

Fall 2020

HUM 211-001: The Pre-Modern World

Ocean Gibson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hum-syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Gibson, Ocean, "HUM 211-001: The Pre-Modern World" (2020). *Humanities Syllabi*. 262.
<https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hum-syllabi/262>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the NJIT Syllabi at Digital Commons @ NJIT. It has been accepted for inclusion in Humanities Syllabi by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ NJIT. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@njit.edu.

HUM 211. The Pre-Modern World

Fall 2020, Thursdays from 6:00-8:50pm, Kupfrian Hall, 206

Webex Room: <https://njit.webex.com/meet/ogg2>

Professor Ocean Gibson
Department of Humanities
Email: ogg2@njit.edu

Office Hours: In-person (Thursdays by appointment) and Online (Monday-Friday by appointment)

Course Description: Thucydides. The orations of Demosthenes. Plato and Aristotle. Greek and Roman stoicism. Cicero. These will be our guides as we explore some of the central philosophical themes of the ancient western world. We will attempt to inhabit these older imaginations while also using them as lenses into our own social, ethical, and political situation in 21st century America.

Course Aims: The general approach of the course is philosophical in that it mainly treats the reading material from the perspective of argumentation—that is, as containing claims about the world that we can engage with directly to inform our own reflection. You will have the opportunity to work through difficult but incredibly rewarding texts, all of which have shaped the course of western civilization since their inceptions. As a student, you will develop your critical reading and writing abilities and be prompted regularly to participate in class discussion as a fellow thinker and citizen.

Assignments: Active reading of the assigned texts for each class; engagement in class discussion; weekly written responses (250-500 words, due Tuesdays by midnight); a midterm and a final (both take-home).

Grading: Participation (~40% of the grade) will be composed of class attendance, engagement in class discussion, and the weekly written responses. The midterm (30%) and final (30%) will make up the rest of the grade, with the final potentially counting for more to account for a student's growth over the semester.

All written work must be your own and proper citation of outside sources should be followed. Discussion of course themes with peers is of course welcome, but the completion of written assignments must be done independently. If you're not sure if a particular practice goes against the honor code or is tending towards plagiarism, ask me! Such could result in a null score or failure of the course (as per the NJIT code of conduct), and no one wants that.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the start of every class. In keeping with NJIT policy, attendance does not constitute a basis for grading by itself; however, it will be factored into the overall participation grade and will of course have an impact on your ability to engage in discussion and stay up to speed.

Required Text:

Plato, *Republic*, Hackett Publishing, translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised by C.D.C. Reeve.

*PDFs of the rest of the course readings will be made available on Canvas.

Date	Reading Due
Thur, 9/3	Thucydides, <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> : *Required readings are bolded* “Introduction” “The Debate at Sparta and Declaration of War” “The Spartan Ultimatum and Pericles’ Reply” “Pericles’ Funeral Oration” “The Plague” “The Policy of Pericles” “The Mytilenian Debate” “The Melian Dialogue”
9/10	Demosthenes, <i>Selected Political Speeches</i> : “The Olynthiac Speeches” “First Philippic” “On the Peace” “On the Situation in the Chersonese” “Third Philippic”
9/17	Plato, <i>Apology</i> — <i>Crito</i> — <i>Meno</i>
9/24	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Book I-III (until 392c)
10/1	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Book III (from 392d)-V (until 463e)
10/8	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Book V (from 464a)-VII
10/15	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Book VIII-IX Midterm Released: Fri. Oct. 16th
10/22	Epictetus, <i>The Enchiridion</i> Midterm Due: Thur. Oct. 22nd, by 6pm No written responses due on Tue. Oct. 20th
10/29	Aristotle, <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I-II
11/5	Aristotle, <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book III-IV

11/12	Aristotle, <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VIII-IX
11/19	Aristotle, <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book V (6-11), X (6-9) — <i>Politics</i> , Book I
11/26	Thanksgiving: No Class
12/3	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Book II (Ch. 1-5, 9), Book III Final Exam Released: Wed. Dec. 9th
12/10	Cicero, “The Second Philippic” —Selections from <i>On Obligations</i> Final Exam Due: Tue. Dec. 15th, by midnight

¹ **“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.**

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu”