

HUMANITIES 1:
THE FOUNDATIONS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION—ISRAEL & GREECE

UC San Diego, Winter 2018
T/TH 12:30-1:50 at Pepper Canyon Hall (PCYNH) 109

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course offers an opportunity to read and interpret some of the most important works in the Hebrew and Greek traditions of literature, history, and philosophy. Themes that will be revisited throughout the course include: the origin of the cosmos, the nature of God and the gods, the basis of morality and law, the cultivation of knowledge and wisdom, the relation between justice or righteousness and authority or domination, and the value of pleasure and happiness.

Course objectives include: reading in translation and learning to interpret some seminal works in the Western tradition of literature, history, and philosophy; practicing discussing and criticizing the works orally with graduate students actively conducting research in one of these fields; learning techniques of researching and writing about such works.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Ownership of the following textbooks (available at the UCSD bookstore):

- *The Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*, edited by M. Coogan et al. 4th edition, Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0195289602. (“NRSV” in the course schedule).
- *Homer: The Odyssey*, translated by R. Fagles. New York: Penguin Books, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0140268867. (“Fagles” in the course schedule).
- *Hesiod: Theogony and Works and Days*, translated by M. West. Oxford University Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0199538317. (“West” in the course schedule)
- *Greek Tragedies 1: Aeschylus: Agamemnon, Prometheus Bound; Sophocles: Oedipus the King, Antigone; Euripides: Hippolytus* (3rd Edition), edited by M. Griffith, G. W. Most, D. Greene, R. Lattimore. University of Chicago Press, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0226035284. (“Greene” in the course schedule.)
- *The Dialogues of Plato, Volume 1: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Gorgias, Menexenus*, translated by R. Allen. Yale University Press, 1989. ISBN-13: 978-0300044881. (“Allen” in the course schedule.)
- *The Epicurus Reader: selected writings and testimonia*, edited and translated by B. Inwood. Indianapolis and Cambridge, Mass: Hackett Publishing Company, 1994. ISBN-13: 978-0872202412. (“Inwood” in the course schedule.)

2. Attendance and participation in discussion sections: 10 points.

3. Ungraded Essay: 0 (diagnostic).

4. Essay 1: 20 points.

5. Essay 2: 20 points.

6. Essay 3: 20 points.

7. Final Exam: 30 points.

All seven requirements must be completed in order to pass the class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1/9 Introduction. Hesiod, *Theogony* (West, p.1-33). **Obtain textbooks.**
1/11 Genesis 1-19 (NRSV, p. 11-38).
- 1/16 Genesis 20-50 (NRSV, p.38-80).
1/18 Exodus 1-24 (NRSV, p.83-117). **Ungraded Essay due.**
- 1/23 1 Samuel (NRSV, p.400-444).
1/25 Isaiah 1-24 & 55-66 (NRSV, p.968-1000 & 1041-1056).
- 1/30 Proverbs (NRSV, p.897-934).
2/1 Hesiod, *Works and Days* (West, p.35-61). **Essay 1 due.**
- 2/6 Homer, *Odyssey* 1-8 (Fagles, p.77-210).
2/8 Homer, *Odyssey* 9-16 (Fagles, p.211-353).
- 2/13 Homer, *Odyssey* 17-24 (Fagles, p.354-485).
2/15 Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* (Greene, p.69-112).
- 2/20 Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* (Greene, p.117-186). **Essay 2 due.**
2/22 Euripides, *Hippolytus* (Greene, p.245-305).
- 2/27 Plato, *Euthyphro* (Allen, p.41-58).
3/1 Plato, *Apology* (Allen, p.79-104).
- 3/6 Plato, *Gorgias* 447a-481b (Allen, p.231-268). **Essay 3 due.**
3/8 Plato, *Gorgias* 481b-527e (Allen, p.268-316).
- 3/13 Epicurus, *Letters to Herodotus & Menoeceus* (Inwood, p.5-19 & 28-31).
3/15 Epicurus, *Maxims and Principal Doctrines* (Inwood, p.32-40).
- 3/20 **Final Exam** (11:30am-2:30pm).

OFFICE HOURS

Monte Johnson will hold open office hours from 1:50-2:50pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays (immediately after class, outside the classroom). Any student is welcome to visit him for advisement about the course during this time. It is also possible to schedule by email an appointment for the same purpose.