

General Studies Y03.1001

**INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY I:
THE ANCIENT GREEK, ROMAN, AND BIBLICAL WORLDS**

Mondays and Wednesdays
Section 1: 8:05-9:45
Section 20: 9:55-11:35

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the study of philosophy, politics, and history by means of an investigation of the following: some seminal ancient Greek, Roman, and Biblical writings; the people who composed or influenced the composition of those writings; the worlds or societies in which those people lived; and the legacies--for better and for worse--left by those authors and their works to subsequent peoples. The course will proceed somewhat chronologically, beginning with an extended consideration of Athenian democracy and the philosophic activity it provoked. Next, we will examine the Roman Republic and one of the more influential moral and legal thinkers inspired by it. Finally, after briefly studying the Old and New Testaments, we will survey the history the Roman Empire and the reaction of one very important Christian thinker to its fall in the West.

Course meetings will consist largely of lectures, supplemented by regular discussion. Students enrolled in this course should plan to read carefully, attend class consistently and punctually, and participate in the discussions regularly. As to the readings: most are provocative, some are long and difficult, and all will require work to ferret out their deeper meanings. Students will be expected to read the assignments before class and be prepared to discuss them in a civil manner. The readings should be brought to class for use in lecture and discussion. From time to time, students may be assigned a role in preparing or leading class discussion. Attendance will be noted, and participation graded. More than three absences, without a valid medical or other excuse, will result in a grade penalty. Please also note: this entire syllabus is subject to revision at the instructor's discretion.

Written Requirements

Course requirements include the following, in addition to the above. Students should plan to write three short papers, a midterm, and a final examination. There may also be a number of short, in-class writing assignments. Papers are to be typewritten, double-spaced, and annotated in accordance with accepted norms of scholarship. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Find out what plagiarism is and avoid it. Late papers will be downgraded one step per day tardy. No papers will be accepted, without prior approval, if submitted more than one week late. Students are advised to buy (at the NYU Bookstore), read, and take to heart the very short book on writing by Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*. For more information on the assignments and on grading policy, see p. 4, below.

Required Readings

The following books contain almost all of the required readings and are or soon will be available for purchase at the NYU Bookstore, located at 18 Washington Place. Please be sure to buy the edition listed below.

J. Portanova, *Athens in the Age of Pericles* (NYU/General Studies, 1989)
Thucydides, *On Justice, Power, and Human Nature* (Hackett, 1993)
Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (Hackett, 1975)
Plato, *The Republic* (Penguin Classics, 1987)
Aristotle, *The Politics* (Penguin Classics, 1992)
Sallust, *The Jurgurthine War/The Conspiracy of Catiline* (Penguin Classics, 1963)
Cicero, *On Duties* (Cambridge, 1991)
The Oxford Study Bible, eds. Suggs, et al (Oxford, 1992)
Augustine, *The City of God* (Penguin Classics, 1984)

In addition to the above readings, students will be expected to read Sophocles' tragedy, *Antigone*, for the third class meeting (18 September). Read the edition used in Humanities I.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE MEETINGS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. PHILOSOPHY AND THE TENSIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC POLIS

- Mon., 11 Sept. Introduction: Classical Greece, Antiquity, and Western Thought
Portanova, *Athens in the Age of Pericles*, pp. 1-38.
- Wed., 13 Sept. Origins, Wars, and Democracy
Thucydides, *On Justice, Power, and Human Nature*, pp. 1-58.
- Mon., 18 Sept. On the Household and the Polis (1): The Political Approach
Sophocles, *Antigone*. [Note: Read the edition assigned for your Humanities I section.]
Portanova, pp. 61-106.
FIRST PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED
- Wed., 20 Sept. Philosophy on Trial/Socratic Citizenship
Plato, *Apology* and *Crito*, in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, pp. 21-54.
Portanova, pp. 38-61.

