

The Ancient World
Honors 101-17
Dr. Brandon Look

PAHA 140
TR 12:30-1:45
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Course Description

This course is part of the University Studies Program (USP), which is designed to provide a comprehensive liberal arts education to all undergraduates. The four Honors Colloquia together satisfy the English Writing, Humanities Disciplinary, and interdisciplinary requirements for USP, as well as about 80% of the requirements for graduating “with Honors in Honors”.

The general goals of this colloquium are the following: to enhance the abilities of students to read critically, to write and speak clearly about a variety of texts, and to reflect on certain themes important in the development of western civilization. In this course, we shall concentrate on texts from the ancient world and examine some of the following issues: the relation of the human being to god or the gods; the relation of the human being to or in the “cosmos”; the relation of the individual to society; the nature of mankind; and classical conceptions of the good life.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to write **four papers** of approximately five pages in length during the course of the semester. I shall hand out assignments every other week starting 9/2/2004; students are to write on two of the first four papers. **No extensions will be granted.** These papers will together constitute **80% of the final grade.** (If you write more than four papers, I will take your four highest grades.)

In addition, **students are expected to attend all classes and be active participants in class discussion.** The Honors colloquia are, after all, *discussion* classes, and it is the responsibility of the students to have read the assigned material carefully and to be willing and prepared to present his or her ideas about the texts. At the end of the semester, each student will be asked to grade the performance of his or her peers. These grades, along with my own assessment, will constitute the final **20% of the course grade.**

Grading

As should be clear from above, 80% of each student’s final grade will depend upon the quality of his or her written work – or my estimation of the quality of his or her written work. Does this mean that the grading is “subjective”? Yes. But the grading is neither arbitrary nor whimsical. With each paper, I ask, (1) How well has the student understood the text? (2) How well has the student argued his or her point? (This question sometimes turns out to be, Does the student have a point at all?) (3) How clearly does the student write? (Remember: It is the job of the writer to communicate an idea to the reader. If the reader has to re-read a passage several times before he or she can understand the writer’s point, the writer could have been clearer. If the reader simply cannot understand the writer’s point, the writer has failed.) If you do not yet own a copy of Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style*, please buy one. Read it, love it, live it.

Students’ final grades will be either A, B, C, D, or E. There is no +/- grading in the Honors Program.

Incompletes

No incompletes will be given in this class.

Unexcused absences

As mentioned above, I expect students to contribute to classroom discussion. Therefore, students must come to class. Students who miss more than one or two classes will be marked down **severely** in the class participation grade.

Plagiarism

All work must be the student's own. If a student is caught plagiarizing, he or she will, according to University Regulations, be failed for the course and possibly expelled from the University.

Required Texts

The following texts are required for the course and are available at both Kennedy's and the UK Bookstores:

- Homer, *Iliad*, tr. R. Fagles, New York: Penguin, 1998. ISBN: 0-14-0275363
- Aeschylus, *Aeschylus I: Oresteia (Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, The Eumenides)*, tr. Grene and Lattimore, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983. ISBN: 0226307786
- Sophocles, *Sophocles I: Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone*, tr. Grene and Lattimore, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992. ISBN: 0226307921
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, tr. R. Warner, New York: Penguin, 1954. ISBN 0-14-044039-9
- Plato, *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*. Second Edition. Translated by G. M. A. Grube. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002. ISBN: 0-87220-633-5.
- Plato, *Republic*. Second Edition. Translated by G. M. A. Grube. Revised by C. D. C. Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992. ISBN: 0-87220-136-8
- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*. Second Edition. Translated, with Introduction, by Terence Irwin. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2000. ISBN. 0-87220-464-2
- Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*, tr. R.E. Latham. New York: Penguin, 1994. ISBN: 0140446109

Schedule

Date	Reading
8/26	Introduction and Class Mechanics
8/31	Homer, <i>The Iliad</i> , Books 1-4
9/2	Homer, <i>The Iliad</i> , Books 5-8
9/7	Homer, <i>The Iliad</i> , Books 9-12
9/9	Homer, <i>The Iliad</i> , Books 13-16
9/14	Homer, <i>The Iliad</i> , Books 17-20
9/16	Homer, <i>The Iliad</i> , Books 21-24
9/21	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>
9/23	Aeschylus, <i>The Libation Bearers</i>
9/28	Aeschylus, <i>The Eumendies</i>
9/30	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i>
10/5	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>
10/7	Thucydides, <i>The Peloponnesian War</i> , Book I (pp. 35-87)
10/12	Thucydides, <i>The Peloponnesian War</i> , Book II (pp. 124-64)
10/14	Thucydides, <i>The Peloponnesian War</i> , Book III (pp. 195-245)
10/19	Thucydides, <i>The Peloponnesian War</i> , Books V (pp. 382-88; 400-08), VI (447-49; 465-70), VII (525-37)
10/21	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (in <i>Five Dialogues</i>)
10/26	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> (in <i>Five Dialogues</i>)
10/28	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> (in <i>Five Dialogues</i>)
11/2	No class, Election Day.
11/4	Plato, <i>Republic</i>
11/9	Plato, <i>Republic</i>
11/11	Plato, <i>Republic</i>
11/16	Plato, <i>Republic</i>
11/18	Plato, <i>Republic</i>
11/23	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Books I-II
11/25	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Books V-VI
11/30	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Books VIII-IX
12/2	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Book X
12/7	Lucretius, <i>On the Nature of the Universe</i> Books I and III
12/9	Lucretius, <i>On the Nature of the Universe</i> Books IV-V
12/17	End of Semester