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Course Syllabus
HIST 15102
World Civilizations 1

Course Day/Time/Place: **Tuesday, Thursday 2.00-3:20, Henry 221**
Instructor: **Dr. Lilia Castle**
Office Hours: **Wednesday 9.30-11.00 a.m.**
Phone: **739-4628 off.**

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to history, philosophy, religion, literature, politics and fine arts of the greatest World Civilizations. The course is designed to give students an understanding of the world outlook and the meaning of life from the point of view of Ancient people. Their mode of life, their attitude toward love and marriage will be discussed in our workshops.

Exams and Creative Project:

1. There will be a mid-term exam in the form of a dialogue (with or without a partner), a final exam, a quiz, 10 minutes presentation and creative project (performance is a possibility)
2. Students will also write short tests, pop-quizzes and analytical essays in class.
3. Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes, to be prepared, and participate if they wish to receive full credit for the course.

Course Grading:

All students will take a mid-term (dialogue due), and final exam on the dates scheduled. The exams will be given specific letter and number grades, and will count for a percentage of the total grade, as follows:

90-100	A	Mid-term dialogue – 15%
80-89	B	Final exam-15%
70-79	C	Quiz-10%
60-69	D	Student's presentation-5%
Below 60	F	Creative project- 10%
		Essays-15%
		Quizzes, tests-15%

In class participation-10%

Course Texts:

McKay-Hill-Buckler, A History of World Societies

Additional reading and handouts will be provided.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan.18 Introduction to the course.

The sources of history and historiography; Evolution: Circle or spiral?
Message of the Gods; Underwater civilization?

Jan.20 The “ethnic sphere”; “ethnogenesis”.

Jan.25, 27, Feb.1, 3,8- Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs

PYRAMIDS:

Natural Pyramids; mummies, mausoleum; sacred numbers: 3,4,5....
3.14? Ancient Egypt Standard; priests and Herodotus; mystery of geometry;
crystal of pharaoh; mystery of Egyptian triangle; molecule of water;
Pythagoras, Moses, “lozohodtci” ; water, tears, information; pyramids and
organic life; pyramids and North Pole; pyramids and planets; legends of
Galaxy: Sirius, Orion, ”flying” pyramids; heart and skin of pyramid; singing
sands; Pythagoras and his ”10 steps of creation”; Apocalypse; energy of
pyramid; pyramid and man.

(Jan.27-video, Feb.8-test)

Reading: ch.1, 2, lectures

Feb.10, 15The Minoans and Mycenaeans

Video, slides

Reading: ch.5

Quiz-game

Feb.17 Periods of Greek history; Greek values
Reading: ch.5

Themes for students' presentations due

Feb.22 Greek gods and mythology
Video, slides

Feb. 24, 29 Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey"
Group quiz-game on Greek mythology
Reading: handouts will be provided

March 2,7 Greek art: architecture, sculpture, frescoes, pottery
Video "Greek temples", slides
Test-game on Greek art

March 9,14 Greek theater; the sense of tragedy as an expression of Dionisian ideal; Dionisus and Christianity: religion of Dionisus as a New Testament of Hellens. Orphic mysteries; Original sin in the views of Orphics; Passions of Gods and Heroes; Orgiastic sacraments; Esthetic ambivalence of tragedy: Dionisus and Apollo as two poles in art; Catharsis in the theory of Aristotle; Dionisus and Nietzsche.

Video on ancient Greek theater
Reading: Sophocles: "The three Theban plays",
Dorothy Sayers: "Oedipus simplex"- will be provided
At home: prepare to answer the questions on "Oedipus the King"

March 16 The discussion of "Oedipus the King"

Questions:

1. Oedipus is under curse; he must kill his father and marry his mother. Does this leave him no choice or does he still have choices within the framework of the prophecy?
2. Do Oedipus' pride and his anger make the situation worse for him?
3. Who is the tragic hero?
4. What idea do you have of the Gods from this play? Are they benevolent, evil or beyond good and evil?

