divine and hate a crime, that we should overcome anger, forswear resentment and vengeance, and forgive enemies. But have we perhaps neglected the propriety and even necessity of the so-called negative sentiments? In this course, we will consider the possibility that resentment, hatred, and vengeance may be justified, and that some actions are unforgivable. We will examine hatreds and antagonisms in context, looking at philosophical, theological, political and religious analyses and also literary representations. The object of the course is not to condemn these sentiments out of hand as pathologies, but to consider their function and history. In addition to assigned readings, various documents concerning anger, hatred, and enmity in modern society will be distributed. Class discussion will include references to relevant contemporary issues, where reasonable.

One short essay (2 pages) and three six-page papers will be assigned during the semester. Topics will be suggested on NYU Classes before each assignment. Papers will be due at the discussion section following the Wednesday class, and will be returned at the following discussion section.

Please note that discussion will be encouraged at the lectures, as well as in the discussion sections. Questions of anger, hatred and enmity are highly controversial, and some of the texts assigned may (and should) be disturbing. You are encouraged to think critically about them, and to express your views when appropriate.

Attendance is required at all lectures and discussion sections, and participation in the discussion at sections is strongly encouraged. Failure to attend sections will result in a decrease in your grade.

SYLLABUS

0. INTRODUCTION
Week 1
Tuesday 23 January: Introduction to the Syllabus
Thursday 25 January: Homer, *Iliad* Books 1, 6, 9
I. TWO TALES OF ANGER

Week 2
Tuesday 30 January: Homer, *Iliad* Books 16, 22-24
Thursday 1 February: Salman Rushdie, *Fury* Part 1

Week 3
Thursday 8 February: Aristotle, *Rhetoric* Book 2, chapters 1-12

II. TWO VIEWS OF ANGER

Week 4
Thursday 15 February: Sophocles, *Electra*
Short Essay (2 pages)

III. ACTING OUT ANGER

Week 5
Tuesday 20 February: Euripides, *Hecuba*
Thursday 22 February: Seneca, *Thyestes*

Week 6
Tuesday 27 February: Thomas Middleton, *The Revenger’s Tragedy*
Thursday 1 March: Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* Acts IV and V
First Paper (6 pages)

IV. DIVINE ANGER

Week 7
Tuesday 6 March: Edward Albee, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
Thursday 8 March: *The Bible*: Genesis 1-22, 1 Samuel 1-24

Week 8
Tuesday 13 March SPRING BREAK
Thursday 15 March SPRING BREAK

Week 9
Tuesday 20 March: *The Bible*: Gospel of Mark; Revelation
Thursday 22 March: Lactantius, *On the Anger of God*
V. HATRED, RACE AND CLASS

Week 10
Tuesday 27 March: Bartolomé de Las Casas, *The Destruction of the Indies*  
Thursday 29 March: Jean Améry, “Resentments”; Derrida *On Forgiveness* pp. 1-18

Week 11
Tuesday 3 April: Desmond Tutu, *No Future without Forgiveness* chapters 1-4  
Thursday 5 April: Desmond Tutu, *No Future without Forgiveness* chapters 6, 10-11  
**Second Paper** (6 pages)

Week 12
Tuesday 10 April: Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*  
Thursday 12 April: Hitler, *Mein Kampf* chapters 1-2

VI. THE CAUSES OF HATRED

Week 13
Tuesday 17 April: Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* Essay 1  
Thursday 19 April: Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*

Week 14
Tuesday 24 April: Darwin, “Anger and Hatred” in *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* pp. 234-49  
Thursday 26 April: Jared Diamond, “Vengeance is Ours”

Week 15
Tuesday 1 May: Sartre, “Anti-Semite and Jew”  
Thursday 3 May: Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*  
**Final Paper** (6 pages)

The following books are available at the NYU bookstore. Note: You are free to use any editions you already possess.

Homer *Iliad* (trans. Fagles)  
Rushdie *Fury*  
Seneca, *Political Essays* (Cambridge); also as e-book (much less expensive)  
Sophocles, *Electra* (Chicago, trans. Greene and Lattimore)  
Euripides, *Hecuba* (Chicago, trans. Greene and Lattimore)  
Seneca, *Thyestes* (Oxford)  
Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*  
Middleton, *Revenger’s Tragedy*  
Albee, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*  
The Bible (Oxford)  
Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* (Cambridge)  
Desmond Tutu, *No Future without Forgiveness*  
Jean Améry, *At the Mind’s Limits*  
Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*  

The following works are available on Classes:  

Aristotle, *Rhetoric* Book 2, chapters 1-12  
Lactantius, *On the Anger of God*  
Bartolomé de Las Casas, *The Destruction of the Indies*  
Derrida *On Forgiveness*  
Hitler, *Mein Kampf*  
Darwin, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*  
Diamond, “Vengeance is Ours”  
Sartre, “Anti-Semite and Jew”