

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Integrated Liberal Studies 205

Western Culture: Political, Economic, and Social Thought I

Fall 2016

Instructor: R. Avramenko
Office: 201e North Hall
Office Hours: M 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Course: ILS 205
Location: Bascom Hall 272
Time: MW 9:55-10:45

TAs: Michael Promisel (promisel@wisc.edu), David Hollander (dhollander2@wisc.edu)

Objective:

The objective of this course is two-fold. First, it introduces students to the roots of Western political, economic, and social thought. Through a careful reading of canonical texts, the foundational symbols and concepts of Western thought will come to light. The second objective is to learn how these symbols and concepts can be brought to bear on contemporary problems and how they can inform questions about our own political and personal order. What part, for instance, does honor play in our world? What does a good citizen look like? What is the role of reason? What is the place of violence? What does justice look like? Students are encouraged to keep both these objectives in mind for both discussion sections and their written work.

Required Texts:

Aristophanes. *Frogs. Assemblywomen. Wealth*, transl. Jeffrey Henderson (Loeb, 2002). ISBN 0674995961.

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, transl. W.D. Ross (Oxford University Press, 1989).

God. Bible. Any edition.

Homer. *The Essential Iliad*, transl. Stanley Lombardo (Hackett, 2000). ISBN 0-87220-542-8.

Herodotus. *The Histories*, transl. de Selincourt (Penguin Classics, 1996). ISBN 0-140-44908-6

Plato. *The Republic*, transl. Sterling and Scott (Norton, 1985). ISBN 0-393-31467-7.

Plato. *Four Texts on Socrates*, transl. West and West (Cornell University Press, 1984). ISBN 0-8014-9282-3.

Recommended Texts:

Avramenko, Richard. *Courage: the Politics of Life and Limb* (University of Notre Dame Press: 2012)

Schall, James V. *Another Sort of Learning* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1988) ISBN 0-89870-183-X

Students are **required** to purchase these translations of the required readings. This is a text-based course and full participation requires that we navigate and explore the text together—that we be on the same page, so to speak. Students must bring the text under consideration both to class and sections. Texts not listed here for purchase will be shared in .pdf format.

Requirements:

Section Participation:	10%	Second Midterm:	20%
First Midterm:	20%	Final Exam:	20%
Midterm Paper:	30%		

Itinerary:

I. Honor and Warrior Citizenship

September 7: Introduction

September 12: The Ancient World and Homer (*Iliad*, Books 1-12)

September 14: Honor and Manly Courage in Homer (*Iliad*, Books 13-24)

September 19: Herodotus and the Spartan 300 (*Histories*, Book vi, sections 94-121; vii, 1-200)

September 21: Cowardice and Dishonor (*Histories*, Book vii, 201-239; viii, 83-96; ix, 28-90)

September 26: Shame and the Civic Good of Courage (Read: Suzanne Mettler “Bringing the State Back Into Civic Engagement: Policy Feedback Effects of the G.I. Bill for World War II Veterans” available on JSTOR through UW Library); William James, “The Moral Equivalent of War” (I will circulate a pdf)

II. Justice and Discursive Citizenship

September 28: Introduction to Socrates, Plato, the Peloponnesian War, and Athenian Empire
(Read: “Melian Dialogue” (pdf))

October 3: **First Midterm (bluebook)**

October 5: Plato, *The Apology* (17a-28b)

October 10: Plato, *The Apology* (28b-42a)

October 12: Plato, *Crito* (all)

October 17: Plato, *Crito* (all)

October 19: Aristophanes, *The Frogs* (all)

October 24: Aristophanes, *The Assemblywomen* (all)

October 26: Plato, *The Republic*, Book I, II

October 31: Plato, *The Republic*, Book III, IV

November 2: Plato, *The Republic*, Book V

November 7: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VI (**midterm paper due 4-6pp**)

November 9: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VII

November 14: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VIII
November 16: Plato, *The Republic*, Book IX, X

