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World Humanities 1

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CUNY City College

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World Humanities 1 Spring 2020 M/W 2-4:15pm NAC 5/110

Instructor: Joseph Boisvere jboisvere@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Office: NAC 6/216 Office Hours: Monday before class or by appointment.

Our purpose in this course will be to travel through history and around the world in the hope that we can come to comprehend different times and places, how the people who lived in them saw themselves, saw their lives, and the world they inhabited. There are many works we might read for this purpose but those below—each of them an embodiment of the vision of an age, of a particular civilization, of a particular angle of vision, or a particular current of thought—are chosen to make this journey possible in the very short time we have. Each is, moreover, a pivotal work in the history of thought and literature, so that a careful reading of each, along with extensive class discussion of its conceptual universe, will allow us to understand a major work of art in itself, the world of which it is a part, and the progression of ideas to which every time and place contributes and to which it is indebted.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, you will have:

- Familiarity with the methods and vocabulary of literary analysis.
- Experience with close reading;
- A basic knowledge of a text's formal properties, including the conventions of genre and various literary devices;
- An understanding of the role that story-telling, drama, and song play in the formation and expression of culture, as well as the social and historical contexts and importance of the assigned texts.

AND

- Discover common artistic, philosophical, and religious themes and ideas within and among works, poems, stories, and plays;
- Develop analytical and interpretive strategies in order to better understand texts, and to learn synthesis, analysis, evaluation, and critical thinking skills;
- Critically analyze a literary text, identifying key themes and passages and showing awareness of its role in a broader social and cultural reality;
- Develop well-reasoned written and oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions;
- Write an argumentative paper in grammatically and stylistically correct English.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation/Short Assignments: 35%

Essay 1: 15%

Essay 2: 15%

Final Essay: 35%

Participation/Short Assignments: The most important thing that you can do to perform well in this course is come to class on time having read the assigned material and ready to discuss said material. While attendance is not counted per se, it will be difficult for you to do well in this course if you are not present to participate as discussed above. Also factored into your class participation grade are weekly Short Assignments ("SA." on the syllabus). These assignments will be due at the start of the class and as a hard copy. No late work and no digital submissions are allowed. You must be present in class to turn in your SA. These assignments will be about a paragraph long and will engage with the week's reading. At times they will be quite general, but often I will provide a guiding question or goal for your work. Finally, if you need to miss a class please email me to let me know in advance. You are responsible for work that is assigned in your absence.

Essays: This course requires three essays. The first two are 1000 words each and the final essay will be 1500 words. The specific assignments will be distributed about two weeks before they are due. For these assignments it will be necessary to cite the texts that we have read in class and you may bring in outside material as well. We will be using MLA format for inline citations as well as for bibliographical citations. Please consult Purdue OWL - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01> - for guidelines. Late essays will be accepted with a penalty assessed until graded assignments are passed back at which point late work will no longer be accepted. All essays will be handed in via the Turnitin plugin on Blackboard in pdf or word format.

CUNY Policy on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source.
- Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source.
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments.
- Internet plagiarism, including submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, or "cutting & pasting" from various sources without proper attribution.

See <https://www.cuny.cuny.edu/about/integrity> for the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity. Violations may result in an F for the assignment or for the class. If you are ever worried about inadvertently plagiarizing another's work, just let me know before turning in the assignment and I'll tell you if there's any problem.

Student Code of Conduct:

All student members of the College community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates mutual respect for the rights and personal/academic well-being of others, preserves the integrity of the social and academic

environment, and supports the mission of the College. The College has an inherent right to address behavior that impedes, obstructs, or threatens the maintenance of order and attainment of the aforementioned goals by violating the standards of conduct set forth in the University student conduct policies noted below as well as other policies that may be established by the respective Schools, Global Sites, and administrative offices of the University.

