

Fall 2003

History of Western Humanities I Syllabus

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**Syllabus for
History of Western Humanities I
Autumn 2003
Dr. Steven Alan Samson
Christ College**

- I. **Course** This course is a survey of the humanities, including literature, philosophy, and the fine arts, focusing on the role of the classical curriculum in western culture.
- II. **Rationale** This course introduces students to the dialogue between Jerusalem and Athens that undergirds western civilization.
- III. **Prerequisite** None
- IV. **Materials List** Beard, Mary and John Henderson. Classics: A Very Short Introduction
Lamm, Robert C. Humanities in Western Culture, 4th brief ed.
Readings (xerox)
Other Resources
Barr, Stringfellow. Voices That Endured
Denby, David. Great Books
Hanson, Victor Davis, and John Heath. Who Killed Homer?
Kopff, E. Christian. The Devil Knows Latin
- V. **Course Objectives**
1. The student will demonstrate familiarity with some of the classic literary, philosophical, artistic, and musical world of the Greek, Roman, and Western civilizations.
 2. The student will perform exercises that involve analyzing and comparing systems of artistic, literary, musical, and philosophical expression.
 3. Each student will thereby become better equipped to understand, participate in, and evaluate the major creative traditions of western civilization.
- VI. **Graded Requirements**
1. Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments prior to class and should keep a loose-leaf notebook of class materials.
 2. Participation is an essential part of class. Each student will report on one or two assigned readings and help lead class discussions. A typed, single-spaced 1-2 page abstract or summary of the reading should be supplied at the time. Students should also be prepared to discuss textbook readings and current events.
 3. Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of six tests. (100%)
 4. Students with an average of 80% or higher after five tests and/or a good attendance record (no more than three unexcused absences) will have the lowest quiz score dropped.
 5. The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F.
- VII. **Attendance** Each unexcused absence will deduct 50% from the participation grade. Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Persistent tardiness will also have a detrimental effect on grades. When the class schedule conflicts with a modular course, we will move the meeting to a date and time that fits everybody's schedule.

VIII. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours

Liberty University, School of Business and Government, DH 130

Phone: 582-2640

E-Mail: ssamson@liberty.edu

Hours: MWF 1:20-2:10; TR 8-10:30; R 10:40-12:30; by appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE

September

- Tues. 2 Introduction
Tues. 9 Beard, chs. 1-3; Lamm, chs. 1-2
Tues. 16 Beard, ch. 4-5; Lamm, chs. 3-4; Readings 1: Homer, Aesop, Presocratic Philosophers (pp. 1-24)
Tues. 23 Beard, chs. 6-7; Lamm, ch. 5; Readings 2: Thucydides, Herodotus, Aristotle, Aeschylus (pp. 24-54)
Tues. 30 Beard, ch. 8; Readings 3: Sophocles, Aristophanes, Thucydides (pp. 54-89)

October

- Tues. 7 Lamm, ch. 6; Readings 4: Plato (pp. 90-125)
Tues. 14 Lamm, ch. 7; Readings 5: Aristotle, Plutarch, Epicurus, Livy (pp. 126-55)
Tues. 21 Beard, chs. 9-10; Lamm, ch. 8; Readings 6: Plutarch, Tacitus, Cicero, Caesar (pp. 156-82)
Tues. 28 Lamm, ch. 9; Readings 7: Virgil, Lucretius, Ovid, Juvenal (pp. 182-203)

November

- Tues. 4 Lamm, chs. 10-11; Readings 8: Early Church Fathers, Eusebius, Salvian, Jerome, Gregory I, Justinian, Augustine (pp. 204-27)
Tues. 11 Lamm, ch. 12; Readings 9: Anna Comnena, Boethius, Bede, Einhard, Beowulf, de Troyes, El Cid (pp. 228-61)
Tues. 18 Lamm, ch. 13; Readings 10: Medieval Education, John of Salisbury, Thomas Aquinas, Marsilio of Padua (pp. 262-90)
Tues. 25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

December

- Tues. 2 chs. 14-15; Readings 11: Dante, Petrarch (291-304)
Tues. 9 Readings 12: Boccaccio, Chaucer (304-21)

READING OPTIONS

Epic Poetry

Homer: Iliad

Homer: Odyssey

Virgil: The Aeneid

Beowulf

Song of Roland

Dante: Divine Comedy

Drama

Aeschylus: Oresteia

Sophocles: Oedipus Rex, Antigone

Euripides: Medea, Hippolytus

Aristophanes: Frogs, Clouds, Lysistrata

History

Herodotus: Persians Wars

Thucydides: Peloponnesian War

Plutarch: Lives

Livy: History of Rome

Tacitus

Eusebius

Philosophy

Plato: Apology, Republic

Aristotle: Poetics, Ethics

Lucretius: On the Nature of Things

Cicero: Republic

Augustine: Confessions, City of God

John of Salisbury

Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologica

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