

HONORS 120: COLLOQUIUM IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION
Fall 2009

<u>INSTRUCTORS</u>			
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M 1:00-2:00pm T 1:00- 3:00pm*	MW 3:30-4:30pm T 1:00-3:00pm	T 9:00-10:30am R 2:30-5:00pm*	M 3:30-4:30pm T 10:00am-12:00pm F 1:30-2:30pm*

*Other office times available by appointment

Required Texts

1. Lynn Hunt, et al., *The Making of the West, a Concise History*, Vol. 1 (2nd Ed., 2007)
2. Sarah Lawall, et al., *Norton Anthology of Western Literature*, Vol. 1 (8th Ed., 2006)
3. *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, Revised Edition (Penguin, 2004)
4. William Shakespeare, *Othello: Texts and Contexts*, Kim Hall, Ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006)
5. Readings on WebCT

Student Health Note – H1N1

With the expected return of the H1N1 flu to South Carolina this fall, you should visit **Student Health Services** if you have flu symptoms and a fever (and don't come to class!). You may return to class 24 hours after the fever has passed.

Course Description

By examining some of the most influential literary, philosophical, scientific and religious texts, together with art and music, from the Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation periods, we will explore the ways that people lived during each of these historical epochs, and the ways they thought about themselves and about their relations with one another, the gods, the state, and the physical world. The Hunt text will provide us with a general background for each period we cover, but most of the other texts consist of primary sources translated into modern English. The main focus of class discussions will be on the primary source readings, as these provide the most direct windows into the periods we will be studying, as well as an opportunity to develop your own skills of critical analysis, synthesis, and communication. Your active (and regular) participation in class discussions is expected. Students are responsible for all material presented in class, including changes in dates of examinations and papers. Students are expected to abide by the College's honor code, and any failure to do so may result in expulsion from the course with a failing grade.

Course Structure:

Lectures and Discussion Sections: During the first class hour each morning, when the entire class convenes together, material will typically be presented in a lecture format, with opportunities for questions and brief discussion throughout. The second hour each day, during which only 20 students will meet together at a time, will be conducted as a discussion -- i.e. students are expected to help sustain the exploration of the assigned material through their own contributions in a more informal setting. Lecture and discussion sections will have distinct reading assignments, usually but not necessarily related.

Films: Over the course of the semester, three films will be shown outside of class. These are optional but recommended and will enable you to answer extra-credit questions on the exams. Times and places of showing will be announced early in the semester. When possible, the DVDs will also be made available for viewing in the Honors Center for a few days afterwards.

Student Group Presentations: Early in the semester you will be assigned (based on your own choices) to one of the Greek plays in the Norton text. As a member of a group of about ten students, you will read this text and devise a 15-20 minute group presentation. The texts will be paired, so that two groups will give presentations during the same class.

Quizzes: There will be roughly a dozen unannounced short quizzes interspersed throughout the course, devoted to the material assigned for the lecture for that day. There will be no make-up quizzes under any circumstances. We will, however, drop the two lowest quiz grades (or missed quizzes) in computing a semester quiz average.

Response Papers: You will be required to write four response papers throughout the semester. One must be handed in during each third of the semester (marked by the exams). These are short (approximately one page, typed and double spaced) papers on one of the readings for a particular day and due at 9am, before the start of the day's lecture. The goal of the response paper is to identify a pertinent issue that is raised by the reading or to ask questions about the reading that you think are worthy of further discussion. Papers will be graded on an A, B, NG scale. If you receive an NG, you must submit another paper. Response papers cannot be rewritten.

Examinations: There will be two (2) two-hour exams during the semester, plus a final exam. Although the individual exams will not be cumulative, some comparative questions will be included. All exams will be primarily essay questions, with matching, definition, or multiple choice questions comprising no more than a fourth of the total grade. A short handout on potential exam topics will be distributed a week in advance of each exam.

Paper: There will be a required analytical essay of approximately 8 pages (double-spaced and typed). This will be mainly an analysis of primary sources, drawing either on assigned readings, additional readings, or a combination of both. Suggested topics will be distributed during the semester. You are encouraged to suggest your own paper topics, but you must consult with one of the instructors about these before writing the paper. Papers are due at the beginning of discussion section on November 11.

Class Attendance and Participation: Active participation is expected. Regular and punctual attendance is required. Irregular attendance will detract from your class participation grade. A class roster may be used for keeping attendance records.

