Spring 2012

Western Intellectual Tradition II: Christianity from Antiquity to the Renaissance

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Office Hours: MTWRF 9:00-10:30, and by appointment

Course Description

The second in a four-semester course, this interdisciplinary seminar examines the contributions of Christianity to the Western intellectual tradition. Through the works of Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Machiavelli and others, students will understand how Christianity engaged its Greco-Roman heritage, developed its own distinct traditions, and contributed to the rise of Renaissance humanism.

Course prerequisites: UFWT 101: Western Intellectual Tradition I: The Heritage of Greece and Rome.

Course Objectives

Develop critical reasoning skills through reading significant texts and evaluating different viewpoints; develop the ability to investigate an issue and construct a well-reasoned and coherent viewpoint; learn to communicate ideas and arguments clearly and persuasively through written and spoken means; understand the world through multiple perspectives and different world views; explore religious and moral dimensions of critical issues; appreciate how different disciplines advance understanding of cultures and civilizations and recognize the interconnectedness of the disciplines; become a part of a larger academic community

Course Requirements

Final letter grades for the course will be plus/minus, and will be based on the following:

Reading Quizzes	5%
In Class Participation	25%
Writing Assignment	20%
Two Semester Exams	15% each
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale: 93-100, A; 90-92, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+; 73-76, C; 70-72, C-; 67-69, D+; 63-66, D; 60-62, D-; 0-59, F

Course Policies

Failure to comply with these requirements will adversely affect your course grade.

Attendance and Participation

UFWT 102-01F meets MWF from 11:45 to 12:50 in Brooks 103. This course is based in large part on class discussion and student participation, and those elements are considered when final grades for the course are calculated. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and stay for the entire period. They also are expected to actively participate in all class activities, including careful attention to lectures, videos and other class presentations; engaging in class discussions and small group activities; and completing in-class activities.
Only absences due to illness, emergency or approved University activities, with appropriate documentation, will be considered excused. More than four unexcused absences will result in a final grade of FA for the course.
In the event that your instructor must cancel a particular class meeting on short notice, an email will be sent as quickly as possible to all students at their Samford email addresses.
(Please consult your Samford University Catalog for more information on attendance policies.)

Classroom Etiquette

Your demeanor in the classroom does affect your grade in the course. Our class meetings are not the place for naps, extracurricular reading or drawing, working on assignments for other classes, personal grooming, or personal conversations. **Cell phones and smart phones, MP3 players, and all similar devices are not permitted in this class. They must be turned off and concealed during the entire class period.** The use of a laptop computer in class is allowed only for the purpose of taking notes or completing in class work.
You may be asked to leave the class if: you are sleeping; you are working on or reading material other than what we as a class are considering at that point in time; you engage in behavior that is distracting or offensive to your colleagues; it becomes obvious that you have not done the reading and are not prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day.

Assignments & In-class Activities

Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the course schedule. **Late assignments will be penalized one full letter grade per class period late. No assignment may be submitted by email; all work must be handed in, printed out, in person.** Be sure to keep an extra hard copy of all the work that you submit in this course.
Writing exercises or other activities done in class may be collected on occasion and at random after their completion, and evaluated as part of the final course grade. All students are expected to complete all activities, even though some of the exercises may not be assessed for a formal grade.

* Every effort will be made to return graded assignments in a timely manner. You may expect assignments to be returned one to two weeks after they were submitted.

Make-up Policy

Procrastination will not be accommodated. Students who wait until the "last minute" to begin an assignment, and who because of time constraints or unforeseen events do not complete it, will be penalized for failing to meet the criteria for the assignment.

Class participation activities are not eligible for any kind of make-up exercise. (If the absence is an excused one, you will not be penalized for missing the activity.)

In the case of a missed quiz or exam, a make-up will be given only in the case of an **excused** absence. There are no exceptions to this policy.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that these requirements are satisfied and to make arrangements for the make-up.

Students will not be permitted to reschedule the final exam.

Academic Integrity

"The Faculty Statement on Academic Dishonesty is as follows: students, upon enrollment, enter into voluntary association with Samford University. They must be willing to observe high standards of intellectual integrity; they must respect knowledge and practice academic honesty. Those who cheat on an examination or class assignment are not only academically dishonest, but also completely deficient in the scholarly maturity necessary to college study. Those detected in dishonesty are subject to severe punishment. The more dependence on cheating, the more inevitable becomes ultimate failure, often accompanied by public disgrace. Any act to obtain an unfair academic advantage is considered dishonest."
(Samford University Catalog)

Inclusive Language Statement

"Language - how it is used and what it implies - plays a crucial role in Samford University's mission to 'nurture persons.' Because verbal constructions create realities, inclusive language can uphold or affirm those whom we seek to nurture, while exclusive language can damage or defeat them. We therefore actively seek a discourse in our University community that supports the equal dignity and participation of men and women; we seek to avoid verbal constructions that diminish the equal dignity of all persons. It is an affirmative - and affirming - part of our mission to educate students, staff, and faculty in the creation of a community of equality and respect through language."
(Samford University Catalog)

Students with Disabilities

If you are registered with Disability Support Services and have your accommodation letter, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call 726-2980/4078 or visit DSS located within Career Development, Room 205 of the University Center.

