



Instructor: Tommaso Gazzarri

Email: gazzarrt@union.edu

Class meets T./Th. 09:00 - 10:45 AM

Location: KARP 101+

Office: Lamont House #305

Office hours: T. 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Th. 02:00 - 03:30 PM

or by appointment

Mailbox: Dept. of Classics

Webpage: www.tommasogazzarri.net

*** To book office hours time go to the above

WEBPAGE >CONTACT >OFFICE HOURS

and select one or more slot(s) ***

Description of the course

This course explores the archetypal categories of reason and passion. Several 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 crucial. Participation will be assessed based on reading assignments (with quizzes), in-class discussions, and in-class presentations.

Students will be responsible for writing 4 papers concerned with a range of themes targeted in class. For each paper, students will receive extensive feedback.

Abbreviations/Sigla/Symbols

R  = book reading due + possible short READING QUIZ

McH = homework from McGraw-Hill Handbook

D = in-class discussion or writing/research activity

P = in-class presentation + handout

• **BLACK INK** = LECTURE TOPIC CONCERNING THE ANCIENT WORLD

• **GREEK INK** = LECTURE TOPIC CONCERNING ENGLISH GRAMMAR/WRITING

• **RED INK** = PAPER DUE



Tentative course schedule

LIKE LIZARDS? - The Human Brain		
W E E K 1	Lecture 1 - 09/04/25	INTRODUCTION TO FYI
	Lecture 2 - 09/09/25	A beautiful mind: the structure of human brain and the relation between reason and passions.
		HW1 for next class → Read "Avoiding Plagiarism": McH (= McGraw-Hill Handbook) part 3, sections 20a to 21e included = pp. 321-349.
		Complete Ex. 21.1 p. 339 and Ex. 21.2 p. 341
		For full credit HW1 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 3 day



W E E K 2	Lecture 3 - 09/11/25	Selection of topic for PAPER 1 Reading critically HW2 for next class → Read "Reading, Thinking, Writing": McH part 3, sections 7a to e included = pp. 126-143. Practice of insightful reading techniques: material to be distributed in class.	
	THE HEROIC PARADIGM - The Homeric Poems		
	Lecture 4 - 09/16/25	R  by today you are expected to have completed the reading of books 1, 9, 18, 24 of the Iliad (ideally read the entire Iliad) Achilles the raging hero: shame culture and the homeric society From rage to Justice HW3 for next class → Grammar! Read "Sentence Fragments" and "Comma Splices ...": McH part 7, sections 32a to 33g included = pp. 540-563. Complete Ex. 32.1 p. 543; Ex. 32.2 pp. 548-9; Ex 32.5 p. 551 and Ex 33.3 pp. 561-2. For full credit HW3 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 5 day	
	Lecture 5 - 09/18/25	Selection of lyric poet for presentation The Odyssey and the Homeric question Self perception in the Homeric poems and Odysseus awareness. Utilizing the library + Classics specific databases to generate a bibliography <u>BRING YOUR LAPTOP</u> FINALIZE YOUR FIRST PAPER > DUE NEXT CLASS	 
	COSMOS- Theogony and Works and Days		

W E E K 3	Lecture 6 - 09/23/25    <u>First paper due</u>    R   by today you are expected to have completed the reading of Hesiod “Works and Days” Utilizing the library + Classics specific databases to generate a bibliography (Continued) <u>BRING YOUR LAPTOP</u> Gods and the origin of the Universe HW4 for next class → generate a short bibliography: topic TBA For full credit HW4 must be submitted on <u>NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 7 day</u> HW5 for next class → Grammar! Read “Subject-Verb Agreement” and “Problems with Verbs”: McH part 7, sections 34a to 35I included = pp. 564-601. Complete Ex. 34.1 p. 568; Ex. 34.2 pp. 573-574; Ex. 34.4 pp. 577-578; Ex. 35.8 pp. 599-600 and Ex. 35.10 p. 601 For full credit HW5 must be submitted on <u>NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 7 day</u>	 
	Lecture 7 - 09/25/25 Men at work <u>Rules of rhetoric + avoiding common errors in grammar and usage</u> HW6 for next class → Grammar! Read “Subject-Verb Agreement” and “Problems with Verbs”: McH part 7, sections 34a to 35I included = pp. 564-601. Complete Ex. 34.1 p. 568; Ex. 34.2 pp. 573-574; Ex. 34.4 pp. 577-578; Ex. 35.8 pp. 599-600 and Ex. 35.10 p. 601 For full credit HW6 must be submitted on <u>NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 8 day</u>	 