Home reading: "Oedipus in Colonus" -will be provided
Video: "Oedipus the King"

March 21 Discussion of "Oedipus at Colonus"

Questions:

1. In what ways does love play a part in this play? (As love of Ismene and Antigone for their father). Messenger speaks to the audience: How does Oedipus show his love for his children in this play? How do they show love for him?
2. Do events of this play cast a different light on the Gods and their purpose in cursing Oedipus? Could you argue that Oedipus learned wisdom from his experiences?
3. How do the characters of Creon and Polynicos foreshadow their roles in Antigone? How do their choices show that they have misused their freedom? How does the character of Theseus show his wisdom and compassion?

Home reading: "Antigone" - will be provided

Essay #1

March 23 Discussion of "Antigone"

1. Is Antigone free to stay alive or is she fated to die? Under what conditions could she live? What would she betray by staying alive?
2. Polinicos is not a very sympathetic in Oedipus at Colonus. Is it love for her brother or sense of moral obligation which makes Antigone sacrifice her life to bury her brother? What would Oedipus have said about her choice?
3. Creon shows pride that is offensive to the Gods in this play. Compare Creon's pride with Oedipus' in the first play of this cycle. How is Creon punished? Is his punishment worse than Oedipus'?

Concluding lecture: ideas of *freedom, responsibility, love* and *Gods* in Greek plays; connection with mystery religion and philosophy. The district of Colonus mentioned in the two plays is very close to the site of Plato's Academy. Is this only a coincidence?

Greek music, slides, video

March 28 Greek philosophy

Essay #2

Ch.5, 6

March 30 Socrates; his life and teaching.

Group discussion of Socrates dialogues.

Discussion of "Euthyphro"

Questions:

1. Many philosophers think, that the central problem of the Euthyphro is following: Do the Gods love justice because it is just, or is justice just because the Gods love it? How would you solve this problem?
2. Is the contrast between Socrates and Euthyphro a contrast between faith and reason?
3. What does Socrates love? What does Euthyphro love?

Reading: "The last Days of Socrates. Euthyphro"-will be provided

Video: "Barefoot in Athens"

April 4 Discussion of "Apology" and "Crito"

Questions:

1. Why was Socrates condemned? Could he have avoided these condemnations? How?
2. What must be convinced of before he is willing to escape from prison? Does Crito convince him?
3. How does Apollo's statement that 'No one wiser than Socrates' cast light on the Greek Ideas of the Gods? What effect did this statement have on Socrates life?

Video: "Barefoot in Athens"

Reading "Faedo". Discussion

There are a number of arguments for immortality in this dialogue.

1. Which seems to you to be a bad argument? Why? Which seem to you to be good argument? Why?
2. What do we know about life after death?

Skeptical and mystical philosophy.

Reading the dialogue: "Is via negativa a kind of skepticism?" by R.Purtill and L.Castle

Themes for midterm dialogue:

1. Write a dialogue between two Thebans, one taking the position that Oedipus and Antigone were responsible for their own sufferings, and the other arguing that they were innocent. Make sure, each side has some good arguments.

2. Write a dialogue between two Athenians; one, arguing that Socrates should have been condemned, and the other arguing that he was innocent; make sure each side has some good arguments.

3. Free choice.

April 6 Test on Greece.

April 11 Roman Empire

Video, slides

Reading: Ch.7

April 13 – mid-term dialogue due

April 13,18 EASTERN VALUES: Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism.

Truth through reason or intuition.

What shall we look at for guidance: nature or man's actions?

Reading from the Confucian "Analects" and from Japanese poets. What is our relationship with man and nature? How do the Eastern and Western approaches to virtue compare?

From the beauty of the world toward the freedom from the world...

Video, slides

Reading: Ch.4, handouts will be provided

April 20 Essay#3, discussion

April 25 Ancient India; Aryans; spiritual tradition

Reading: Ch.3

April 27, Quiz

May 2 Sex and marriage in Ancient World .

Rozanov,N. philosophy of sex in Ancient world.

Video

Reading: handouts will be provided

May 7 Review for final exam

Students' presentations

May 9 Final Exam