ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE
CTI 301 / HMN 316
MW 9-10 GAR 2.128
Discussions: F 9-10 GAR 2.128 / GAR 1.134
Unique Numbers 33775 and 39805

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class, we will explore some of the greatest works of classical tragedy, comedy, 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 civilization, and how different those answers were from 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.

HOW CLASS WILL BE CONDUCTED

Class will meet three times per week. The Monday and Wednesday classes will include the whole class and each will be led by one of the professors. Nevertheless, the class is small enough to allow for significant student participation and you should come to every class having done the reading and prepared to contribute to the discussion. For Fridays, the class will break down into two groups for smaller, more intensive, student-driven discussions. Dr. Dempsey and Dr. van Malssen will each lead one discussion; students will be divided into two groups on the first day of class. For these meetings, you should have be ready to raise your own questions – including issues we have not discussed in class - and to present your own interpretations of the reading.

NB: Dr. Dempsey's discussion section will meet in GAR 1.134. If you are in his section, be sure to go to that room.
TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES BEFORE CLASS. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT TEXTING DURING CLASS, IT WILL BE COUNTED AS AN ABSENCE.

USE OF LAPTOPS IN CLASS IS NOT PERMITTED! IF YOU HAVE A COMPUTER WITH YOU, IT SHOULD BE CLOSED.

This is a writing flag course, and includes frequent written assignments. There will be four medium-length (3-5 page) papers on topics which will be assigned in class. In addition, there will be a number of shorter (1-2 page, single-spaced) assignments, on topics to be announced in class. You may also wish to keep a reading journal, which you can turn in for extra credit at the end of the semester.

GRADING RUBRIC

60% - Papers (15% each): You will be required to write 4 3-5 papers on topics to be assigned in class. Papers will be due at the beginning of discussion meetings on September 12, October 14, and November 11. Your final paper will be due the Monday after classes end, December 5, in Professor Dempsey or Professor van Malssen’s office. For the first three papers, please be sure to bring two printed copies to class; the second will be given to another student who will write a response to it.

You will be given the opportunity to rewrite one of your first three papers. The rewrite will be due one week after the final paper is returned to you. You can rewrite any of the three.

10% - Short writing assignments: Over the course of the semester, there will be a number of short (1-2 page) writing assignments. These will include responses to papers written by other students, and other brief topics which will be assigned in class.

10% - Class Participation: Since this is a discussion-intensive class, participation makes up an important part of your grade. You will be scored, not on how often you speak up in class, but on whether you have prepared for class and have thought about the material; saying a lot without knowing what you are talking about will not improve your grade.

10% - Attendance: Attendance will be taken in each class. You are allowed one unexcused absence. After that, you will lose 10% of your attendance grade – which is equal to 1% of your overall final grade – for each missed class.

10% - Quizzes: There will be pop quizzes on the reading at the beginning of many of our classes. These will be averaged at the end of the semester, with the lowest score dropped. If you miss class, you will be allowed to make up the quiz only if your absence is excused.

Extra Credit: You can earn extra credit by keeping a writing journal and turning it in at the end of the semester. There will also be opportunities to earn extra credit by attending certain lectures and writing short responses.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required at every class meeting. For every unexcused absence after your first, your attendance grade will be dropped by 10%, which means that your overall final average will drop by 1.5%.
Grade Calculation: Papers and participation in discussions will be given letter grades. In order to calculate your final grade, these will be translated into number grades as follows:

A: 97; A-: 91; B+: 88; B: 84.5; B-: 81; C+: 78; C: 74.5; C-: 71; D: 65; F: 30

Final grades are calculated numerically, then translated into a letter grade using the following scale:

A: 93-100; A-: 90-93; B+: 87-90; B: 83-87; B-: 80-83; C+: 77-80; C: 73-77; C-: 70-73; D: 60-70; F: below 60.

REQUIRED EDITIONS

Because we will be discussing the texts in class, everyone is required to purchase the assigned edition of each book. We will be using the following editions, all of which are available for purchase at the University Co-Op:

5. West, Thomas G. and Grace Starry.  *Four Texts on Socrates.* Cornell University Press. (Includes the *Apology* and *Clouds*.)

READING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 24: Introductory class – No reading
Friday, August 26: Sophocles, *Antigone.* Read the whole play, but focus on 1-400
Monday, August 29: Sophocles, *Antigone* 401-943
Wednesday, August 31: Sophocles, *Antigone* 944 - end
Friday, September 2: Discussion
Monday, September 5: Plato, *Gorgias* 447a – 461b
Wednesday, September 7: Plato, *Gorgias* 471c – 481b
Friday, September 9: Discussion
Monday, September 12: Plato, *Gorgias* No new reading*
Wednesday, September 14: Plato, *Gorgias* 481b – 486d
Friday, September 16: Discussion
Monday, September 19: Plato, *Gorgias* 486d – 491d
Wednesday, September 21: Plato, *Gorgias* 491d – 499d
Friday, September 23: Discussion
Monday, September 26: Plato, *Gorgias* 499d – 522c
Wednesday, September 28: Plato, *Gorgias* 522c – 527c
Friday, September 30: Discussion
Monday, October 3: Homer, *Odyssey* I-II
Wednesday, October 5: Homer, *Odyssey* III-IV
Friday, October 7: Discussion
Monday, October 10: Homer, *Odyssey* V-VI
Wednesday, October 12: Homer, *Odyssey* VII-VIII
Friday, October 14: Discussion*
Monday, October 17: Homer, *Odyssey* IX-X
Wednesday, October 19: Homer, *Odyssey* XI-XII
Friday, October 21: Discussion
Monday, October 24: Homer, *Odyssey* XIII - XVIII
Wednesday, October 26: Homer, *Odyssey* XIX - XXIV
Friday, October 28: Discussion
Monday, October 31: Plato, *Symposium* Beginning – 185d
Wednesday, November 2: Plato, *Symposium* 185d – 193e
Friday, November 4: Discussion
Monday, November 7: Plato, *Symposium* 194a – 207a
Wednesday, November 9: Plato, *Symposium* 207a-212c
Friday, November 11: Discussion*
Monday, November 14: Plato, *Symposium* 212c-end
Wednesday, November 16: Aristophanes, *Clouds* (read the whole play)
Friday, November 18: Discussion
Monday, November 21: Aristophanes, *Clouds*
Wednesday, November 23: No class – Happy Thanksgiving!
Friday, November 25: THANKSGIVING BREAK
Monday, November 28: Plato, *Apology* 17a – 28b
Wednesday, November 30: Plato, *Apology* 28b – 35c
Friday, December 2: Plato, *Apology* 35e - end (no discussion this week – final class)
Monday, December 5: Final paper due at 11 AM in Dr. Dempsey’s or Dr. van Malssen’s office.

* Paper due. Remember to bring two copies to class.

**POLICIES**

**Cell phones:** Cell phones and laptops will *not* be permitted and must be turned off during class. If you are caught texting during class, it will be counted as an absence.

**Excused Absences:** You can be excused for missing a class if you have a valid reason and show us appropriate documentation. A “valid reason” may be illness (bring a doctor’s note), a death in the family, or religious observance.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Any violation of the University’s Honor Code will be treated extremely seriously. Specific rules may be found on the Registrar’s web site at: http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/app/gi09.appc03.html

See especially Section 11-802.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/
You can also approach one of your professors; we will do everything we can to accommodate your needs.