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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture 4 - 09/14/11</th>
<th>Odysseus: a new kind of hero</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture 5 - 09/16/11</td>
<td><em>COSMOS</em> - <em>Theogony and Works and days</em></td>
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<td>Lecture 6 - 09/19/11</td>
<td>Introduction to Hesiod</td>
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<td>Lecture 7 - 09/21/11</td>
<td><em>WHAT MAKES ME SING</em> - <em>Greek Lyrics</em></td>
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<td>Lecture 8 - 09/23/11</td>
<td>Introduction to Lyric Poetry</td>
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<td>Lecture 9 - 09/26/11</td>
<td>In class presentation - selection of Lyric poets</td>
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<td>Lecture 10 - 09/28/11</td>
<td>Sappho and Alcaeus</td>
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<td>Lecture 11 - 09/30/11</td>
<td><em>MY OTHER HALF</em> - <em>Symposium</em></td>
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<td>Lecture 12 - 10/03/11</td>
<td>Main themes of the dialogue</td>
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<td>Lecture 13 - 10/05/11</td>
<td>The declension of love</td>
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<td>Lecture 14 - 10/07/11</td>
<td><em>BLINDED REASON</em> - <em>Greek Tragedy</em></td>
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<td>Lecture 15 - 10/10/11</td>
<td>The origins of Greek Tragedy</td>
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<td>Lecture 16 - 10/12/11</td>
<td>Introduction to Sophocles</td>
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<td>Lecture 17 - 10/14/11</td>
<td>Medea</td>
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<td>Lecture 18 - 10/17/11</td>
<td>Pasolini’s Medea</td>
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<td>Lecture 19 - 10/19/11</td>
<td>Pasolini’s Medea</td>
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<td>Lecture 20 - 10/21/11</td>
<td><em>FREE FROM FEAR</em> - <em>De Rerum Natura</em></td>
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Lecture 20 - 10/21/11  Introduction to Lucretius
Lecture 21 - 10/24/11  Science and philosophy; science and religion: De Rerum Natura
   Third WA due
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  Epistulae Morales
   LUST and SEX - (collection of sources)
Lecture 25 - 11/02/11  “Heterosexuality”?
Lecture 26 - 11/04/11  “Homosexuality” -
Lecture 27 - 11/07/11  “Bisexuality”? -
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
   Final WA due 11/18/11

**Required texts** (available from the bookstore)

Fall 2011


**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:

- Attendance and participation 20%
- First draft 20%
- Second draft 20%
- Third draft 20%
- Final Revised paper 20%
### Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90–93</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63–66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60–63</td>
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### 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