

Contemporary Civilization

Fall 2009

Professor Melissa Schwartzberg

Office hours: Thurs., noon-2, and by appointment

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Course requirements

- Class participation (10%). This requires you to read the texts with great care, considering in advance some questions you might wish to pose in class.
 - Attendance is mandatory; please e-mail me in advance if you will need to miss class.
- Three 8-10-page essays (15% each for 45% of final grade). Questions will be assigned one week in advance, and papers are due *at the beginning of class*.
 - Late papers lose a letter grade per day (and a third of a letter grade if handed in late on the day the paper is due).
- In-class midterm exam (20%), scheduled for Wed., Oct. 28.
- Final exam (25%), scheduled for Friday, Dec. 14, from 12:30 to 3:30.

Class schedule

Wed., Sept. 9: Course introduction

Mon., Sept. 14: Plato, *Republic*, Books I-III

Wed., Sept. 16: Plato, *Republic*, Books IV-VII

Mon., Sept. 21: Plato, *Republic*, Books VII-X

Wed., Sept. 23: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I-II; Book V, 1-7; VI, 5-13.

Mon., Sept. 28: Yom Kippur – Class cancelled

Wed., Sept. 30: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book VIII, 1-13; Book X, 6-9; *Politics*, Book I, 1-7; 12-13.

Mon., Oct. 5: Aristotle, *Politics*, Book II, 1-5; Book III; Book IV, 1-13.

*****Paper #1 distributed*****

Wed., Oct. 7: Hebrew Bible: *Exodus, Isaiah (1-39), Ecclesiastes.*

Mon., Oct. 12: Hellenistic and Roman Thought: Epicurus (on CC Web); Epictetus, *Handbook.*

*****Paper #1 due*****

Tues., Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.: Optional class event: Hamlet on Broadway with Jude Law. Go to www.cuarts.com/artslink and click BUY TICKETS or visit the Ticket and Information Center in the Lerner lobby during regular business hours. \$25.

Wed., Oct. 14: New Testament: *Matthew; Romans; Galatians.*

Mon., Oct. 19: Augustine, *City of God*, Books I; VIII: 4-12; XII; XIV; XIX; XXII: 23-4, 29-30.

Wed., Oct. 21: *Qur'an*, Suras 1, 2, 4, 56, 112, 114

Fri., Oct. 23, 11 a.m.: CC Coursewide Lecture (mandatory): Michelle Moody-Adams, Dean of Columbia College.

Mon., Oct. 26: Medieval rationalism/mysticism: Aquinas, *Selected Writings* (pp. 3-7, 14-29, 30-38, 46-53); Al-Ghazali, *The Rescuer from Error* (selection on CC web).

Wed., Oct. 28: Midterm exam

Mon., Nov. 2: Academic holiday

Wed., Nov. 4: Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Mon., Nov. 9: Machiavelli, *Discourses*, Books 1:1-13, 16-18, 21, 53, 55, 58; II: 1-3, 29; III: 1, 3, 8-9, 31, 41, 43.

*****Paper #2 distributed*****

Wed., Nov. 11: Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*; Galileo, Letter to the Grand Duchess (CC Web).

Mon., Nov. 16: Protestant Reformation (Hillerbrand anthology): Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian Man," and "On Governmental Authority."

*****Paper #2 due*****

Wed., Nov. 18: New World: Vitoria, *On the American Indians*; de las Casas, *Apologetic History of the Indies and Thirty Very Juridical Propositions*; de Sepulveda, *Democratizes Alter; Or, On the Just Causes for War Against the Indians.* (all on CC web)

Mon., Nov. 23: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapters 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19.

Wed., Nov. 25: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapters 21, 26, 29-30.

Mon., Nov. 30: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters I-IX

Wed., Dec. 2: Locke, *Second Treatise*, chapters X-XIX
*****Paper 3 distributed*****

Mon., Dec. 7: Locke, *Letter on Toleration*.

Wed., Dec. 9: Review/catch-up day as necessary.
*****Paper 3 due*****

Mon., Dec. 14: Course conclusion: What comes next?

*****Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 18, 12:30-3:30*****