Great Texts: Ancient World to Renaissance

Humanities 201

Section: D900

Term: 2011 Fall

Instructor: Alessandra Capperdoni

Discussion Topics: This course introduces students to humanities texts from the antiquity to the Renaissance that were central to the shaping of Western literature and thought. Our methodology will consist of close reading, textual analysis, historical contextualization, and critical discussion.
We will begin with Homers Odyssey to understand the ways in which epic poetry articulates notions of nostos, kleos, oikos, the foreigner, and knowledge through the metaphor of travel. Two works of philosophy, Platos Phaedrus and Cratylus, will help us address the problematics of knowledge and truth through a theory of language, writing, and representation that was to influence Western culture for many centuries. We will then address the rhetorical figuration of love, knowledge, and spirituality in medieval and early modern European culture through Dantes Vita Nova and Inferno. We will conclude with a poem from the chivalric tradition, Ariostos Orlando Furioso, to attend to the poetic exploration of love and madness in the context of profound historical changes in Renaissance Italy.

Grading: 10% - Attendance and active participation\x09
10%
- Seminar discussion\x09
25%
Midterm exam\x09
55%
3 x Short papers (5-6 pages)

Required Texts: Homer, The Odyssey of Homer. Tr. R. Lattimore. Harper, 2007

Plato, Cratylus. Polit, 2010

Plato, Phaedrus. Tr. Robert Waterfield. Oxford UP, 2009

Dante, The Divine Comedy Vol. I: Inferno. Tr. Mark Musa. Penguin, 2002

Ludovico Ariosto, Orlando Furioso. Tr. Guido Waldman. Oxford UP, 2008

Selections of Dante&sqts Vita Nova will be available on WebCt.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: HUM 105 (formerly HIST 105 prior to 2007) or PHIL 150 or 30 credit hours.

Notes: This course is designated B-HUM and meets the Breadth-Humanities undergraduate degree requirements.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.