California State University Sacramento  
Humanities and Religious Studies  
HRS 10: Arts and Ideas of the West, I – G.E. Area C3  
Spring 2011

Professor Judy Thoma  
Section 1- M/W 1:30-2:45  
MNDO 4004

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Office: MNDO 2026  
Office Hours: T 4:30-5:30 pm; M 3:00-4:00 pm  
and by appt.

+ I rarely answer my phone.  ^ see +

Course Description:
This course is designed as an 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.

Required Texts:
The Humanities - Culture, Continuity and Change, Books 1 and 2, by Henry Sayre.  
The Odyssey, by Homer, translated by Stanley Lombardo.  
The Romance of Tristan and Iseult, edited by J. Bédier.  
The Inferno by Dante Alighieri, translation by J. Ciardi.

Course Objectives:
Our primary objectives will be to develop understanding and appreciation of the ideals and values that inspired and informed each of these cultures. This includes a broad examination of how these cultural ideals were expressed through visual art, architecture, literature, religion and philosophy. Successful students will be able to identify predominant themes found in ancient and medieval Western cultures and recognize how such ideas were reinterpreted to convey enduring cultural values as well as change.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Careful and thoughtful reading and writing are fundamental aspects of this course, therefore, it is essential to complete all reading assignments and be attentive to lecture materials and presentations. (Take notes!) Attendance is required as per departmental attendance policy—grade reductions (and loss of educational experience!) will result from excessive absences.

Respectful participation in class discussions is encouraged and may affect your overall grade favorably.* Disrespectful conduct, including, but not limited to, cell phones ringing, texting, chatting, coming in late, leaving early, playing on your computer, disruptive behavior, etc..., will affect your participation grade unfavorably. If you have special needs or extreme circumstances requiring you to miss class, come late, etc..., please discuss these needs with me as soon as possible.

*IMPORTANT ! If you are a student who experiences anxiety simply at the thought of speaking up in class, please see me or email me for helpful strategies and tips for reducing stress and improving your learning experience. I consider all students equally important to the classroom dynamic.
Course grades are determined by the following:

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<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>20% - Attendance and Participation‡</td>
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<td>30% - Quizzes (4-lowest grade dropped) **</td>
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<tr>
<td>25% - In-class writing assignment(s)/optional paper**•</td>
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<td>25% - Final** - short essay and multiple choice</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>300-277 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>A‐</td>
<td>276-268 points</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>267-261 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>260-246 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>B‐</td>
<td>245-237 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>236-230 points</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>229-216 points</td>
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<td>C‐</td>
<td>215-206 points</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>205-199 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>198-186 points. We need to talk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D‐</td>
<td>185-175 points. You should have come to see me long before it got to this point.</td>
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<td>!</td>
<td>Yikes.</td>
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‡ The attendance and participation grade will include points accumulated by good attendance (15 pts), class discussion (15 pts), regular “journaling” (15 pts) and some miscellaneous “TBA” opportunities (15 pts).

** All tests and writing assignments must be taken at the scheduled times. Students may not leave and return to the classroom during quizzes, writing assignments or the final. Take care of any necessary tasks before or after the class session. For the (4) quizzes you will need Scantron form 882-E, for the (2) writing assignments, plain notebook paper is fine—a bluebook is okay but not necessary. For the final you will need Scantron 886-E.

• You will have either two in-class writing assignments, or one in-class writing assignment and a paper—the choice will be yours. The first assignment will be worth 30 points and the second assignment will be worth 45 points giving you a potential 75 points for this portion of your grade. The in-class writing assignments will be graded on a simple rubric (0-1- minimal or no effort, unfamiliar with the topic, 2- some basic ideas, 3-very good development in discussion of assigned topics and good use of information gained through the lectures and readings and 4-excellent application of knowledge and analysis of material including good creative interpretation.) Good writing skills will be important in presenting your ideas well, but emphasis will be on thinking rather than mechanics of writing. These assignments are not tests, but exercises in analysis of information and creative application of your knowledge. No additional preparation beyond completing assigned readings and attentive presence in class should be necessary to do well on the writings.

More detailed instructions and guidelines will be given at the time of assignments.

The in-class writing assignment point conversion for the purposes of calculating your writing assignment grades will be as follows:

First writing assignment: 4 = 30 grade points; 3 = 25 grade points; 2 = 22 grade points; 1 = 15 grade points.

