



Instructor: Tommaso Gazzarri
 Email: gazzarrt@union.edu
 Class meets: MWF 10:30-11:35 AM
 Location: WOLD 109+
 Office: HUMN 018/A
 Office hour: W 12:00-1:00 and by appointment
 Mailbox: HUMN, Dept. of Classics (2nd floor)



Description of the course

This course is concerned with the archetypal categories of reason and passion. A number of texts crucial to the classical tradition will be analyzed, and for each one we will try to assess how they contributed to the constitution of arguments that are still relevant to the modern discussion of the topic.

What follows is a partial list of the many issues that will be targeted:

- Reason and emotions are opposite or conciliable categories?
- The creation of orderly systems can be seen as a product of cold reason or is it rather a balanced regimentation of emotions?
- Are passions detrimental or beneficial for the individual? And for the collectivity?
- Is beauty something that can be created and fully experienced by reason, or does it pertain and involve solely our emotions?
- What do atomic theories have to do with fear and emotions?
- What is madness?

Regular discussions will develop from the problems presented by the texts at hand. Participation and attendance in class are therefore of paramount importance.

The students will be responsible for writing a paper concerned with one of the themes targeted in class. The final version will be preceded by three drafts. For each draft the students will be provided with extensive feedback.

Course schedule: (D = in-class discussion)

Lecture 1 - 09/07/11	Introduction
Lecture 2 - 09/09/11	Historical coordinates - Greece
Lecture 3 - 09/12/11	Historical coordinates - Rome

THE HEROIC PARADIGM

Lecture 4 - 09/14/11	Odysseus: a new kind of hero
Lecture 5 - 09/16/11	COSMOS - Theogony and Works and days Introduction to Hesiod
Lecture 6 - 09/19/11	Gods and order Men at work - ⓓ
Lecture 7 - 09/21/11	WHAT MAKES ME SING - Greek Lyrics Introduction to Lyric Poetry <i><u>First WA due</u></i>
Lecture 8 - 09/23/11	In class presentation - selection of Lyric poets
Lecture 9 - 09/26/11	Sappho and Alcaeus
Lecture 10 - 09/28/11	MY OTHER HALF - Symposium Introduction to Plato
Lecture 11 - 09/30/11	Main themes of the dialogue - ⓓ
Lecture 12 - 10/03/11	The declension of love
Lecture 13 - 10/05/11	BLINDED REASON - Greek Tragedy The origins of Greek Tragedy
Lecture 14 - 10/07/11	Introduction to Sophocles <i><u>Second WA due</u></i>
Lecture 15 - 10/10/11	The Theban plays - ⓓ
Lecture 16 - 10/12/11	Introduction to Euripides
Lecture 17 - 10/14/11	Medea - ⓓ
Lecture 18 - 10/17/11	Pasolini's Medea
Lecture 19 - 10/19/11	Pasolini's Medea
	FREE FROM FEAR - De Rerum Natura

Lecture 20 - 10/21/11	Introduction to Lucretius
Lecture 21 - 10/24/11	Science and philosophy; science and religion: <i>De Rerum Natura</i> - \mathcal{D} <i>Third WA due</i>
Lecture 22 - 10/26/11	LIKE WILD FLOWERS - Moral Epistles Introduction to Seneca/Roman Stoicism
Lecture 23 - 10/28/11	A new language of interiority
Lecture 24 - 10/31/11	<i>Epistulae Morales</i> - \mathcal{D}
Lecture 25 - 11/02/11	LUST and SEX - (collection of sources) “Heterosexuality”?
Lecture 26 - 11/04/11	“Homosexuality” - \mathcal{D}
Lecture 27 - 11/07/11	“Bisexuality”? - \mathcal{D}
Lecture 28 - 11/09/11	WHAT WE (don't) KNOW ABOUT THE HUMAN BRAIN
Lecture 29 - 11/11/11	Human brain and evolution
Lecture 30 - 11/14/11	Human brain passions and reason <i>Final WA due 11/18/11</i>

Required texts (available from the bookstore)

- Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. R. Fagles, (Penguin Classics) 1996, ISBN 978-0-14-026886-7
- Hesiod, *Theogony* and *Works and Days*, trans. M. L. West, (Oxford World's Classics) 1988, ISBN 978-0-19-953831-7
- *Greek Lyric Poetry*, trans. M. L. West, (Oxford World's Classics) 2008, ISBN 978-0-19-954039-6
- Plato, *Symposium*, trans. R. Waterfield, (Oxford World's Classics) 2009, ISBN 978-0-19-954019-8

- Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates: Euthyphro, The Apology, Crito, Phaedo*, trans. H. Tredennick, (Penguin) 1993, ISBN 978-0-14-044582-4
- Sophocles, *The Three Teban Plays*, trans. R. Fagles, (Penguin Classics) 1982, ISBN 978-0-14-044425-4
- Euripides, *Medea and Other Plays*, trans. P. Burian, intr. D. Feeney, (Penguin Classics) 2004, ISBN 978-0-14-044789-7
- Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*, trans. R. Melville, (Oxford World's Classics) 2009, ISBN 978-0-19-955514-7
- Seneca, *Selected Letters*, trans. E. Fantham, (Oxford World's Classics) 2010, ISBN 978-0-19-953321-3



Course requirements

Attendance and Papers

Regular participation and prompt attendance are required. If a student misses more than two classes without an excuse or is consistently unprepared for class, his/her grade will be significantly affected.

Late WAs will receive a reduced grade. The penalty will increase as time passes. The penalty on all late WAs will start at 1/3 of a grade, i.e., a B will become a B-. The penalty will increase by 1/3 of a grade for every half week the WA is late until the penalty has reached a full grade

Grades

Final grades will be weighted as follows:

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| • Attendance and participation | 20% |
| • First draft | 20% |
| • Second draft | 20% |
| • Third draft | 20% |
| • Final Revised paper | 20% |

Grading Scale

	A 94–100	A- 90–93
B+ 87–89	B 83–86	B- 80–83
C+ 77–79	C 73–76	C- 70–73
D+ 67–69	D 63–66	D- 60–63

Important Dates

• First WA:	Lecture 7	(09/21/11)
• Second WA:	Lecture 14	(10/07/11)
• Third WA:	Lecture 21	(10/24/11)
• Final WA:	Due	(11/18/11)

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty of any kind is not tolerated at Union College. The penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic fraud are severe. The College expects you to resist the temptations and pressures that may lead you to consider plagiarism or other forms of cheating. If you are not certain about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructors. But the responsibility of avoiding plagiarism is ultimately yours, and yours alone.

ADA Requirements

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office.
2. Bring me a letter (within the first two weeks) from the Dean of Student Office indicating the needed academic accommodations.

For more information contact:

Shelly Shinebarger, Director of Student Support Services
Reamer Campus Center - 303
shinebas@union.edu