

Literature Humanities

C1001 Section 27
Fall 2014
TR 9-10:50
302 Hamilton Hall

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Office hours: TR 11-12

What this is

This course offers an unbiased forum for you to delve into (and grapple with) some of the texts that have captured the Western imagination for up to 3000 years—and, in so doing, to forge your own intellectual identity as an educated person living in a Western culture. Our classroom represents an intellectual community in the tradition of Plato's Academy or Aristotle's Lyceum; that is, we will approach learning through *observation* and *discussion*, i.e. through close reading of our assigned texts and thoughtful conversation about them. The success of this approach depends on commitment and participation from every member of the class.

Rules of engagement

Since our class is a community, we need to have some basic rules of engagement in place. Here are the main ones:

- Come to every class—and come awake, alert and prepared, having done the reading and participated in the blog discussion (see "Grading" below).
- Eating and drinking in class is fine. However, please be circumspect (use a cup with a lid, try not to bring foods that are messy, smelly, or hard to eat at a chair-desk).
- Please don't bring laptops or other electronic devices to class. If you carry a phone, please silence it and keep it in your bag. If, however, you have a disability that makes the use of a laptop or other electronics necessary for you, please see me early in the semester to arrange this.
- Come ready to share your ideas, and possibly to be disagreed with—respectfully. Your opinions will carry more weight if you can back them up with a logical argument *and* with concrete evidence (quotations) from the text. This is true in papers and online, as well as in class!
- Be sensitive to group dynamics: an introverted person may sometimes need to force him/herself to speak up, while an extroverted person may sometimes need to hold back and make space for others to speak.
- All work submitted must be your own, and must be produced exclusively for this course. Plagiarism is easier to detect than you may imagine, and carries gruesome penalties. It is also a waste of everyone's time; no one here cares what a random stranger on the Internet thinks about the *Iliad*. We don't care what Famous Scholar X thinks either. We want to know what *you* think.

Grading

The single most important thing you can do is keep up with the reading so that you can participate actively in class. To help you stay motivated, your participation in classroom and online discussions has been weighted at 40% of your final grade; to meet minimum requirements, you should plan on speaking at least once in every class, as well as commenting on the class blog before each class.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Class participation	20%
Blog comments*	20%
Papers (together)†	30%
Midterm exam	10%
Final exam	20%

* Blog comments: Over the course of the semester, you must contribute substantively to at least 20 of the online discussions at the class blog, posted on Courseworks. (This means you should plan on participating before every class, but you can skip up to 6 times without penalty.) Blog entries,

containing background information about the readings and study questions to guide your reading, will be posted on Courseworks at least one day before each class; you contribute to the discussion by posting a comment on the latest blog entry. Your comments should average about 150 words (but write as much or as little as you need to make your point). Your comment might respond directly to the blog entry; or it could be a provocative question or questions, a response to a question or comment posted by another student, a defense or rebuttal of a position taken by another student (remember to be respectful in dissent), or an analysis of a particular passage or moment in the text that seems significant to you. Please read any comments that have been posted by your classmates before adding your own. The deadline for commenting is **7am on the day of class**.

To receive full credit, your comment should be thoughtful, specific, and explicitly linked to a particular passage or passages in the text(s) being discussed; give page numbers where appropriate.

†Papers: You will be asked to write three essays of about 1000 words (4 double-spaced pages) each, on topics I assign. Due dates are given in the schedule below. You do not need to use any outside sources to write these essays (but if you do consult a secondary source, be sure to cite it, preferably in Chicago format: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/1/>). Please submit your essays in .doc, docx, or .rtf format, by email attachment to rjs19@columbia.edu.

Honor Code

This should go without saying, but please remember that you are bound by Columbia's Honor Code: "I affirm that I will not plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, or give or receive illegitimate help on assignments, papers, and examinations. I will also uphold equity and honesty in the evaluation of my work and the work of others. I do so to sustain a community built around this Code of Honor."

Schedule of class discussions and assignments

Sept.	T 2	Introduction to Lit Hum; Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 1-6
	R 4	<i>Iliad</i> , 7-12
	T 9	<i>Iliad</i> , 13-18
	R 11	<i>Iliad</i> , 19-24
	T 16	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 1-6
	R 18	<i>Odyssey</i> , 7-12; topics for first essay distributed
	T 23	<i>Odyssey</i> , 13-18
	R 25	<i>Odyssey</i> , 19-24
	M 29	First 4-page essay due at noon
	T 30	Aeschylus, <i>Oresteia</i> : Agamemnon only
Oct.	R 2	Aeschylus, <i>Oresteia</i> (complete trilogy)
	T 7	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i>
	R 9	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> and <i>Antigone</i>
	T 14	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
	R 16	Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
	T 21	Midterm Exam
	R 23	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i> : Bk 1.1-140 (pp. 3-64); Bk 2.1-5, 2.35-51, 2.112-20 (pp. 95-7, 108-16, 137-41); Bk 7.1-58, 7.100-5 (pp. 404-28, 438-41).

- Oct. T 28 Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*: Bk 1.1-49, 1.139-46 (pp. 35-64, 118-23); Bk 2.34-55 (pp. 143-56); Bk 3.36-50, 3.69-85 (pp. 212-23, 236-45); Bk 5.84-116 (pp. 400-8); Bk 6.8-32 (pp. 414-29).
R 30 Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*; topics for second essay distributed
- Nov. T 4 No class (*Election Day*)
R 6 Plato, *Symposium*, pp. 1-60
- M 10 Second 4-page essay due at noon**
T 11 Plato, *Symposium* (all)
R 13 Genesis, Ch. 1-11
- T 18 Genesis, Ch. 12-50
R 20 No class
- T 25 Job; topics for third essay distributed
R 27 No class (*Thanksgiving*)
- Dec. T 2 Matthew, Ch. 1-4, 27; Luke (all)
R 4 John
- M 8 Third 4-page essay due at noon**
T 9 Optional review session for final exam, 9-11am (room TBA)
Fri 12 FINAL EXAM 12:30-3:30pm (room TBA)

Required books

The following books are available at the Columbia University Bookstore in Lerner Hall; at Book Culture on 112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam (which claims to be cheaper); and in the Reserves department (Room 208) of Butler Library, where they may be borrowed for 2 hours at a time. Please be sure to read in the editions listed:

- Homer, *Iliad* (U. of Chicago, tr. Lattimore)
- Homer, *Odyssey* (Harper, tr. Lattimore)
- Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (in *Aeschylus I*, U. of Chicago, tr. Lattimore)
- Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (in *Sophocles I*, U. of Chicago, tr. Grene & Lattimore)
- Euripides, *Medea* (in *Euripides I*, U. of Chicago, tr. Warner)
- Herodotus, *The Histories* (Oxford, tr. Robin Waterfield)
- Thucydides, *History of Peloponnesian War* (Penguin, tr. Warner)
- Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (Penguin, tr. Sommerstein)
- Plato, *Symposium* (Hackett, tr. Nehamas & Woodruff)
- The Bible: Revised Standard Version (Meridian)

Additional resources

- All students should be aware of the Writing Center in 310 Philosophy Hall, which offers feedback on work in progress: <http://www.college.columbia.edu/core/uwp/writing-center/faq>.
- Students with disabilities that may require accommodation or additional support should register with the Office of Disability Services: <https://health.columbia.edu/disability-services>.
- The Lit Hum website offers an array of resources to help enrich your understanding of our texts and their contexts: <http://www.college.columbia.edu/core/lithum>.
- The Courseworks site for this class will collate additional resources, including copies of essay assignments and this syllabus.