2. THE FALL OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RISE OF PHILOSOPHY

- Mon., 25 Sept.
(Rosh Hashanah) Empire and the Democratic Polis
Thucydides, pp. 66-76, 89-95, 100-139, 153-160.
Portanova, pp. 106-110.
- Wed., 27 Sept. Socrates and the Problem of Sophism
Plato, *The Republic*, Parts 1-2, pp. 61-128.
FIRST PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
- Mon., 2 Oct. True Education?
Plato, *Republic*, Parts 3-4, pp. 129-195.
- Wed., 4 Oct.
(Yom Kippur) Order and Citizenship
Plato, *Republic*, Parts 5-6, pp. 196-259.
- Mon., 9 Oct. Truth and Politics
Plato, *Republic*, Part 7, pp. 260-325.
- Wed., 11 Oct. On the Art of Philosophy and Morality
Plato, *Republic*, Parts 8, 10, and 11, pp. 326-355 and 421-455.
- Mon., 16 Oct. **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
No reading.

3. ARISTOTLE: ON THE NATURE AND ENDS OF CITIZENSHIP

- Wed., 18 Oct. On the Household and the Polis (2): The Naturalist Approach
Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, entire, pp. 51-97.
- Mon., 23 Oct. On the Polis and Theory
Aristotle, Book II, chs. 1-4 and 9-13, pp. 101-119 and 139-162 [stop at 1274a22].
- Wed., 25 Oct. Citizenship
Aristotle, Book III, chs. 1-13, pp. 167-216.
SECOND PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED
- Mon., 30 Oct. On Constitutions and Revolutions
Aristotle, Book IV, chs. 1-4, 8-9 & 11-12, Book V, chs. 1-4, pp. 235-251, 258-263, 264-272 & 295-309.
- Wed., 1 Nov. The Good State and Education
Aristotle, Book VII, chs. 1-9 and 13-17, pp. 389-417 and 426-448; and
Book VIII, chs. 1-3, pp. 451-457.

3. THE ROMAN REPUBLIC AND STOIC MORALISM

- Mon., 6 Nov. The Roman Republic
Sallust, *The Catiline Conspiracy*, ch. 1, pp. 175-183 and translator's intros., pp. 15-28 and 151-174.
SECOND PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
- Wed., 8 Nov. Power Politics and the Cosmopolitan Republic
Sallust, pp. 184-233.
- Mon., 13 Nov. Reading Day
No class!
- Wed., 15 Nov. Roman Fathers and Political Disorder
Cicero, *On Duties*, notes and Book I, pp. xlv-xlvii and 1-62.
- Mon., 20 Nov. The Limits of Law and Civilization
Cicero, Book II, pp. 63-100.
THIRD PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED
- Wed., 22 Nov. On Universal Morality
Cicero, Book III, pp. 101-47.

4. THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIANITAS

- Mon., 27 Nov. The Voices of God: The Old Testament
Oxford Study Bible, selections noted at the end of this schedule.
- Wed., 29 Nov. New Laws: The New Testament
Oxford Study Bible, selections noted at the end of this schedule.
- Mon., 4 Dec. Power Politics and the Roman Empire
Augustine, *The City of God*, selections:
Book I, entire, pp. 5-47;
Book II, chs. 14, 18-22, and 27-28, pp. 63-65, 67-77, and 84-86; and
Book IV, chs. 3-5, pp. 137-141.
THIRD PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
- Wed., 6 Dec. Glory, Neoplatonism, and Revolution
Augustine, selections:
Book V, chs. 13-20 and 24, pp. 201-215 and 219-220;
Book VII, Preface, p. 254;
Book VIII, chs. 1-12, pp. 298-316;
Book IX, chs. 5 and 16-17, pp. 349-50 and 361-64; and
Book X, chs. 2-3 and 29-31, pp. 374-76 and 414-20.
- Mon., 11 Dec. Belief and the Body Politic
Augustine, selections:
Book XI, chs. 1, 9, and 13, pp. 429-30, 438-39, and 444-46;
Book XII, chs. 2-3, pp. 473-74;
Book XIV, chs. 7, 13, 18-19, and 28, pp. 556-58, 571-74, 579-81, and 593-594;
Book XV, chs. 1-5, pp. 595-601;
Book XVI, chs. 6, pp. 659-60;
Book XVIII, chs. 1-3, 41, and 49, pp. 761-65, 815-19, and 831-32;
Book XIX, chs. 4-21 and 23-28, pp. 852-883 and 890 (top)-894; and
Book XXII, ch. 22, pp. 1065-68.
- Wed., 13 Dec. Review and Conclusion

