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.

TEXTS:

Robert C. Lamm, *The Humanities in Western Culture*, vol. 1 (tenth edition)

The Lamm 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. Most quizzes will include questions on material found in the Lamm text.

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

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
Week 9: Survey of Roman History
Week 10: Roman Literature
Week 11: Roman Art and Architecture; Rise of Christianity
Week 12: Feudalism; Medieval Literature
Week 13: Medieval Literature; Architecture
Week 14: Dante
Week 15: Dante

GRADES:

Course grades will be assigned according to the pattern below. Participation may be a factor in the determination of your course grade. You are responsible for attending class and being prepared to answer questions during class discussions of assigned texts. Your performance may raise or lower your grade by one-half (e.g., from a B to a B+ or B-.

There are no make-up quizzes. However, you can miss one quiz without penalty since only your three best quiz scores will be considered in the calculation of your 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.

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

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, PAPERS, AND QUIZZES

February 19: QUIZ (50 points) on lectures; Lamm, chapter 3; Homer, *Odyssey*.

March 12: Complete your reading of Sophocles’ *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone* by this date and be prepared for class discussion of these texts.
March 21: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Lamm, chapter 4 (pp. 65-78), chapter 5 (pp. 89-100), chapter 6 (pp. 153-160), chapter 7 (pp. 189-230); Pericles’ Memorial Oration (Lamm, pp. 116-117); Plato’s Allegory of the Cave (from Plato, Republic, Book 7, in Lamm, pp. 179-180); Sophocles, Oedipus Rex and Antigone.

PAPER #1 (100 points) due in class.

April 16: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Lamm, chapter 8 (pp. 233-249), chapter 9 (283-300), chapter 10 (pp. 303-315), chapter 11 (pp. 317-334); the epigrams of Catullus (Lamm, pp. 264-265); the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius (Lamm, pp. 275-276).

April 25: Complete your reading of J. Bédier, The Romance of Tristan and Iseult by this date and be prepared for class discussion of this text.

May 2: Complete your reading of the assigned material in Dante’s Inferno and Paradiso by this date and be prepared for class discussion of these texts.

May 25: QUIZ (50 points) on all lectures since the last quiz; Lamm, chapter 12 (pp. 337-351), chapter 13 (pp. 375—386), chapter 14 (pp. 417-441), chapter 15 (pp. 443-450); J. Bédier, The Romance of Tristan and Iseult; “The Art of Courtly Love” (Lamm, pp. 399-401); Dante, Inferno (cantos 1-10, 33-34) and Paradiso (canto 33, in Lamm, at end of chapter 13).

May 25: PAPER #2 (100 points) due.

OFFICE HOURS:

2024 Mendocino Hall
MW 11:00-12:00, 8:20-8:50 p.m.
278-5334
nystromb@csus.edu