"It is irrelevant how many centuries separate us from a bygone age.
What matters is the importance of the past to our intellectual and spiritual existence."
-- Ernst Curtius
In memory of Heinrich Schliemann, excavator of Troy
Berlin, 1 March 1891

Required Texts

Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind*, Ballantine (1993)
Augustine, *Confessions*, Oxford University Press (1998)
Augustine, *City of God*, Penguin Classics (2003)
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*, Penguin Classics (1999)
The *Qur'an*, Oxford University Press (2005)
Dante, *The Divine Comedy*, New American Library (2003)
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Bedford/St. Martin's (2005)
* *Constantine and the Council of Nicaea*, Reacting to the Past Game Book
* WIT 102 Reader

Projected Course Schedule *

Jan. 30	M	Introduction to the Course
Feb. 1	W	The Beginnings of Christianity **Reading:** New Testament, *The Gospel of Matthew* New Testament, *The Acts of the Apostles*
3	F	The Beginnings of Christianity **Reading:** Celsus, Selection from *On the True Doctrine* Tarnas pp. 73-97
6	M	The Beginnings of Christianity - The Council of Nicaea **Reading:** Reacting to the Past Game Book
8	W	The Beginnings of Christianity - The Council of Nicaea **Reading:** Ehrman, *Lost Christianities*, Introduction, Chs. 3, 5, 6
10	F	The Council of Nicaea - Session 1
13	M	The Council of Nicaea - Session 2
15	W	The Council of Nicaea - Session 3
17	F	The Council of Nicaea - Session 4
20	M	The Council of Nicaea - Session 5
22	W	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Augustine, *Confessions*: Books 1, 2
24	F	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Augustine, *Confessions*: Books 3, 4

Feb. 27	M	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Augustine, *Confessions*: Books 5, 6; Tarnas pp. 98-137
29	W	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Augustine, *Confessions*: Books 7, 8; Tarnas pp. 138-170
Mar. 2	F	Early Medieval Christianity
5	M	** **EXAM 1** **
7	W	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Augustine, *City of God*: Selections TBA
9	F	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading**: Augustine, *City of God*: Selections TBA
12	M	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Augustine, *City of God*: Selections TBA
14	W	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Augustine, *City of God*: Selections TBA;
16	F	Early Medieval Christianity
March 19-23		**Spring Break**
26	M	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading**: Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*: Book 1
28	W	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*: Books 2, 3
30	F	Early Medieval Christianity **Reading:** Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*: Books 4, 5
Apr. 2	M	The Beginnings of Islam
4	W	Islam **Reading:** Selections from the *Qur'an*: TBA
6	F	Islam
9	M	**Easter Holiday - No Class**
11	W	The Transformation of the Medieval Era **Reading**: Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*
13	F	The Transformation of the Medieval Era **Reading:** Tarnas pp. 171-208

Apr. 16	M	** EXAM 2 **
18	W	The Transformation of the Medieval Era **Reading:** Dante, *The Divine Comedy*: Selections TBA
20	F	The Transformation of the Medieval Era **Reading:** Dante, *The Divine Comedy*: Selections TBA
23	M	The Transformation of the Medieval Era **Reading:** Dante, *The Divine Comedy*: Selections TBA
25	W	The Transformation of the Medieval Era **Reading:** Dante, *The Divine Comedy*: Selections TBA
27	F	The Transformation of the Medieval Era **Reading:** Dante, *The Divine Comedy*: Selections TBA
30	M	The Rise of Renaissance Humanism **Reading:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Books I through XI
May 2	W	The Rise of Renaissance Humanism **Reading:** Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Books XII through XXVI
4	F	The High Renaissance **Reading:** Petrarch, *The Ascent of Mount Ventoux* Mirandola, from *The Oration on the Dignity of Man* Tarnas pp. 209-221
7	M	The High Renaissance
9	W	The High Renaissance **Reading**: Vasari, *Michelangelo* from *The Lives of the Artists*
11	F	The High Renaissance
May 16	**W**	**10:30 am-12:30 pm FINAL EXAM**

Other dates to keep in mind:

Feb. 3	F	Last day to add/drop courses without financial penalty
Apr. 25	W	Last day to withdraw from a course or the semester without academic penalty

* Every effort will be made to adhere to the schedule of readings and assignments listed for this course; however, your instructor reserves the right to make any modifications that may become necessary over the course of the semester