

CONVERSATIONS OF THE WEST: ANTIQUITY AND THE 19TH CENTURY

Morse Academic Plan: V55.0404.028

New York University, Fall 2007

Teaching Staff:

Professor Friedrich Ulfers (friedrich.ulfers@nyu.edu)

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Office: 19 University Place, Room 329

Office Hours: Tues. 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Michael Bowen (mjb324@nyu.edu): Teaching Assistant

Samara Heifetz (sh430@nyu.edu) Teaching Assistant

Hilger Jens Schmerwitz (hjs225@nyu.edu) Teaching Assistant

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:15 pm, 5 Washington Place Rm. 101

Recitations:	Thurs (sec. 29)	8:00 am – 9:15 am	Silver 403
	Thurs (sec. 30)	9:30 am – 10:45 am	Tisch LC3
	Thurs (sec. 31)	3:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Silver 621
	Thurs (sec. 32)	4:55 pm – 6:10 pm	Silver 414
	Friday (sec. 33)	9:30 am – 10:45 am	25 W. 4 th St. C16
	Friday (sec. 34)	11:00 am – 12:15 pm	25 W. 4 th St. C7

Reading List:

(see attached Course Calendar for reading dates and assigned page numbers)

Sophocles, *Antigone* in *Sophocles I*, University of Chicago

The Oxford Study Bible, Oxford University Press

Plato, *Symposium*, Hackett

Marx, *Communist Manifesto*, Norton Critical Edition

Darwin, *Origin of Species* (includes *The Descent of Man*), Norton Critical Edition

Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense,” in *The Birth of Tragedy*, CUP

Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*, CUP (Cambridge University Press)

Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Avon Books

Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*, Norton Critical Edition

Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis* in *The Penal Colony and Other Stories*, Simon & Schuster

Note: Assigned page numbers for all readings correspond to the editions specified above

Course Outline:

The course is divided into three parts: the first two parts focus on the “intellectual conversation” between celebrated works from Western antiquity and 19th century Europe. The final part examines two early 20th century works of fiction in light of the preceding ideas and arguments. The purpose of the course in general is to offer students a broad engagement with significant concepts arising within the Western tradition through a focused examination of relevant texts.

Grading Policy:

Final grades will be comprised of the following components:

- * First response paper of 6 pages length is worth 20% of the final grade.
- * Midterm examination is worth 20% of the final grade.
- * Second response paper of 6 pages length is worth 25% of the final grade.
- * Final examination is worth 25% of examination.
- * Attendance and participation in recitation is worth 10% of the final grade.

Attendance Policy: Attendance at all lectures is mandatory and attendance will be taken at every meeting. You are allowed two unexcused absences from lecture; subsequent unexcused absences will adversely affect your participation grade. Attendance is also required at all weekly recitation sections. You are allowed one unexcused absence from recitations; subsequent unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade as well. Attendance at lectures and recitations accounts for 50% of your participation score; participation in recitation discussions, the other 50%.

Additional Notes on Attendance: Please arrive at lecture on time. An attendance roster will be circulated shortly after the beginning of each class. If you do not arrive at class early enough to sign the attendance roster as it circulates throughout the room, you will be recorded as *absent*. *Nobody will be allowed to sign the attendance roster at the end of class!* Additionally, if you are seen leaving the lecture room after signing the attendance roster but before the lecture is completed, your name will be struck from the attendance roster for that day. Please speak with a T. A. before class begins if you need to dismiss yourself before the end of lecture.

Excused Absences: Absences from lecture or recitations can only be formally excused by a note from a medical professional or by documented proof of some other *crisis* that made it impossible for you to attend class. A note from a dean will suffice in this respect; a note from your mother will not. It is your responsibility to furnish T.A's with appropriate excuse documentation.

Blackboard: Announcements and supplementary study materials will frequently be posted on Blackboard. You should check Blackboard at least once a week for such materials. Additionally, important announcements will occasionally be emailed to you through Blackboard's email server. You must check your registrar-issued "nyu.edu" email account to receive such notices.

Class conduct: Please arrive on time. Turn off cell phones before the beginning of class. It is expected that students will not eat or leave trash in the classroom. If you arrive late or have permission to leave class early, please create as little disturbance as possible. Please wait until the professor has announced that lecture is over before gathering your belongings to leave.

COURSE CALENDAR: LECTURE/READING SCHEDULE

(Unless otherwise indicated, you are expected to read the entire assigned text)

Wed., Sept. 5	INTRODUCTION
Mon., Sept. 10	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>
Wed., Sept. 12	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>
Mon., Sept. 17	The Book of <i>Genesis</i> (<i>The Oxford Study Bible</i>)
Wed., Sept. 19	The Book of <i>Genesis</i> (<i>The Oxford Study Bible</i>)
Mon., Sept. 24	The Book of <i>Job</i> (<i>The Oxford Study Bible</i>)
Wed., Sept. 26	The Book of <i>Job</i> (<i>The Oxford Study Bible</i>)
Mon., Oct. 1	Plato, <i>Symposium</i>
Wed., Oct. 3	Plato, <i>Symposium</i>
Mon., Oct. 8	NO CLASSES (Columbus Day)
Wed., Oct. 10	Summary of First Half of Semester – review previous readings
	FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS TODAY (Oct. 10)
Mon., Oct. 15	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Wed., Oct. 17	Marx, <i>Communist Manifesto</i>
Mon., Oct. 22	Marx, <i>Communist Manifesto</i>
Wed., Oct. 4	Darwin, <i>Origin of Species</i> (Chaps. III, IV)
Mon., Oct. 29	Darwin, <i>Origin of Species</i> (Chap. XIV)
Wed., Oct. 31	Darwin, <i>Descent of Man</i> (selections) (Chap. XXI)
Mon., Nov. 5	Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense”
Wed., Nov. 7	Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense”
Mon., Nov. 12	Nietzsche, <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i> (see selections *)

- Wed., Nov. 14 Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* (see selections *)
- Mon., Nov. 19 Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (see selections **)
- Wed., Nov. 21 NO CLASSES (Legislative Day)

THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO RECITATIONS

- Mon., Nov. 26 Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (see selections **)
- Wed., Nov. 28 Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (see selections **)
- Mon., Dec. 3 Mann, *Death in Venice*
- Wed., Dec. 5 Mann, *Death in Venice*

SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS TODAY (Dec. 5)

- Mon., Dec. 10 Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
- Wed. Dec. 12 Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
- Mon. Dec. 17: **FINAL EXAMINATION 2:00 – 3:50 pm** (5 Wash. Place, Rm 101)

* *Birth of Tragedy* readings:

pp. 3-21, 26-28, 36, 41-45, 50-51, 98, 100-104, and 113-116

** *Interpretation of Dreams* readings:

Chapter II: “The Method of Interpreting Dreams: An Analysis of a Specimen Dream” (read all)

Chapter VI: “The Dream-Work” (read sections A, B, C, D, and I)

Chapter VII: “The Psychology of the Dream-Process” (read section F)