

Humanities 1: The Foundations of Western Civilization: Israel & Greece

Dr. Kristina Markman | Winter 2020

Course Information

TTh 12:30-1:50pm

WLH 2001

Instructor Information

kmarkman@ucsd.edu

Galbraith Hall 186

OH: T, 2:30–4:30pm or by appointment

Course Website

Canvas



Course Description

This course offers a critical examination of two cultures generally regarded as the “Founders of Western Civilization”—Ancient Israel and Greece. We begin in Archaic Greece and the development of the epic in the West. Then we look at the diverse literary tradition of Ancient Israel that came to be recognized as sacred Scripture (known alternatively as the Tanakh, Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament) and today forms the basis of three world religions. In the second half of the course, we will return to Classical Greece and consider the development of new forms of cultural expression in art, drama, and philosophy. Through a close examination of seminal texts, we will revisit themes including the nature of divinity, the basis of morality, law, and justice, the rise of government and political ideology, the value of knowledge, wisdom, and happiness, and the role of heroes in the construction of cultural identity.

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)

Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, trans. Jeffrey Henderson (Focus) 9780941051026

Euripides, *Medea*, trans. Oliver Taplin (Chicago) 9780226203454

Greek Tragedies Volume I, ed. David Greene and Richmond Lattimore (Chicago, 2013) 9780226035284

The Odyssey, trans. Emily Wilson (Norton) 9780393356250

Plato, *The Symposium*, trans. Christopher Gill (Penguin, 2003) 9780140449273

Tanakh (Jewish Publication Society) 9780827603660

Humanities Program Writing Handbook with Digital Copy, 1 Edition, 9780100729582

Course Requirements: *Students must fulfill all course requirements to pass the course.*

Section Participation: 10%

Ungraded Essay

Essay #1: 15%

Essay #2: 20%

Essay #3: 30%

Final Exam Essay: 25%

Course Outline

Week 1

T, Jan. 7: Introduction

Th, Jan. 9: *Odyssey*, Books 1–8

Week 2

T, Jan. 14: *Odyssey*, Books, 9–19

Th, Jan. 16: *Odyssey*, Books, 20–24

Week 3

T, Jan. 21: Genesis 1–24

DUE: UNGRADED ESSAY

Th, Jan. 23: Genesis 25–50

Week 4

T, Jan. 28: Exodus 1–24 & Jeremiah 31

Th, Jan. 30: 1 Samuel & 2 Samuel 5–7

Week 5

T, Feb. 4: Isaiah 1–6; Jonah

Th, Feb. 6: Amos

Week 6

T, Feb. 11: [Plato, *The Republic*, Book II, 357a–377a](#) (text is available on e-reserve)

DUE: ESSAY #1

Th, Feb. 13: [Plato, *Meno*, 70a–82c, 85a–86a \(p. 47–60, 64–57\)](#) & [Plato, *The Republic*, Book VII, 514a–518c](#)

Week 7

T, Feb. 18: Plato, *Symposium*

Read: 172a–197e (p. 3–32)

Th, Feb. 20: Plato, *Symposium*

Read: 198a–223d (p. 32–64)

Week 8

T, Feb, 25: Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*

DUE: ESSAY #2

Th, Feb, 27: Euripides, *Medea*

Week 9

T, Mar. 3: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*

Watch: "[Sophocles, Oedipus Rex 1957](#)"

Th, Mar. 5: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*, cont'd

Week 10

T, Mar. 10: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

DUE: ESSAY #3

Th, Mar. 12: Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Period

Read: Epicurus, [Letter to Menoecus](#)

FINAL: Tuesday, Mar. 17, 11:30am-2:29pm

This course complies with the **UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship**

<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 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/>