

ILS 203: Western Culture: Literature and the Arts

Fall Semester 2016
TR 11:00-11:50
CHEM 1361

Professor William Aylward
Department of Classics & Ancient Near Eastern Studies
Van Hise 968
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Office Hours: Thursday 1-2 pm, or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
Molly Harris (Van Hise 912)
Ximing Lu (Van Hise 948)

Overview of Content: This course examines Western art and literature from the earliest human civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt to the Middle Ages of Europe, with substantial emphasis on classical antiquity. The syllabus is diachronic with a view toward revealing how the art and literature of western culture have shaped the world cultures of today. Students gain foundational knowledge of the Western intellectual tradition, and this includes acquiring critical skills for viewing art and reading literature. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking and discussion skills. Grading is based on periodic exams, as well as attendance, participation, and work in discussions sessions.

Textbooks (find these books in a package at the University Bookstore)
Cultures of the West: A History ISBN: 978-0-19-538890-9
The Iliad (translated by Barry B. Powell) ISBN: 0199925860
The Odyssey (translated by Barry B. Powell) ISBN: 978-0-19-992588-9
The Aeneid (translated by Barry B. Powell) ISBN: 9780190204952

Other required readings may be distributed by email during the semester.

Attendance

Your attendance at every class is expected. All meetings will involve the dissemination of material required for assignments and exams. If you choose to skip class, you will miss this information and your performance on assignments and exams will likely diminish. Plan your semester carefully. If you do not want to attend class, this course is probably not for you. Requests for relief will be considered only if submitted in writing and in advance.

Important note about email

The following UW-Madison registrar guidelines for email are required for this course:
http://registrar.wisc.edu/email_address_requirements_student.htm

Assignments and Exams

All readings are to be completed for the week or class day on which they appear in the Course Calendar. There will be three exams. Exams will be based on material covered in the assigned readings and in lecture and section meetings. Examinations cannot be made up without the special permission of the professor, which must be requested at least 48 hours before exam time.

Grading

First Midterm Exam: 25%
Second Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 25%
Attendance, Participation, Assignments in Section: 25%

Grading Scale

A 92-100%; AB 88-91.9%; B 82-87.9%; BC 78-81.9%; C 72-77.9%; D 62-71.9%

Classroom Etiquette

Use of electronic voice, texting, audio, video, or recording devices during class or exams is not allowed. Laptop computers may only be used to record class notes or view the electronic course syllabus or assigned readings. These guidelines pertain to all class meetings (lecture and sections). Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in disciplinary action and/or a lower grade.

Other Important Material

For assistance outside of class, students are encouraged to visit office hours or to take advantage of campus tutoring services. Students who do not intend to complete the course should drop as soon as possible to make room for others. Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in this course should contact me as early as possible. All information will remain confidential. You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center regarding questions about campus policies/services. McBurney students, or students taking this course for audit, honors, or graduate credit must identify themselves to the professor in the first week of class. Academic dishonesty will be addressed in accordance with the UW-Madison Student Conduct and Disciplinary Rules: <http://students.wisc.edu/doso/acadintegrity.html>. This Syllabus is subject to modification at any time. All changes will be announced in class or via e-mail. Students are responsible for attending class and checking e-mail to obtain this information.

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Your Agreement

By enrolling in this course you agree to the terms of this syllabus.

Calendar: ILS203

All readings for lecture are in BACKMAN = *Cultures of the West* (textbook)

WEEK 1

09/06: INTRODUCTION

09/08: *Iliad*, Introduction (*pages 1-39*)

Section Reading: *Iliad*, *Book 1-6*

WEEK 2

09/13: *Iliad*, Introduction (*pages 1-39*) continued...

09/15: BACKMAN Chapter 1

Section Reading: *Iliad*, *Books 7-12*

WEEK 3

09/20: BACKMAN Chapter 1

09/22: BACKMAN Chapter 2

Section Reading: *Iliad*, *Books 13-18*

WEEK 4

09/27: BACKMAN Chapter 2

09/29: BACKMAN Chapter 2

Section Reading: *Iliad*, *Books 19-24*

WEEK 5

10/04: **FIRST MIDTERM EXAM**

10/06: BACKMAN Chapter 3

Section Reading: *Odyssey, Books 1-6*

WEEK 6

10/11: BACKMAN Chapter 3

10/13: BACKMAN Chapter 3

Section Reading: *Odyssey, Books 7-12*

WEEK 7

10/18: BACKMAN Chapter 4

10/20: BACKMAN Chapter 4

Section Reading: *Odyssey, Books 13-18*

WEEK 8

10/25: BACKMAN Chapter 4

10/27: BACKMAN Chapter 4

Section Reading: *Odyssey, Books 19-24*

WEEK 9

11/01: **Second Midterm Exam**

11/03: *Aeneid*, Introduction (pages xi-xlv)

Section Reading: *Aeneid*, Books 1-2

WEEK 10

11/08: BACKMAN Chapter 5

11/10: BACKMAN Chapter 5

Section Reading: *Aeneid*, Books 3-4

WEEK 11

11/15: BACKMAN Chapter 5

11/17: BACKMAN Chapter 5

Section Reading: *Aeneid*, Books 5-6

WEEK 12

11/22: BACKMAN Chapter 6

11/24: NO CLASS

Section Reading: continue reading *Aeneid* (no section meetings this week)

WEEK 13

11/29: BACKMAN Chapter 6

12/01: BACKMAN Chapter 6

Section Reading: *Aeneid*, Books 7-8

WEEK 14

12/06: BACKMAN Chapter 6

12/08: BACKMAN Chapter 7

Section Reading: *Aeneid*, Books 9-10

WEEK 15

12/13: BACKMAN Chapter 7

12/15: BACKMAN Chapter 7

Section Reading: *Aeneid* Books 11-12

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2:45-4:45 p.m.