HRS 10
“ARTS AND IDEAS OF THE WEST” (I)
SPRING 2013
MENDOCINO 4004
MW 1:30-2:45
DR. NYSTROM

CONTACT INFORMATION:

2024 Mendocino Hall
MW 11:00-12:00 and 2:45-3:15
278-5334
nystromb@csus.edu

COURSE TITLE: Arts and Ideas of the West: Ancient and Medieval

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to the literature, art, architecture, philosophy, and history of the ancient and medieval West, with emphasis on classical Greece and Rome and Europe in the Middle Ages.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of the course, students will: understand the ideals and values that inspired and informed each of these cultures; be able to describe important ways in which these ideals and values were expressed in art, architecture, literature, religions, and philosophy; and be able to explain how masterpieces in these areas of cultural expression represent diverse but legitimate responses to fundamental questions faced by all individuals and cultures.

ASSIGNMENTS: Two analytical papers, four quizzes, and four reading response exercises. The quizzes are worth 50 points each and consist of 25 two-point multiple-choice questions. The reading response exercises are worth 20 points each and consist of several short-answer questions based on the assigned readings.

TEXTS:


The Sayre text is a survey of western art, architecture, and literature. It covers the same material discussing in class but often from a different perspective and with different insights. Quizzes will include numerous questions on material found in the Sayre text.

Homer, *Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald (Farrar, Straus, Giroux)
Joseph Bédier, trans., *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult* (Vintage)
Dante, *Inferno*, trans. R. Ciardi (Signet Classics, New American Library)
Dante, *Paradiso*, trans. J. Ciardi (to be provided)
WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1: Introduction to the Odyssey; Minoans and Mycenaeans, Homer
Week 2: Epic Poetry, Survey of Ancient Greek History
Week 3: Greek Art and Architecture; Greek Values and Ideals
Week 4: Discussion of Homer’s Odyssey
Week 5: Discussion of Homer’s Odyssey; Introduction to Greek Drama
Week 6: Sophocles’ Oedipus the King and Antigone
Week 7: Sophocles’ Oedipus the King and Antigone; Greek Philosophy
Week 8: Greek Philosophy, Survey of Roman History
Week 9: Roman Literature
Week 10: Roman Art and Architecture; Rise of Christianity
Week 11: Feudalism; Medieval Idealism
Week 12: Veneration of Women; Courtly Love
Week 13: Romanesque and Gothic Architecture; Dante
Week 14: Dante, Inferno
Week 15: Dante, Inferno and Paradiso

GRADES:

Course grades will be based primarily on your scores on the two analytical papers, quizzes, and reading responses in accordance with the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100% of the possible points for the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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</tbody>
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There are no make-up quizzes or reading responses. However, you can miss one quiz and one reading response without penalty since only your three best quiz and reading response scores will be considered in the calculation of your course grade.

Please do not tell me at any point during the semester what grade you might need.

GRADING CRITERIA FOR ANALYTICAL PAPERS:

“A” papers clearly state their topic and how it will be addressed. They make good points and support them with appropriate examples. “A” papers are logical and correct in their grammar and word usage. Although “B” papers possess these strengths to a lesser degree, their arguments are generally clear and reasonably well-supported. “B” papers make few mistakes in grammar and word usage. “C” papers are weak in stating and supporting their theses and in their grammar and word usage. These deficiencies can make passages in a “C” paper difficult to understand and the argument as a whole ineffective. “D” papers possess the same weaknesses as “C” papers but to a greater degree. As a result, “D”
papers can be difficult to understand and usually give the impression that the author has little understanding of the subject.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, PAPERS, AND QUIZZES:**

February 18: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on Homer, *Odyssey*

QUIZ (50 points) on lectures; Sayre, chapter 4 (pp. 94-108); Homer, *Odyssey*.

March 4: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*.

March 20: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Sayre, chapters 4 (pp. 108-127) and 5 (including the “Readings” at the end of the chapter); Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*

PAPER #1 (100 points) due in class.

April 17: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Sayre, chapters 6 (including the “Readings” at the end of the chapter) and 8 (pp. 245-264).

April 29: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on J. Bédier, *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*.

May 6: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on Dante, *Inferno* (cantos 1-10, 33-34) and *Paradiso* (canto 33, which I will supply).

May 20 (12:45): QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Sayre, chapters 10 and 12 (including the “Readings” at the end of each chapter); J. Bédier, *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*; Dante, *Inferno* (cantos 1-10, 33-34) and *Paradiso* (canto 33).

PAPER #2 (100 points) due at 12:45.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES:**

HRS 10 is a lecture/discussion course. It has no prerequisites. It is a required course for Humanities and Religious Studies majors. It also satisfies the 3-unit General Education Category C3 requirement.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. See the campus policy on academic dishonesty at [www.csus.edu/admbus/umanual/UMA00150.htm](http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umanual/UMA00150.htm).
I make frequent use of internet search engines and other services to check for plagiarism. Any assignment in which even the slightest instance of plagiarism is detected will receive a grade of zero points. There will be no option to re-write the assignment.

No electronic devices are to be used in class. If you are using an electronic device of any kind during a quiz, I will assume you are cheating.

In fairness to others, students who leave the room during quizzes or reading responses will not be allowed to return. If this policy creates a documentable difficulty for you, please make necessary arrangements with the Testing Center.

I will consider requests for a grade of “Incomplete” when, in the words of the University catalog, “required coursework has not been completed and evaluated during the course due to unforeseen but fully justified reasons.”

Students with disabilities who require special arrangements for examinations should contact me during the first week of the semester.