

Antiquities: Literature

Syllabus 2017-2018

Mr. Ritch (critch@westminsterknights.org)

What We're Doing

We're reading, discussing, and responding to literature from the ancient and classical worlds. Genre covered will include epic, myth, poetry, drama, philosophy, and the modern novel. We will do all of this as Christians. And what that means will become clearer as the year progresses I hope.

<p>Q1 (36 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation Stories from Antiquity • Philosophy: What is everything? • Homer's <i>Iliad</i> 	<p>Assessments (350 pts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Akhenaten</i> essay (1-2 pgs, 50 pts) • Creation test (50 pts) • Philosophy test (50 pts) • <i>Iliad</i> test #1 (50 pts) • Graded discussions (50 pts) • Quizzes (~100 pts)
<p>Q2 (27 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homer's <i>Iliad</i> • Greek Tragedy • <i>Agamemnon</i> • <i>Oedipus the King</i> • <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> (film) 	<p>Assessments (350 pts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Iliad</i> rap project (50 pts) • <i>Iliad</i> test #2 (50 pts) • Tragedy test (50 pts) • Movie review (2 pgs, 50 pts) • Graded discussions (25 pts) • Quizzes (~100 pts)
<p>Q3 (32 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy: How should we live? • Shakespeare's <i>Coriolanus</i> • Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> 	<p>Assessments (350 pts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy test (50 pts) • Philosophy essay (2-3 pgs, 100 pts) • <i>Aeneid</i> test (50 pts) • Graded discussions (50 pts) • Quizzes (~100 pts)
<p>Q4 (32 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy: How do we know anything? • C. S. Lewis's <i>Till We Have Faces</i> 	<p>Assessments (350 pts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy test (50 pts) • Philosophy project (50 pts) • <i>Till We Have Faces</i> test #1 (50 pts) • <i>Till We Have Faces</i> test #2 (50 pts) • Graded discussions (50 pts) • Quizzes (~100 pts)

Why We're Doing It

Notes Outline

I. To maximize our capacity for joy and delight

II. To strengthen our kindness muscle

III. To grow closer to God

Grading

I will be using a true points system for grading this class. This means there is one big pool of points. Every point on every assessment (test, quiz, writing, etc.) is just simple one point. You can see from the overview, however, that quizzes and discussion will constitute about 40% of your overall grade. The rest will come from major tests, essays, and other projects.

The Perfect Storm

This also happens every year. Your fellow teachers and I will try to avoid it, but at some point you will almost certainly feel overwhelmed. And at the point where you think you can't take it anymore, I'm sure to announce that there will be a quiz, test, or some well-meaning creative assignment right on top of everything else. So what to do?

To begin, I will try to announce major tests, essays, etc. well in advance, giving you a chance to look at your calendars and see what else is due around the same time. However, I know that this doesn't always work. So if a pile up occurs, please come to me as soon as you feel it. I am usually very willing to renegotiate deadlines, test dates, and the like to help you manage the load.

That said, please do me the courtesy of speaking respectfully about these things. Avoid sarcasm and any accusatory tone. I'm not trying to make you miserable (well, most of the time anyway), so let's assume the best of each other, and I think we can work things out amicably in most cases.

Verbal Sensitivity

Most of us know to avoid profanity and vulgarity, but the issue of controlling the tongue goes much farther than this. In fact, some of the most hurtful words imaginable wouldn't contain a single expletive. Managing the "raging fire" of our words is always important, but it's especially important for us in this class. There are two reasons. First, as followers of Christ we have taken on the role of representatives. After all, the term "Christian" literally means "little Christ." So what we say and do will always represent Christ to onlookers. Second, we will be talking a lot in this class, and since the chance of messing up with words increases with the number of them used, we should exercise extra vigilance in what we say.

In every culture and every era of history, there are issues that are more sensitive than others. With that in mind, I want to encourage you to be especially careful how you talk about any of the following topics, which are especially sensitive in our time and culture.

- Race and ethnicity
- Gender
- Sexuality
- Other religions, agnosticism, or atheism

This doesn't mean we have to hide our opinions or avoid confrontation. On the contrary, if Christ is our example, then certainly we should be willing to say hard things. However, we should always say them in love with a view to building up fellow believers and drawing unbelievers to the truth. The point here is not to sugar coat the truth or to hide our convictions, but rather "to speak the truth in love" so that our words never erect an "obstacle to the gospel of Christ."

Cheating

Any and all forms of cheating will be punished. This may include a significant penalty in the grade book as well as other disciplinary actions. Cheating includes any form of representing work done by someone else as your own. This includes plagiarism of sources in writing, even when it's unintentional. It includes comparing your answers on a quiz or test with someone else's, even when you don't change your answer. It even includes copying someone else's homework.

Don't let the stress of getting good grades cause you to compromise your integrity. I'm not going to say grades aren't important. That's naive. But any harm you would incur from a low grade will pale in comparison to the damage you do to your immortal soul by cheating, even if you're not caught. Now, cheer up and let's have fun.

Turning Stuff In

All assignments are due as hard copies, unless you are otherwise directed. They must be in my possession (I define "in my possession" as in my hands or on my desk) by no later than 4:00 pm on the due date.

Things happen. Tech is unreliable. If circumstances beyond your control force you past a deadline, let's talk. However, if it seems like irresponsibility has caused the lateness, you'll receive a deduction of up to 11% for each day late.

What if you're absent? Please come see me and ask if you missed anything.