Class: T Th 11-12:30
CBA 4.340

Professor Lorraine Pangle
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232-1447
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Office Hours: M 3-4:30, Th 9-10:30

Course Description

In this class, we will explore some of the greatest works of classical epic, 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 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 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 one or more 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)


Recommended Texts (available at The University Co-op)


Schedule of Readings and Assignments

August 30: introduction
September 4: Homer, *Odyssey,* Books I-II
September 6: *Odyssey,* Books III-IV; 500-word paper due
September 11: *Odyssey,* Books V-VIII
September 13: *Odyssey,* Books IX-X; 500-word paper due
September 18: *Odyssey,* Books XI-XII
September 20: *Odyssey,* Books XIII - XVI; 500-word paper due
September 25: *Odyssey,* Books XVII - XX
September 27: *Odyssey,* Books XXI - XXIV; revised 500-word paper due
October 2: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (background reading); *Antigone,* first 400 lines
October 4: *Antigone,* remainder; 500-word paper due
October 9: *Antigone,* continue discussion; Aristophanes, *Clouds* (background reading)
October 11: Plato, *Apology,* 17a-24b; 500-word paper due
October 16: *Apology,* read remainder; continue discussion
October 18: *Apology,* continue discussion; 500-word paper due
October 23: *Apology,* continue discussion
October 25: Plato, *Gorgias,* 447a-461b; revised 500-word paper due
October 30: *Gorgias,* 461b-481b
November 1: *Gorgias,* same; 500-word paper due
November 6: *Gorgias,* 481b-491d
November 8: *Gorgias,* 491d-499d; 500-word paper due
November 13: *Gorgias,* 499d-513d
November 15: *Gorgias,* 513d-527e
November 20: Plato, *Symposium,* 172a-185d
November 27: *Symposium,* 185d – 193e
November 29: *Symposium,* 193e – 207c
December 4: *Symposium,* 207c – 212c; draft of 1500-word paper due
December 6: *Symposium*, 212c – 223d; final 1500-word paper due

Wednesday, December 12, 7-10 pm: final exam

**Course Requirements and Grading Policy**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>attendance, quizzes, and class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>weekly 500-word papers for the first 10 weeks of class (4% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500-word paper due Dec. 6</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final exam, Dec 12, 7 – 10 pm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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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](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/](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](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd), 471-6259.

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