FINAL EXAMINATION TO FOLLOW
Section 1 (MW 8:05 class)--Fri., 15 Dec., 8-9:50 am
Section 20 (MW 9:55 class)--Mon., 18 Dec., 10-11:50am

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Reading Assignment from *The Oxford Study Bible*

Mon., 27 Nov.	<u>The Voices of God: <i>The Old Testament</i></u>	Wed., 29 Nov.	<u>New Laws: <i>The New Testament</i></u>
	Genesis 1-3, pp. 11-14 11:1-9, p. 20 17:1-10, p. 25		Matthew 3:13 - 7:29, pp. 1269-1275 10:5-42, pp. 1277-1278 12:49-50, p. 1281 15-16, pp. 1284-1286 19:24-30, pp. 1289
	Exodus entire, pp. 62-104		Mark 12-14:7, pp. 1319-1322
	Leviticus: just note how detailed the laws are		Luke 9-10:37, pp. 1341-1344
	Deuteronomy 4-6, pp. 185-189		John 18:33 - 19:16, pp. 1389-1390
	I Samuel 2:1-10, p. 279 8, p. 285-289		Acts 13-14:1, pp. 1409-1411 17:12-34, p. 1416
	I King 9:1-9, pp. 354-355		Romans entire, pp. 1431-1447
	Isaiah 6, pp. 707-708 14, pp. 717-719 40, pp. 743-747 42, pp. 749-750		I Corinthians 13, p. 1459
	Jeremiah 1, p. 778-779 18, pp. 802-803 32:31-42, p. 820-821		
	Ezekiel 2, pp. 859 37:18-28, pp. 898		
	Micah 6:6-8, p. 968		

Written Assignments

Course requirements will include three formal, typewritten essays on assigned topics.

First paper:	2-3 pages, due Monday, 25 September.
Second paper:	3-4 pages, due Monday, 6 November.
Third paper:	5-6 pages, due Monday, 4 December.

In addition, a written midterm on Monday, 16 October, and a final examination will be administered. Both will consist of a mixture of short, relatively factual questions designed to test students' reading comprehension, along with at least two or three longer essay questions designed to test students' reasoning and writing skills under pressure. Short, in-class writing exercises may also be administered from time to time, without warning, to insure that students keep up with the readings.

Participation

Students will be expected to participate in class discussions with some regularity. Grades for participation will be based upon my evaluation of students' questions and comments. What I will look for is whether students have a basic understanding of the readings, whether they are able to follow and contribute to class discussion, how intelligent and informed their questions and comments are, and how much effort they are putting into the class. Attendance and in-class assignments will also be a significant portion of participation grade.

Grading Policy

Grades will be assigned on an 100-point scale, and weighted in the following manner:

1st paper-----	10%
midterm-----	15%
2nd paper-----	20%
3rd paper-----	20%
final-----	25%
participation---	10%

Office Hours

There will be no regularly scheduled office hours for this course. However, I will be holding office hours for my advisees on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:50 am - 12:50 pm at the Dean & Deluca Café, 11th St. & University Place. Students in this course would be welcome then, as long as they are willing to wait until I finish with any advisees I am seeing. I can also be available for appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays between 1 and 3. I generally will not be in the City other days of the week.