

CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION IN THE WEST, PART I

C1101, Sect. 058 Fall 2014 M / W 4:10-6 411 HAM	Justin Clarke-Doane 712b Philosophy Hall Phone: 212-854-3246 jc4345@columbia.edu
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Summary:

This course explores fundamental questions of politics, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology and the philosophy of religion in dialogue with influential works from the Western canon. Questions include: What is a just society? What is the nature of moral obligation? What is the relationship of religion to morality? What is a person? Are people free? How can we know such things?

Requirements:

You must regularly attend class. More than four unexcused absences will automatically result in grade of UW = unofficial withdrawal.

You must complete the assigned readings before the class in which they will be discussed.

You must turn in all of the assignments in order to pass the course.

You must give one 20-30 minute presentation on a reading.

Evaluation:

Class participation will count for 15% of your final grade. This includes one 20-30 minute presentation on a reading.

The midterm and final examination will each count for 15% of your grade.

There are three 5-page papers. Topics will be handed out in advance. The first paper will count for 10% of your grade, the second will count for 20%, and third will count for 25%.

Books:

Plato, *Republic* (Hackett)

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Oxford)

Aristotle, *Politics* (Hackett)

The Holy Bible (Revised Standard Edition)

Augustine, *City of God* (Penguin)

The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an (Amana)

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Hackett)

Machiavelli, *The Discourses* (Penguin)

Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy* (Hackett)

The Protestant Reformation (Harper & Row)

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Oxford)

Locke, *Political Writings*, Wootton, ed. (Hackett)

Schedule:

Note: We will have lunch at the Faculty House, will visit the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and, schedules permitting, will attend an exhibit or performance, on dates yet to be determined.

(precise reading assignments will be announced in class)

<i>Week</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
1	(9/7) [Academic Holiday]	(9/9) <i>Republic</i>
2	(9/14) <i>Republic</i>	(9/16) <i>Republic</i> [first paper topics assigned]
3	(9/21) <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	(9/23) <i>Politics</i>
4	(9/28) <i>Politics</i>	(9/30) <i>Letter to Herodotus / Handbook</i> [download from Core site]
5	(10/5) <i>Hebrew Bible</i>	(10/7) <i>New Testament</i> [FIRST PAPER DUE]
6	(10/12) <i>City of God</i>	(10/14) <i>City of God</i>
7	(10/19) MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED	(10/21) <i>Qur'an</i> [University Midterm Date] [second paper topics distributed]

8	(10/26) <i>Qur'an</i>	(10/28) <i>The Rescuer from Error</i> [download from Core site]
9	(11/2) [Academic Holiday]	(11/4) <i>Prince</i>
10	(11/9) <i>Discourses</i>	(11/11) Reformation [TBD]
11	(11/16) <i>Galileo</i> [SECOND PAPER DUE]	(11/18) New World [TBD] [download from Core site] [third paper topics assigned]
12	(11/23) <i>Discourse on Method</i>	(11/25) <i>Leviathan</i>
13	(11/30) <i>Leviathan</i>	(12/2) <i>Social Treatise</i>
14	(12/7) <i>Social Treatise</i>	(12/9) <i>TBA</i>
15	(12/14) <i>TBA</i>	(12/16) <i>Review</i> [THIRD PAPER DUE]

Honor Code:

Columbia College is dedicated to the highest ideals of integrity in academia. Therefore, in Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization, any instance of academic dishonesty, attempted or actual, will be reported to the faculty chair of the course and to the dean of the Core Curriculum, who will review the case with the expectation that a student guilty of academic dishonesty will receive the grade of "F" in the course and be referred to dean's discipline for further institutional action.