

UH 201-001, Honors Classics and Western Culture 1
TR 9:30-10:45
Fall 2004

Dr. William A. Ulmer
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Office Hrs. W 10-11:30, & appt.
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PREREQUISITE: membership in the University Honors Programs

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to some of the classic works of western culture in the ancient and medieval periods. Readings include works by Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, Virgil, Dante, and Chaucer. 3 hrs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course students will know some of the characteristic concerns of the Classical tradition; they will also understand the problems that arose when that tradition was "reborn" in the Christian literary culture of Medieval Europe; finally, they will be able to write argumentative essays closely controlled by the evidential needs of a central idea.

COURSE OUTLINE: Note: read the Norton author introduction whenever we begin a new author. This syllabus will vary with the pace of the class; it is the responsibility of the student to keep up with the course.

8/26 Introduction to Homer: Iliad Book 8 (xerox)
8/31 Iliad 1
9/2 Iliad 3 (xerox), 6
9/7 Iliad 9, 16
9/9 Iliad 18, 22
9/14 Iliad 24
9/16 Homer: Odyssey 1-5
9/21 Odyssey 6-8
9/23 Odyssey 9-12
9/28 Odyssey 13-19
9/30 Odyssey 20-24
10/5 Sophocles: Oedipus the King
10/7 Sophocles (continued). **First paper due.**
10/12 Euripides: Alcestis
10/14 Euripides: Medea
10/19 Euripides: Hippolytus
10/21 Virgil: Aeneid Books 1-2
10/26 Aeneid 3-5
10/28 Aeneid 6
11/2 Aeneid 7-12
11/4 Dante: Inferno Cantos 1-5
11/9 Inferno 6-10. **Second paper due**
11/11 Inferno 11-17
11/16 Inferno 18-30
11/18 Inferno 31-34
11/23 Individual conferences
11/30 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
12/2 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (continued)
12/7 Chaucer, General Prologue, Miller's Prologue and Tale, Pardoner's Prologue and Tale
12/9 Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale

ASSIGNMENTS: The work in this course consists of reading quizzes and three class papers. The papers are to be 5-6 pages and should concern the following: paper one: Homer; paper two: Greek Tragedy or Virgil; paper three: a Medieval writer. Suggestions for specific paper topics will be made in due course. Papers are to be non-researched—employing no secondary books, articles, or websites—unless you request and receive a special exception from me. These essays should consequently raise no question of plagiarism. Deadlines for the first two papers are indicated on the course outline above. The due date for the third paper is the date of the Final exam: Monday 12/13, 8:00-10:30. Your exam is your final paper, construed as a take-home exam. Drop your final paper by departmental box in 103 Morgan or e-mail it to me as a word.doc attachment

GRADING: Class attendance is a requirement: 2% subtracted from final course grade for every absence after the third—and there are no excused absences in here. The three major papers in this class will be graded on the basis of form and content; for "content" I will expect to see conversancy with classroom material but also the student's ability to think beyond our class discussions and develop a position on the basis of his or her own interests and insights. Each paper will count 30% of a student's course grade. The reading quizzes count for 10%. Class participation can raise—though it cannot lower—borderline course grades.

MISSED WORK: Reading quizzes missed due to absence will be entered as 0's and everyone's 3 lowest quiz grades dropped at the end of the semester. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and questions, once asked, will not be repeated: so there is a reason beyond simple courtesy for arriving on time. Papers turned in late will not be penalized if the student had a verifiable family or medical emergency; papers late without just cause will be graded down 2 points for every working day (M-F) that they're late.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, 7th edition, vol. 1

Euripides I, ed. Lattimore

Virgil, Aeneid, trans. Fitzgerald

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: You are of course expected to behave appropriately: be on time, treat the material and your respectfully, turn your cell phone off, and so on. You are responsible for all information presented in class, not merely the lectures but announcements about policies, assignment changes, and so on. If you need to see me, please either drop by my office hrs. or schedule an appointment at some mutually convenient time. My e-mail address is on p. 1 of this syllabus; you may also leave messages for me in my departmental box (in Morgan 103), but be advised that I usually cannot return student calls. Grades, once determined, will be available to you on Tideguide.