W E E K 4	THE LYRE'S SOUND - Lyric Poetry	
	Lecture 8 - 09/30/25	R  by today you are expected to have browsed through West's selection of lyric poetry in order to select "your favorite poet" for your in-class presentation Organizing and supporting your argument Introduction to lyric poetry HW for next class → work on you presentation HW7 for next class → 1) Use the process of induction and craft a thesis or main claim for an argument; 2) Use the process of deduction and craft a thesis or main claim for an argument. Read "Planning and Shaping": McH part 1, sections 3a to 3c included = pp. 39-56. Complete Ex. 3.5 pp. 55-56 <u>For full credit HW7 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 9 day</u> HW8 for next class → "Problems with Pronouns" and "Problems with Adjectives": McH part 7, sections 35a to 37h included = pp. 601-635. Complete Ex. 36.2 p. 607; Ex. 36.4 p. 609; Ex 36.5 p. 611; Ex 36.8 p. 622; Ex 37.2 p. 629 and 37.4 p. 634 <u>For full credit HW8 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 9 day</u>
	Lecture 9 - 10/02/25	P  in class presentation on lyric poetry THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS - Love and Virtue



WEEK 5	Lecture 10 - 10/07/25 R  by today you are expected to have completed the reading of Plato's "Symposium" Introduction to Socrates and Plato HW9 for next class → Punctuation! Read the entirety of "Commas" : McH part 10, sections 51a to q included = pp. 742-768. Complete Ex. 51.6 p. 755; Ex. 51.7 p. 755-6; Ex 51.8 p. 758; Ex. 51.12 p. 767 For full credit HW9 must be submitted on <u>NEXUS</u> by 09:25am of lecture 11 day	
WEEK 6	Lecture 11 - 10/09/25    Second paper due    <u>NO CLASS (I'm out for a conference)</u>	
	Lecture 12 - 10/14/25 Plato's Symposium: the main themes of the dialogue HW10 for next class → Punctuation! Read the entirety of "Semicolons" and "Colons": McH part 10, sections 52a to 53d included = pp. 768-778. Complete Ex. 52.3 pp. 773-774; Ex 53.1 pp. 777-778 Punctuation! Read the entirety of "Semicolons" and "Colons": McH part 10, sections 52a to 53d included = pp. 768-778. Complete Ex. 52.3 pp. 773- 774; Ex. 53.1 pp. 777-778 For full credit HW10 must be submitted on <u>NEXUS</u> by 09:00am of lecture 13 day	
WEEK 7	Lecture 13 - 10/16/25 Homosexuality in the ancient world HW11 for next class → Read the entirety of "Wordy sentences", "Missing Words" and "Mixed Constructions": McH part 8, sections 38a to 40 included = pp. 638-655.	

W E E K 8	7	Lecture 14 - 10/21/25 Aristotle (on how we know what we know) HW12 for next class → Read "Revising": McH part 1, section 5a to k included = pp.80-109. Complete Ex. 5.2 p. 95; Ex. 5.3 pp. 95-96. <u>For full credit HW12 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 15 day</u>	
		Lecture 15 - 10/23/25 Writing first drafts HW13 for next class → Read the entirety of "Confusing Shifts", "Faulty Parallelism" and "Misplaced and "Dangling Modifiers": McH part 8, sections 41a to 43f included = pp. 655-678.	
		Lecture 16 - 10/28/25 ◆◆◆◆ Third paper due ◆◆◆◆ Editing HW14 for next class → Punctuation! Read the entirety of "QuotationMarks" and "Dashes, Parentheses..." McH part 10, sections 54a to 55k included = pp. 778-803. Complete Ex. 54.1 pp. 783-784; Ex. 55.4 pp. 802-803 <u>For full credit HW14 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 17 day</u>	
		BLINDED REASON - Greek Tragedy	
W E E K 9		Lecture 17 - 10/30/25 The origins of Greek tragedy Apollo D➤ in class discussion of the two tragedies you have read HW15 for next class → Read the entirety of "Co-ordination and Subordination", "Sentence Variety" and "Active Verbs": McH part 8, sections 44a to 46b included = pp. 679-701.	

