

HRS 10
“ARTS AND IDEAS OF THE WEST” (I)
SPRING 2009
TR 10:30
DR. NYSTROM

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 the European 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: Four quizzes; two analytical papers on topics relating to the learning objectives described above; four readings response papers.

TEXTS:

Henry Sayre, *The Humanities: Culture, Continuity, and Change*, vols. 1 and 2

The Sayre text is a survey of western art, architecture, and literature. It covers the same material we'll be discussing in class, but often from a different perspective and in ways that will reinforce and illuminate lectures. Quizzes will include numerous questions on material found in the Sayre text.

Homer, *Odyssey* (trans. R. Fitzgerald)
Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays* (trans. R. Fagles)
J. Bédier (ed.), *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*
Dante, *Inferno* (trans. J. Ciardi)

SacCT:

Every student should be prepared to make use of SacCT, the CSUS online course management system. On SacCT you will find your grades, the course syllabus, announcements, and assigned readings. To log into SacCT, go to the CSUS website and take the WebCT/SacCT link to the login page.

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 papers, quizzes, and readings responses and according to the following scheme:

A	93-100% of the possible points for the course	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	78-79%	F	59% and below

Participation may be a factor in the determination of your course grade. Attending class regularly, making constructive contributions to class discussions, and being prepared to answer questions about assigned readings are important and can raise your grade by one-half (e.g., from a B to a B+). Conversely, irregular attendance, evidence of unfamiliarity with assigned readings, disruptive behavior (talking out of turn, ringing cell phone, text messaging, etc.) may lower your course grade by one-half.

There are no make-up quizzes or readings responses. However, you can miss one quiz and one readings response without penalty since only your three best quiz and readings 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, whether to maintain your perfect 4.0 GPA, keep your financial aid, stay off academic probation, etc.

Grading Criteria for 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 his/her subject.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, PAPERS, AND QUIZZES:

Reading assignments in Sayre include the material in the “Readings” sections at the end of each chapter.

- February 17: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on Homer, *Odyssey*

 QUIZ (50 points) on lectures; Sayre, chapter 5; Homer, *Odyssey*.
- March 3: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*.
- March 19: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Sayre, chapters 6 and 7; Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*

 PAPER #1 (100 points) due in class.
- April 14: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Sayre, chapters 8 and 9
- April 23: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on J. Bédier, *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*.
- April 30: READING RESPONSE (20 points) on Dante, *Inferno* (cantos 1-10, 33-34) and *Paradiso* (canto 33; posted on SacCT).
- May 14: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Sayre, chapters 12-14; J. Bédier, *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*; Dante, *Inferno* (cantos 1-10, 33-34) and *Paradiso* (canto 33, posted on SacCT).
- May 19: PAPER #2 (100 points) due by 4:00 p.m. in my office (do not take papers to the department office).

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/umannual/UMA00150.htm.

No electronic devices are to be used in class. This includes laptop computers.

In fairness to others, students who leave the room during quizzes or readings 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.

OFFICE HOURS:

2024 Mendocino Hall
TR 2-3 and 8:20-8:50
278-5334
nystromb@csus.edu