The goals of the CCNY Community Standards are:

- To promote a campus environment that supports the overall educational mission of the University
- To protect the University community from disruption and harm
- To encourage appropriate standards of individual and group behavior
- To foster ethical values and civic virtues
- To foster personal learning and growth while at the same time holding individuals and groups accountable to the standards of expectations established by the Code of Conduct:

<http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/community-standards.cfm>

Student Support Services: (see <https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/academics/tutoring>)

-Samuel Rudin Writing Center, NAC 3rd Floor Plaza: Offers assistance to all registered City College students through individual sessions, in person and on-line. Consultants help with planning, drafting and revising essays.

-Gateway Advising Center, NAC 1 /220: Students without a declared major can receive academic advising, especially if you have questions about your course of study, core requirements, etc.

-AccessAbility Center Tutoring Services, NAC 1 /218: Provides one-on-one tutoring and workshops to all registered students with learning or physical disabilities.

-SSSP Academic Resource Center, Marshak 1104: Offers tutoring services, study groups, and academic workshops across the disciplines.

-SEEK Peer Academic Learning Center, NAC 4/224: Offers counseling and peer tutoring for students in need of academic and financial support who have registered for the SEEK Program.

Required Text:

This is a ZTC course. All readings can be found on Blackboard.

-*The Rig Veda*, Hymns: Creation, Fire, Indra, Panusa, in Wendy Doniger translation (Penguin)

-*The King James Bible* (Genesis, Matthew): Authorized King James Version

-Homer, *The Odyssey*, Robert Fitzgerald trans. (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux)

-Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, (Project Gutenberg, Harvard)

-Dante, *The Inferno*, trans. John Ciardi (Signet Classics)

-*Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*, ed. DT Niane (Longman African Writers Series)

-Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, (Folger)

-Voltaire, *Candide*, (Modern Library/Project Gutenberg)

Schedule (subject to change):

Week/Dates	Monday-Due/In Class	Wednesday-Due/In Class
1 – 1/27, 1/29	Syllabus, Introduce WHUM	<i>Rig Veda: Creation</i> pp.26-44
2 – 2/3, 2/5	<i>Rig Veda: Agni</i> pp. 111-134	<i>Rig Veda: Indra</i> pp. 166-196 SA. Due
3 – 2/10, 2/12	<i>Genesis</i> Ch. 1-11, Dist. Essay 1	College Closed – No Classes
4 – 2/17, 2/19	College Closed – No Classes	<i>Matthew</i> Ch. 1-10, SA. Due
5 – 2/24, 2/26	Essay 1 Due, Conclude <i>RV</i> and <i>Bible</i>	<i>The Odyssey</i> 1-3, SA. Due
6 – 3/2, 3/4	<i>The Odyssey</i> 4-6	<i>The Odyssey</i> 7-9, SA. Due
7 – 3/9, 3/11	<i>The Odyssey</i> 10-12	<i>The Odyssey</i> 13-15, SA. Due
8 – 3/16, 3/18	<i>The Odyssey</i> 16-18, Dist. Essay 2	<i>The Odyssey</i> 19-21, SA. Due
9 – 3/23, 3/25	<i>The Odyssey</i> 22-24	<i>Oedipus the King</i> , SA. Due
10 – 3/30, 4/1	Essay 2 Due, Continue with <i>Oedipus</i>	<i>Sundiata</i> 1-40, SA. Due
11- 4/6, 4/8	<i>Sundiata</i> 41-85, Dist. Final Essay	College Closed - No Classes
12 – 4/13, 4/15	College Closed – No Classes	College Closed – No Classes
13 – 4/20, 4/22	<i>Inferno</i> Cantos 1-6, 8-11, 17, 19	<i>Inferno</i> 20, 26, 32-34, SA. Due
14 – 4/27, 4/29	<i>Macbeth</i> Acts 1-3	<i>Macbeth</i> Acts 4, 5, SA. Due
15 – 5/4, 5/6	Final Papers Due, Conclude <i>Macbeth</i>	<i>Candide</i> Ch. 1-15
16 – 5/11, 5/13	<i>Candide</i> Ch. 16-30	Concluding Remarks