	Lecture 18 - 11/04/25	Dionysos HW16 for next class → Punctuation! Read the entirety of "End Punctuation": McH part 10, sections 56a to h included = pp. 803-808. Complete Ex. 56.1 p. 807 <u>For full credit HW16 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 19 day</u> HW17 for next class → Complete Ex. 38.3 p. 645-646; Ex. 39.1 p. 651; 40.1 pp. 654-5 <u>For full credit HW17 must be submitted on NEXUS by 09:00am of lecture 19 day</u>
W E E K 10	Lecture 19 - 11/06/25	R  by today you are expected to have completed the reading of both Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" and Euripides' Medea Oedipus King and Medea D  in class discussion of Oedipus King and Medea Rewriting HW → Work on your final paper HW18 for next class → Complete Ex. 41.3 pp. 662-663; Ex. 42.3 pp. 670-671; 43.3 p. 699-700 <u>For full credit HW18 must be submitted on NEXUS by 10:25am of lecture 27 day</u>
	Lecture 20 - 11/11/25	Conclusions / final remarks ◆◆◆◆ <u>Final (4th) paper due</u> ◆◆◆◆ <u>DUE TODAY BY 5:00 PM</u>



Required texts (available from the bookstore)

- Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. E. V. Rieu, (Penguin Classics) 2003, ISBN 978-0-14-044794-1
- 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
- Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays*, trans. R. Fagles, (Penguin Classics) 1982, ISBN 978-0-14-044425-4
- The McGraw-Hill Handbook (paperback) **3rd Edition**. By E. Maimon (Author), J. Peritz (Author), K.B. Yancey (Author). ISBN: 978-0077397302



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 = 10% out of the attendance and participation component for each missed class (if on top of the two excused absences).

Late papers will receive a reduced grade. The penalty will increase as time passes. The penalty on all late papers 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 paper is late until the penalty has reached a full grade. All papers should be **TYPED and double-spaced - Font: Times New Roman #12. Use the preset margin settings on your laptop.**

Submission: a paper is considered "submitted" when you have a) handed me a hard copy + b) uploaded an electronic copy on Nexus (that is NOT sending the paper via email!!!)

Homework

- By the beginning of each class, you must have completed (+ uploaded on Nexus) the HW assigned in our previous meeting. If you complete and upload your HW on time, then you are gonna receive 100% for that specific HW.

- Missed HW can be made up only within a week of the due date. A HW made up within one class = minus 50% on that specific HW. A HW made up within 2 classes = minus 75% on that HW.

Example → You do not complete (and upload) the HW due on Monday. These are the possible scenarios:

You complete the HW by Wed.	→ = -50%
You complete the HW by Fr.	→ = -75%
You decide not to complete the HW	→ = -100%
You complete the HW by the following Mon.	→ = that's cute! But you are still gonna get - 100%

- If you have completed your homework but forgot to upload it on time, you'll still receive a -50%. Bottom line: do not forget to upload your HW!
- Certified (that means an official letter signed by your coach) athletic events count as exceptions, and you will be excused**
- Certified (that means an official letter signed by the Dean) health/family emergencies count as exceptions, and you will be excused**
- To be successful in this class, I expect you to spend at least 7 per week on ancient texts/English grammar. (This is between 14c tomatoes per week - that is a bit more than 2 tomatoes = 2 hours per day → not much!)
- HW is stress-free: it is ungraded!** You contribute to the maximum percentage of your HW component of the final grade just by doing the work. You can make the most terrible mistakes, but if you complete and upload your HW on time, no penalty will be assessed and you will still maintain your 100 percentage
- You are responsible for **TYPING and UPLOADING your HW.**
- HW sent via mail will NOT be accepted - YOU MUST UPLOAD IT ON NEXUS**
- The cut-off date for HW 16, 17, and 18 is Nov. 11th (i.e., the last day of class)**

