

Ancient Philosophy and Literature – Honors  
CTI 301, Unique 34049  
Spring 2013

Class: T Th 9:30-11, WAG 208

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### Course Description

In this class, we will explore some of the greatest works of classical epic, tragedy, and philosophy. We will use them not only to get a better understanding of a society very different from our own, but also to help us think about questions of enduring importance. What is justice? What is virtue? What is love, and what should we expect from it? How should we think about God and religion? What about the life of the mind – what is its place in political society, and in a well-lived human life? We will examine the answers given to these questions in classical Greece and compare those answers to our own. But beyond that, we will see that the works which we read are more than mirrors of their times; their authors reflected profoundly on these basic questions, challenging and transcending the conventions of their own society. We will find that many of their insights are still valid, and that they can teach us about today's moral and political situation.

This course carries the Global Cultures flag and is intended to give you an understanding of ancient Greece as one of the most important sources of Western ideas, as well as an outside perspective on our modern liberal democratic society.

This course also carries the writing flag. Writing flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructors to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise and expand two of your short assignments and to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work.

This course has no prerequisites.

**Required Texts** (all available at The University Co-op; *you must buy these editions*)

Homer, *Odyssey*. Translated by Richmond Lattimore. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967.

- Sophocles, *Ajax*. In *Ajax, The Women of Trachis, Electra & Philoctetes (The Complete Greek Tragedies)*. Translated by John Moore, Michael Jameson, and David Grene. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1957.
- Plato, *Apology*. In West, Thomas G. and Grace Starry. *Four Texts on Socrates*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998.
- Plato, *Gorgias*. Translated by James Nichols. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998.
- Plato, *Symposium*. Translated by Seth Benardete. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993.

### Recommended Texts (available at The University Co-op)

- H. D. F. Kitto, *The Greeks*. London: Penguin Books 1991. Reprint: Aldine Press, 2007.
- Strunk, William, and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. London: Penguin Books, 1999.
- Turabin et al, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Seventh Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

### Schedule of Readings and Assignments

January 15: Introduction

January 17: Sophocles, *Ajax* (read entire play)

January 22: *Ajax*, same

January 24: Homer, *Odyssey*, Books I-II; 500 word paper due

January 29: *Odyssey*, Books III-IV

January 31: *Odyssey*, Books V-VIII

February 5: *Odyssey*, Books IX-X

February 7: *Odyssey*, Books XI-XII; 500 word paper due

February 12: *Odyssey*, Books XIII-XVI

February 14: *Odyssey*, Books XVII-XX

February 19: *Odyssey*, Books XXI-XXIV

February 21: Plato, *Apology*, 17a-24b; 500 word paper due

February 26: *Apology*, 24b-35d

February 28: *Apology*, 35e-42a

March 5: Plato, *Gorgias*, 447a-461b

March 7: *Gorgias*, 461b-70c

Friday, March 8: 1200-word paper due by 5 PM in Dr. Dempsey's office

March 11-16: Spring Break

March 19: *Gorgias*, 470c-481b  
March 21: *Gorgias*, 481b-491d; 500 word paper due

March 26: *Gorgias*, 491d-499d  
March 28: *Gorgias*, 499d-513d

April 2: *Gorgias*, 513d-527e  
April 4: same; 500 word paper due

April 9: Plato, *Symposium*, 172a-180c  
April 11: *Symposium*, 180c-188e

April 16: *Symposium*, 189a-193e  
April 18: *Symposium*, 193e-198a; 500 word paper due

April 23: *Symposium*, 198a-212c  
April 25: *Symposium*, same

April 30: *Symposium*, 212c-end  
May 2: *Symposium*, same

Friday, May 3: 1200 word paper due by 5 PM in Dr. Dempsey's office

Monday, May 13, 9 am – 12 noon: final exam

## Course Requirements and Grading Policy

attendance, quizzes, and class participation	16%
6 500-word papers (4% each)	24%
2 1200-word papers	40%
final exam	20%

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and quizzes on the assigned reading will be given at the beginning of class on random days throughout the term. There will be no penalty for absences due to religious holidays for which you have notified us at least 14 days in advance, or for documented illnesses or family emergencies. Your attendance, quiz, and participation mark will fall by one letter grade (10%) for each unexcused absence. Quizzes cannot be made up, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Active participation in class is expected.

Papers will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for their substantive content. For advice on writing papers in political philosophy, please go to <https://webspace.utexas.edu/lsp226/lorrainepangle/advice.html>. For individual help with paper writing, please come to our office hours any time or visit the Undergraduate Writing Center, info at <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a medical excuse or family emergency.

Plus and minus grades will be used, as follows: 93-100: A; 90-92: A-; 87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-; 77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-; 60-69: D; below 60: F.

University Honor Code: The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>, 471-6259.

No laptops may be used in class unless required by a student with disabilities.