

Great Texts in the Humanities I

Humanities 201

Section: D100

Term: 1998 Fall

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Discussion Topics: "Nothing matters to us more than our lives;

yet nothing is managed more poorly"

....La Bruyere [1626-1696]

The ever alert student of life processes on this planet will quickly note that many different answers have been given to why and how this could possibly happen to the noble sentient life form we allegedly are. She will then take grim relief from the fact that given the dastard deficiency of our self-knowledge and our meager expressions of self-control that our world should be worse off than the gloomdogglers of our age suggest. She will also perkily point out that not all the answers that have been thrust upon the young are worthy of equal respect. And then, she will modestly bring out her condensed reading list in which certain authors have long noted the difficulties human have in managing their lives more astutely.

We are in 'luck' [you decide what type] because this student sold me part of her tattered reading list. Some of these books have ideas within their covers. Now it is my task to say that we should not get any premature ideas about what to do with such ideas but we should note that more than two of these ideas can reduce brain fat and prepare one for proper rather than mediocre hope or despair. All we have to do is frisk these dead authors in quest of notions useful to the chastisement of our souls [should yet exist] or to the enhancement of our financial portfolios which we assume to be a Darwinian given right as a byproduct of lower education. As in the lottery of life, you pay your money and you take your chances.

Grading: Two essays 40% each

Tutorial Participation 20%

Required Texts: Epictetus. The Enchiridion [Prometheus]

Plato. The Last Days of Socrates [Penguin]

Seneca. Letters From a Stoic [Penguin Classics] R. Campbell, translator

Marcus Aurelius. Meditations of

Recommended Texts: N/A

Materials/Supplies: N/A

Prerequisite/Corequisite: HIST 105 or PHIL 150, or 30 credit hours.

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Notes: Humanties 201 may be applied towards the certificate in Liberal Arts

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