Grades

Final grades will be weighted as follows:

• Attendance and participation	15%
• Homework	15%
• Presentation	10%
• First paper	10%
• Second paper	15%
• Third paper	15%
• Final paper	20%

Grading Components for Papers

Please, refer to the grading components grid + list of mistakes available on Nexus

Grading Scale



A 99-100 (commendation letter)

A 96-98

A- 90-95



B+ 87-89

B 84-86

B- 80-83



C+ 77-79

C 74-76

C- 70-73



D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-63

Do you want to **calculate your grade**? Go to:

<http://apps.mercer.edu/registrarcalc/weightedaverage.html>

Important Dates

- First paper: Lecture 6 (09/23/25)
- Presentation: Lecture 9 (10/02/25)
- Second paper: Lecture 11 (10/09/25)
- Third paper: Lecture 16 (10/08/25)
- Fourth paper: Final day (11/11/25) - by 5:00 PM

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.

Writing Center

[The Writing Center](#) is a student-staffed program designed to provide free one-on-one support at any stage of the writing process, from understanding an assignment, brainstorming, and idea development to structuring, revising, and polishing a draft—along with everything in between. We offer 50-minute peer review conferences for all Union students working on writing projects across the liberal arts, sciences, and engineering curriculum.

Our staff of trained writing mentors—Union undergraduates from a range of majors—work with their peers in an open, supportive, and enthusiastic learning environment. The Writing Center is located on the second floor of Schaffer Library, Rooms 226 and 227. We are open by appointment only throughout the term, Sunday through Thursday, 3-11pm. The Writing Center is closed on Friday and Saturday, and when classes are not in session. Learn how to make an appointment [here](#). Questions? Email writingprograms@union.edu.

Use of Generative AI, ChatGPT, etc, for writing papers

I am, of course, interested in what you think about these topics, not what a bot thinks or suggests that you think. Nothing can replace your own reading and reflection on a topic, plus organizing your thoughts and putting ideas in your own words is important for your intellectual and professional development.

You can use AI to gain information, but please do not use it to create content that you present as your own. I consider that to be plagiarism. ChatGPT can act as a writing tutor, which can be useful, but if you ask it to rewrite your paper, I believe you've crossed a line.

If you use ChatGPT in any way (such as helping you generate a bibliography for the final paper), be sure to cite this and any other use you have made of AI.

Feel free to talk with me about what are permissible ways to use ChatGPT for this class.

Honor Code

Union College aims to establish an environment of mutual trust as part of its educational mission. Membership in an academic community requires respect for, and proper acknowledgment of, the thoughts and work of others. Enrollment in this course signifies implicit agreement with the Academic Honor Code of Union College. The full text of Union's Honor Code may be found online at <<http://honorcode.union.edu>>. In short, it is the responsibility of all students to ensure that the work they submit is their own and that their work does not engage in any form of academic misconduct. Students should ask the instructor of the course to clarify any questions that they might have regarding collaboration, citation, plagiarism, or related matters.

Ignorance is no excuse for violating accepted standards of academic integrity.

Students must also affix the full Honor Code Affirmation or an appropriately abbreviated version to any assignment submitted for a grade:

I affirm that I have done my academic work honestly.

Signed: _____

ADA Requirements

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office.
2. Notify me within the first two weeks, indicating the needed academic accommodations. All discussions will remain confidential to the extent permissible by the law.

Union College Statement on Mental Health

The Eppler-Wolff Counseling Center provides free counseling and therapy services (including psychiatry) to all enrolled students. Please call 518-388-6161 to schedule an initial contact appointment. Visit the Counseling Center website at <https://www.union.edu/counseling-center> for more information.

Cell Phones and Computer Policies

- The use of cell phones, smartphones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive and is therefore prohibited during class. All the mobile devices are expected to be **TURNED OFF and placed on a common table in the classroom**. If you are expecting an emergency call, please inform the instructor in advance and keep the phone in “silent mode”. You should leave the classroom before you answer the call.