

Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities
HUMA 11500 Section 07
Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:50PM
Cobb 319

Autumn 2004

Syllabus

Instructor: Jay Elliott (jelliott@uchicago.edu)
Instructor's Office Hours: Cobb 514 Tuesday 3:00 - 5:00pm
Writing Intern: Adam Shapiro (adams@uchicago.edu)

Course Description

We do not have complete control over our lives. Our plans can be upset by chance and disaster. We depend upon other people, and they depend on us. We are limited creatures who are often unable to achieve what we want. Ultimately, we all die. Is it possible to be happy in this life? Is this world just? If we're not happy is that unjust? If the world isn't just, can we be? This course examines ancient thought about death, chance, happiness, and justice.

The following books have been ordered at the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore:

Homer, *Iliad*. Richmond Lattimore, tr. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)
Aeschylus, *Oresteia*. Richmond Lattimore, tr. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, etc. David Grene, tr. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)
Plato, *Five Dialogues*. G. M. A. Grube, tr. (Indianapolis: Hackett)
Plato, *Republic*. G. M. A. Grube, tr. C. D. C. Reeve, rev. (Indianapolis: Hackett)
Aristotle, *Basic Works*. Richard McKeon, ed. (New York: Modern Library)
The Bible, Authorized King James Version (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

The following materials are on e-reserve:

Homer, *Odyssey* XI.385-540. Richmond Lattimore, tr. (New York: HarperPerennial)
Augustine, *City of God* XIX.4 (excerpt) Henry Bettenson, tr. (London: Penguin)

Assignments

Your work for this course will consist of three papers. Each paper is to be 5 pages long. Paper topics will be suggested. You are not required to write on one of the suggested topics. However, if you do not choose to write on one of the suggested topics, you must meet with either the instructor or the writing intern and have your topic approved. Furthermore, if you decide to devise your own paper topic, your paper must have the following format: a close reading of a line, a sentence, a few sentences, or at most a paragraph from one of the texts we have discussed in class. **In no case, whether you are writing on an assigned topic or on a topic of your own, may you make use of any texts or materials other than ones we have discussed in class.**

You are welcome to submit your papers by email; please send them both to the instructor and to the writing intern. If you are not submitting your paper by email, then please submit two copies to the instructor's mailbox in Classics 17. Papers are due by 5:00pm on the days indicated on the schedule.

Grading

Each of your papers will be read by both the instructor and the writing intern. Your grade is, however, ultimately the responsibility of the instructor. If you have a question about your grade please speak to him.

Your grade for the course will be determined by your grades on the three papers according to the following formula:

First paper: 30%

Second paper: 30%

Third paper: 40%

You will be given both a number grade and a letter grade for each paper. Only the numerical grade is taken into account in determining your final grade. Numerical grades correspond to letter grades as follows:

A 10.0-9.5

A- 9.4-9.0

B+ 8.9-8.7

B 8.6-8.3

B- 8.2-8.0

C 7.9 or below

Participation both in class and in the writing section is required, but is not graded.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden: the writing and the argument of your paper must be your own. If I suspect that you have violated the University's honor code, I will discuss the matter with you privately and decide based on our conversation whether it needs to be reported to the College authorities. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask either the instructor or the writing intern.

Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 28 & 30)

T Introduction. *Iliad* Book I.1-100: What is the *Iliad* about?

TH *Iliad* I.1-311

III. 121-242

V. 274-469, 711-909

VI.37-65, 369-529

XII.307-328

Week 2 (Oct. 4, 5 & 7)

M Film Screening: *Full Metal Jacket* (Stanley Kubrick, director; 1987)

T *Iliad* IX.1-429

X.202-502

XI.1-162, 218-247, 369-395

XVI.1-100, 692-867

XVIII.354-616

TH *Iliad* XIX.1-144, 384-424

XXII.1-360, 395-515

XXIII.1-611

XXIV.1-119, 322-804

Odyssey XI.385-540

Week 3 (Oct. 12 & 14)

T Aeschylus, *Eumenides*

Focus on: 143-177, 307-397, 470-484, 490-565, 683-706, 848-869

TH Sophocles, *Antigone*

Focus on: 49-68, 332-375, 450-473, 531-567, 604-624, 655-675, 726-758, 781-823, 883-890, 923-924, 951-954, 1034-1059, 1140-1172, 1242-1244, 1270-1276, 1329-1332, 1339-1345

First paper topics distributed

Week 4 (Oct. 19 & 21)

T Plato, *Euthyphro*

Focus on: 3b3-3d2, 4b7-4c4, 5c6-5d5, 5e2-6a5, 7b6-7d5, 10b7-12a1, 12e5-15c11

TH Plato, *Apology of Socrates*

Focus on: 17a1-18a5, 19d5-23b9, 24c3-26a8, 28b3-33b7, 34b6-35d9, 36b5-38a7, 38d3-42a4

Week 5 (Oct. 26 & 28)

M First paper due 5:00PM

T Plato, *Crito*

Focus on: 43c4-44d8, 45c5-45d7, 46b1-51c6, 54b2-54e2

TH Plato, *Republic* I

Focus on: 328c5-335e6, 338c1-344c7, 345e6-347e2, 349b1-350c1, 351a7-354a10

Week 6 (Nov. 1, 2 & 4)

M Film Screening: *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (John Ford, director; 1962)

T Plato, *Republic* II

Focus on: 357a1-360d9, 362e2-366d7, 368c6-374e3, 376d9-383c7

Plato, *Republic* III 386a1-392a1

TH Plato, *Republic* VII

Focus on: 514a1-521b11, 527d1-530c3, 531d1-535a1, 537d6-539d2,

Second paper topics distributed

Week 7 (Nov. 9 & 11)

T Aristotle, *Poetics* 1-4, 6-9, 13-15, 17, 25-26

Focus on: 1448a1-1448b25, 1449b24-1452a11, 1452b29-1454b14, 1455a22-1455b24, 1460b8-1461a9, 1461b9-1462b16

TH Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I

Focus on: 1094a1-1094b28, 1095a13-1095b6, 1095b14-1096a2, 1096a11-1098a19, 1098b30-1100a31, 1100b22-1101b7, 1102a5-1103a10

Nicomachean Ethics X.6-8

Week 8 (Nov. 16 & 18)

M Second paper due 5:00PM

T Aristotle, *Physics* II.1-8

Focus on: 192b8-192b32, 193a9-193b18, 194a12-194a33, 194b16-195a26, 195b31-196a18, 196b10-197b13, 198a5-198a32, 198b18-199b7, 199b27-33

TH Aristotle, *Metaphysics* XII

Focus on: 1069a18-1069b28, 1071b4-1071b22, 1072a21-1072b29, 1074b1-1075a4

Third paper topics distributed

Week 9 (Nov. 23)

T Gospel According to Matthew

Focus on: 1; 4.1-11; 4.23-7.29; 9.9-17; 10-11; 18-19; 22.15-21; 24; 25.31-28.20

Gospel According to John 15.9-27

TH Thanksgiving

Week 10 (Nov. 30)

T Paul, Letter to the Romans

Focus on: 1.13-3.31; 5-8; 9.14-24; 11.13-25; 12.1-15.7

Augustine, *City of God* XIX.4 (excerpt)

TH Reading Period

Week 11

W Third paper due Dec. 8 5:00PM