Course Description

This course explores the development of Western culture from the Roman Empire through the late Middle Ages, a time period that roughly covers fourteen centuries of political, social, intellectual, and technological development. We begin in the Mediterranean with the emergence of the Roman Empire, its assimilation of Greek cultural modes, emphasis on civic institutions, and imperial policy. Then we consider the emergence of Christianity within the context of Rome and its maturity into a major world religion. In the second half of the course, we shift our focus north of the Alps to the heartlands of medieval European civilization. Through a close examination of seminal texts, we will consider the most distinctive features of medieval society, including the expansion of Christianity, the development of chivalric ideals, and the construction of cultural boundaries.

Course Objectives

Through close reading of seminal texts from the Western humanistic tradition, students will

- engage key issues relating to the human experience from a variety of perspectives, including but not limited to history, philosophy, religion, literature, and art.
- develop analytical and critical reading skills.
- learn to craft an informed and persuasive written argument.

Required Texts (HARD COPIES)


*Lais of Marie de France*, trans. Burgess & Busby (Penguin) 9780140447590

New Revised Standard Version Bible (American Bible Society) 9781585160303

*The Portable Dante*, trans. Musa (Penguin) 9780142437544
Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements to pass the course.

Section Participation: 15%
Essay #1: 15%
Essay #2: 20%
Essay #3: 25%
Final Exam: 25%

Course Outline:

1
M, Apr. 1: Introduction
W, Apr. 3: Rome 101 & Aeneid, Bk 1–2; Deeds of the Divine Augustus
F, Apr. 5: Aeneid, Bk 3–4

2
M, Apr. 9: Aeneid, Bk 5–6
W, Apr. 10: Aeneid, Bk 7–8
F, Apr. 12: Aeneid, Bk 10 & 12 & late Imperial Rome

3
M, Apr. 15: Gospel of Mark (Guest lecture by Antony Lyon)
   DUE: ESSAY #1
W, Apr. 17: Gospel of John
F, Apr. 19: continue gospels

4
M, Apr. 22: Gospel of Matthew 5–7
W, Apr. 24: Acts 1–17
F, Apr. 26: Galatians

5
M, Apr. 29: 1 Corinthians
W, May 1: Passion or Felicity and Perpetua
F, May 3: Augustine, Confessions, Bk 1–3

6
M, May 6: Augustine, Confessions, Bk 4, 7–8
W, May 8: Medieval Europe 101
   DUE: ESSAY #2
F, May 10: Marie de France, Guigemar, Bisclavret, & Laüstic
M, May 13: Marie de France, *Le Fresne & Lanval*
W, May 15: Raymond of Capua, *Life of Catherine of Sienna* & Thomas of Cantimpré, *Life of Christina the Astonishing* (If links do not work, both texts are on e-reserves.)
F, May 17: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, part 1–2

M, May 20: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, part 3–4

**DUE: ESSAY #3**

M, May 27: No class! Happy Memorial Day!

W, Jun. 5: Dante, *Purgatorio*, cantos 17–18, 26–31
F, Jun. 7: Conclusion

**FINAL: Friday, June 14, 11:30–2:30**

This course complies with the **UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship**
[http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html](http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html).
Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating on an exam, plagiarism (borrowing words or ideas without proper attribution), working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one’s identity for the purpose of enhancing one’s grade. Academic dishonesty of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action.

Students agree that by taking this course all required essays will be subject to text-similarity review on [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted essays will be included as source documents in the turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of essays. Use of the service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on its website.

Accommodations will be provided with written request in accordance with OSD:
[https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/disability-services/](https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/disability-services/)