November 21: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book I, 1-4, 7-9, 13; Book II, 1, 5, 6; Book III, 1,2
5, 6-12; Book IV, 1-9, Book V, 1-4) (Lecture by Michael Promisel)
November 23: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book VI, 1-8), Book VIII,1-6 Aristotle,
Nicomachean Ethics (Book VI, 1-8), Book VIII,1-6 (Lecture by Promisel)

III. Faith and Universal Citizenship

November: 28: **Second Midterm (blue book)**

November 30: Bible—Genesis, chapters 1-3 (creation and fall), 4 (Cain and Abel + the foundation of civil society/government), 6-9 (Noah, the deluge/judgment, and reestablishment of society), 11:1-9 (Tower of Babel, confusion of languages, scattering of humanity), 17 (Covenant with Abraham).

Exodus 3:1-17 (calling of Moses); 19:1-6, 20:1-20 (Ten Commandments).

Deuteronomy 29:1-13, 31:1-29 (affirmation of covenant, entry into "Promised Land").

Isaiah 9:1-7 (the messiah as "mighty God," the "government shall be upon his shoulders,"), 52:13-15; 53 (suffering servant Messiah), Luke [21:5-36 (the "apocalyptic discourse"), 22-24 (the Passion narrative: Last Supper, Betrayal, Trial, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension)

Revelation 19:11-21; 20-21; 22:1-17 (second coming of the Christ, Armageddon, New Jerusalem, the eschaton)

December 5: Augustine and the Philosophy of History (pdf from *City of God*)

December 7: Augustine, *Enchiridion* (pdf selections); St. Thomas Aquinas (pdf)

December 12: Augustine, Augustine, *Enchiridion* (pdf selections) (Lecture by Bri Walsh)

December 14: Wrap up

December 19 (Monday): **Final Exam, 12:25 – 2:25pm**

Course Rules:

Laptops: Laptops are permitted. Internet is not. If you use a laptop, you must disable your WiFi connection.

Exams. The exam days are set. Clear your schedule now. There will be no second sittings and no make up exams. If you are seriously sick or critically injured and miss an exam, you need to provide evidence (cast, severed limb, sputum sample, etc.) to your TA. If, and only if, an exam is missed for a valid reason (catching a flight to the family cabin in Aspen, didn't feel ready, too hung over, need to leave early for vacation, & etc., are not valid reasons for missing an exam, except for me), your TA will give you a substitute assignment. **This will be an essay of 10 pages based on the material covered in the exam and will be due two days after the date of the missed exam.** If the exam is missed for an invalid reason, you will receive an F for the exam.

McBurney Students: You must present your McBurney Visa to your TA in the first week of the class. Your exams will be the same as the regular exams, with reasonable accommodations allowed. Please discuss the specifics of your accommodation with your TA.

Paper. Topics will be shared one week to ten days before the due date. The paper is due in class, before the lecture begins, on Monday, November 7th. Papers not received before the lecture begins are **LATE**. Late papers will be penalized one half letter grade per 24 hour period. Thus, if you are 1 minute late, or 24h, it costs you one half letter grade (A/B becomes B, for example). 24 hours and 1 minute late costs you a full letter (A/B becomes B/C) and so on.

Grades. Upon return of exams and papers, TA's will not discuss your grade for at least 48 hours. If, after two days, you would like to discuss your grade, you must schedule an appointment with your TA. You must provide a written memo detailing how and why you think your grade ought to be different than assigned. Your TA will evaluate your memo, reread the paper/exam and determine whether the grade was accurate. There are no further appeals.

Honor Code. This course demands adherence to a certain code of honor. As such, I will construe all cheating in this class as a personal insult. Since it is no longer acceptable to get satisfaction in a duel, I will recur to a less-than-honorable action: I'll tell on you and fail you. In short, plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize or cheat, you will receive an F for the course and the case will be referred to the Dean's Office, where it will go on your permanent record. There are no exceptions. I'm ruthless on this matter.