WebCT: The syllabus, all of the lecture outlines, PowerPoint presentations, and WebCT readings are available on the main WebCT site for HONS 120.

Grading:

Your course grade will be computed as follows:

Quizzes	10%		Exam 2	15%
Group Presentation	10%		Paper	20%
Class Participation (Including Response Papers)	15%		Final Exam (Exam 3)	15%
Exam 1	15%			

CALENDAR OF READING ASSIGNMENTS:Abbreviations:

L: Lecture section

D: Discussion section

A&H: The Letters of Abelard and Heloise

HIST: Hunt, *Making of the West*

LIT: Lawall, *Norton Anthology of Western Literature*

Shakespeare: *Othello*

WEBCT: On-line readings

8/26 Wednesday

1L: Introduction: Physical Basis of Civilization: Ancient Near East (JN)

HIST: xxxiv-xxxvi

D: Meaning of Civilization

8/28 Friday

2L: Cosmopolitan Bronze Age (BG)

HIST 2-32

D: *Genesis & Gilgamesh*

LIT: 15-26, 34-46

WEBCT: *Gilgamesh*

8/31 Monday

3L: Homer and the Invention of the Alphabet (DP)

HIST: 33-49

D: *Odyssey*

LIT: 100-106, 206-239, 287-301

9/2 Wednesday

4L: Gender, Space, and Power in Epic (CT)

HIST: 50-65

D: *Odyssey*

LIT: 301-365

9/4 Friday

5L: Competition & Cooperation among Greek City-states(MM)

HIST: 65-73

D: *Odyssey & Sappho*

LIT: 428-501

9/7 Monday

6L: Socrates, Thucydides, & the Sophists (RN)

HIST: 73-89

LIT: 811-816 (Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue")

D: Trial of Socrates (Plato & Xenophon)

LIT: 756-779 (Plato's *Apology*)

WEBCT: Xenophon's *Apology of Socrates*

9/9 Wednesday

7L: Plato & Aristotle on Physics and Cosmology (RN)

HIST: 90-106

WEBCT: Ancient Astronomy Chronology

D: Philosophical Ideas of Plato & Aristotle

WEBCT: Plato on Knowledge, Observation, & Nature
Aristotle on Nature & Science

9/11 Friday

8L: Hellenistic Life, Thought, Religion (CD)

HIST: 106-127

D: **WEBCT:** Stoics & Epicureans

9/14 Monday

9L&D: Student Presentation of Greek Plays

9/16 Wednesday

10L&D: Student Presentations of Greek Plays

9/18 Friday

11L: Captive Greece Captures Rome (DP)

HIST: 128-156

D: *Aeneid*

LIT: 926-974

9/21 Monday

12L: Marriage & Politics in the Roman Republic (MM)

HIST: 156-169

D: *Aeneid*

LIT: 974-995

9/23 Wednesday

13L: How Rome Conquered the World (DP)

HIST: 170-195

D: *Aeneid*

LIT: 95-1023

9/25 Friday

14L&D: **EXAM ONE** (Review, Review, Review)

9/28 Monday

- 15L: Origins of Christianity (CD)
HIST: 195-211
- D: Early Christian Accounts & Reactions
LIT: 1082-1091
 WEBCT: Pliny, Gregory, Gospel of Mary

9/30 Wednesday

- 16L: Neoplatonism & Augustine (MG)
HIST: 222-235
 WEBCT: Plotinus, "On Beauty"
- D: Augustine on Sex & Sin
LIT: 1113-1123 (from Augustine's *Confessions*)
 WEBCT: Augustine, *Confessions*, "Infancy"
City of God, Bk XIV

10/2 Friday

- 17L: Fall of Rome or Birth of Medieval Europe? (JN)
HIST: 212-222 & 235-257
- D: Barbarians at the Gates
 WEBCT: Tacitus

10/5 Monday

- 18L: Muhammad & the Origins of Islam (MG)
HIST: 258-275 & 303-309
- D: *Koran*
LIT: 1148-1168

10/7 Wednesday

- 19L: Ring-givers & Peace-weavers: Honor in Beowulf (CT)
HIST: 275-296
- D: *Beowulf*
LIT: 1174-1247

10/9 Friday

- 20L: New Learning in the "Dark Ages" (MM)
HIST: 309-337
- D: Carolingian Writings
 WEBCT: Dhouda, Einhard, Hrotsvit

