

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Integrated Liberal Studies 205

Western Culture: Political, Economic, and Social Thought I

Fall 2021 (3 credits)

Instructor: R. Avramenko
Office: 203 Meiklejohn House
Office Hours: MW 11:00am-12:00pm & by appointment

Course: ILS 205
Location: Nolan 168
Time: MW 9:55-10:45

TA: Emely Thompson (erdickens@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 books, 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 spiritual 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. Susan Collins (University of Chicago Press, 2012). ISBN 978-0226026756

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: 2011)

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 book together—that we be

on the same page, so to speak. Students must bring the book under consideration both to lecture and discussion sections. Readings 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 8: Introduction

September 13: The Ancient World and Homer (*Iliad*, Books 1-12)

September 15: Honor and Manly Courage in Homer (*Iliad*, Books 13-24)

[Movie recommendation: Troy (the one with Brad Pitt)]

September 20: Herodotus and the Spartan 300 (*Histories*, Book vi, sections 94-121; vii, 1-200)

September 22: Cowardice and Dishonor (*Histories*, Book vii, 201-239; viii, 83-96; ix, 28-90)

[Movie recommendation: 300 (the Frank Miller one)]

September 27: 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 29: Introduction to Socrates, Plato, the Peloponnesian War, and Athenian Empire
(Read: “Melian Dialogue” (pdf))

October 4: Plato, *The Apology* (17a-28b)

October 6: Plato, *The Apology* (28b-42a)

October 11: First Midterm (bluebook)

October 13: Plato, *Crito* (all)

October 18: Aristophanes, *The Frogs* (all)

October 20: Aristophanes, *The Assemblywomen* (all)

October 25: Plato, *The Republic*, Book I

October 27: Plato, *The Republic*, Book II

November 1: Plato, *The Republic*, Book III, IV

November 3: Plato, *The Republic*, Book V

November 8: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VI

November 10: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VII

November 15: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VIII (**midterm paper due, 1500 words**)

November 17: Plato, *The Republic*, Book IX

November 22: 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)

November 24: Open discussion

November 25: Thanksgiving.

November: 29: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book VI, 1-8; Book VIII, 1-6)

December 1: Second Midterm (blue book)

III. Faith and Universal Citizenship

December 6: Bible—Genesis: 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 8: Augustine and the Philosophy of History (pdf from *City of God*)

December 13: Augustine, *Enchiridion* (.pdf I-XII, XVI-XVIII, XXII-XXIV, XVI, XXX-XVII, XLIII, XLVIII-XLIX, LIII, LXII, LXVII, LXIX-LXXVIII, LXXXI, CVII, CIX, CXIV, CXXI-II)

December 15: Augustine, *Enchiridion*, XLVIII-XLIX, LIII, LXII, LXVII, LXIX-LXXVIII, LXXXI, CVII, CIX, CXIV, CXXI-II)

December 18 (Saturday): Final Exam, 5:05pm – 7:05pm

Course Rules:

Laptops: Laptops are permitted in lecture, but not sections. Internet is not. If you use a laptop in lecture, you must disable your Wi-Fi 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 Canvas, before the lecture begins, on the due date specified above. 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. There are no exceptions. I'm ruthless on this matter.