Second writing assignment: 4 = 45 grade points; 3 = 38 grade points; 2 = 32 grade points; 1 = 22 grade points.

Paper option: If you prefer, you may choose to substitute a traditional paper for the second in-class writing assignment. The paper will be MLA format, 3-4 pages in length and due before or on the date of the second writing assignment. The topic will be given to you upon request two weeks before the due date. You must turn in a hard copy-no email copies will be accepted for credit. I do check for plagiarism. Papers with plagiarized content, or papers obviously copied from others will be given zero points. The paper will be graded on a point scale: x/45.
Adjustments may be made to this syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be given reasonable notice prior to any such changes.

Course Calendar

All reading assignments are to be completed before the class week for which they are listed.

Week 1 – JAN 24, 26
- An introduction to the Humanities-why are they important to Western culture?
  Read: Sayre Book 1 pp 1-33.

Week 2 – JAN 31, FEB 2
- Early civilizations of the Western world.
  - The Minoans and the Mycenaeans; introduction to the Odyssey-Homer and the epic genre.

Quiz # 1 – Wed Feb 9

Week 3 – FEB 7, 9
- The world of Odysseus; Classical Greek culture; values and ideas. Temptations and our hero in the underworld, "Exquisite the goddess as she stood near me...Now, being a man, I could not help consenting."
  Read: Sayre Book 1 pp 73-105 and The Odyssey, books 6-11

Week 4 – FEB 14, 16
- Greek art and architecture, Archaic and Classical; Classical mythology; Odysseus the hero returns...Home sweet Homer.
  Read: Sayre Book 1 pp 133-150 and The Odyssey, books 12-17.

Week 5 – FEB 21, 23
- Continue discussion of the Odyssey: How are Greek ideals and moral warnings personified in the peripheral characters? (i.e. Telemachos, the suitors.) Who is more representative of Greek values, Odysseus or Penelope? How are ideals translated through gender?
  Read: The Odyssey, books 18-24.

Quiz # 2 – Wed Mar 16

Week 7 – MAR 7, 9
- The tragic hero/heroine: How do characters like Oedipus and Antigone provide insight into the Greek mind and Greek culture?
  Read: Sayre Book 1 pp 159-185.

Week 8 – MAR 14, 16
- Greek philosophy; Alexander the Great and Hellenistic culture.
  Read: Sayre Book 1 pp 187-231
### Week 9 - MAR 21, 23  
**SPRING BREAK! HAVE FUN! BE SAFE!**

### Week 10 – MAR 28, 30
- The Roman legacy: Blood, guts and concrete-war, politics, religion and innovation; Roman art and architecture. What made the Roman phenomenon unique?  
Read: Sayre Book 1 pp 233-271

### Week 11 – APR 4, 6
- The Rise of Christianity: from persecution to power; the fall of Rome;  
Read: Sayre Book 2 pp 272-303, 308-311; begin reading *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*.  
Topic for paper assignment given to those who choose this option over the 2nd writing assignment.

**Quiz # 3– Wed Apr 6**

### Week 12 – APR 11, 13
- The Byzantine Empire, introduction to early medieval culture; Charlemagne.  
- Feudalism, chivalry, courtly love, veneration of saints and of women  
  (…there's "something about Mary.")  
Read: Sayre Book 2 pp 313-335 and *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*

### Week 13 – APR 18, 21
- Medieval art and architecture; the Gothic style: mystic light; Hildegard of Bingen.  
Read: Sayre Book 2 pp 371-403 and *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*  

**Writing Assignment # 2 - Wed Apr 21**

### Week 14 – APR 25, 27
- The High Middle Ages: Christendom and romance; introducing Dante and the Divine Comedy.  
Read: Sayre Book 2 pp 405-431 and *The Inferno*, cantos 1-5

### Week 15 – MAY 2, 4
- Dante’s world: philosophy, theology and the rise of the universities.  
Read: Sayre Book 2 pp 433-457 and *The Inferno*, cantos 6-16

**Quiz # 4– Mon May 2**

### Week 16 - MAY 9, 11
- Dante continues: the Inferno and Paradiso; Dante’s use of symbolism and the approaching period of transition.  
Read: Sayre Book 2 pp 459-495 and *The Inferno*, cantos 17-34

### Week 17 – MAY 16
**FINAL EXAM : MONDAY -- MAY 16 -- 12:45-2:45**

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**