10/12-10/13 FALL BREAK**10/14 Wednesday**

- 21L: Feudalism, the Church, and the Crusades (CD)
HIST: 338-369
- D: Christian & Muslim Voices
Song of Roland
LIT: 1247-1260, 1270-1277, 1286-1305
 WEBCT: Usamah Ibn Munqidh, *Book of Reflections*

10/16 Friday

22L: Not in God's Image? Women in Medieval Europe (BG)
 LIT: 1843-1868
 D: Abelard & Heloise
 A&H: 3-43

10/19 Monday

23L: Monastic & Cathedral Schools (JN)
 HIST: 369-383
 D: Abelard & Heloise
 A&H: 47-89 & 211-223

10/21 Wednesday

24L: Temptation and Temperance: Constructions of Desire in Chivalric Romance (CT)
 HIST: 367-369
 D: Marie De France & Chretien's Perceval
 LIT: 1316-1355

10/23 Friday

25L: Meanwhile Back in the East: Byzantium (DP)
 HIST: 245-267, 296-303
 D: Perceval and the Fisher King
 LIT: 1355-1374

10/26 Monday

26L: Scholasticism (RN)
 HIST: 409-413
 WEBCT: Islamic Intellectual Renaissance
 Condemnation of 1277
 Doctrine of Double Truth
 Medieval Critics of the Aristotelian Universe
 D: Aquinas' Proof for the existence of God
 WEBCT: Aquinas' Proofs for the Existence of God

10/28 Wednesday

27L: First European Revolution (JN)
 HIST: 384-411
 D: Dante
 LIT: 1456-1478

10/30 Friday

28L: Courtly Love, Paolo, and Francesca (TBD)
 LIT: 1478-1481
 D: Dante
 LIT 1481-1506

11/2 Monday

29L: Romanesque to Gothic (JN)

HIST: 373-377, 413-423

D: Dante

LIT: 1546-1556 & 1566-1576**11/4 Wednesday**30L&D: **EXAM TWO (Review, Review, Review)****11/6 Friday**

31L: Black Death and the Crises of the 14th Century (MG)

HIST: 424-448

D: Boccaccio & Marguerite de Navarre

LIT: 1598-1630, 2101-2116**11/9 Monday**

32L: Gender, Family, and Society in Renaissance Italy (MM)

HIST: 448-463

D: Boccaccio & Petrarch

LIT: 1634-1641

WEBCT: Petrarch on Boccaccio

11/11 Wednesday

33L: Was there a Renaissance? (JN & DP)

D: Chaucer (**PAPER DUE**)**LIT:** 1696-1732**11/13 Friday**

34L: Alternative Authorities: Medieval Women and Lay Piety (CT)

D: Chaucer and Margery Kempe

LIT: 1732-1756

WEBCT: Margery Kempe

11/16 Monday

35L: What Makes a Renaissance Prince? (BG)

D: Machiavelli & Pico (Two Sides of the Renaissance)

LIT: 1945-1961

WEBCT: Pico

11/18 Wednesday

36L: New Perspective in Renaissance Art (BG)

D: Erasmus & Northern Humanism

LIT: 1919-1945**11/20 Friday**

37L: Printing, Propaganda, & Protestants (CD)

HIST: 472-479

D: Everyman & Luther on Salvation

LIT: 1821-1843WEBCT: Martin Luther: [*On the Bondage of the Will*](#)

11/23 Monday

38L: Spread of the Reformation (Team)

HIST: 479-497

D: (Panel discussion presenting views of Calvinists, Anglicans, Unitarians, Catholics, Anabaptists)
Struggles over Belief
WEBCT

11/25-11/27 - THANKSGIVING BREAK**11/30 Monday**

39L: Race, Ethnicity, and Xenophobia in Early Modern Europe (CT)

D: *Othello*: Acts 1-3

12/2 Wednesday

40L: Post 1492: New Socioeconomic & Intellectual Realities (MG)

HIST: 463-471, 567-577

D: *Othello*: Acts 4 & 5 & pages 171-196

12/4 Friday

41L: Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and the New World Order (RN)

HIST: 498-521

WEBCT: Gilbert Hernandez, "Space Case" (from *Love and Rockets*)
Copernicus, *De Revolutionibus*

D: Galileo, the Church, and the Scientific Revolution

WEBCT: Galileo & the Church

Galileo, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*

12/7 Monday

42L: Witches and Witch-hunting in Early Modern Europe (MM)

D: Montaigne and Cervantes

LIT: 2178-2181, 2190-2199, 2217-2260

*****FINAL EXAMINATION: Friday, December 11, 8:00 a.m.*****