Philosophy 6: Human Being, God, and Society in Western Literature
Fall 2013, 141 McCone Hall, MWF 12pm-1pm

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Moses 247, Office Hours TBD

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Course Description
This course will explore fundamental questions about the human condition—including the nature of freedom, the good life, justice, and the individual's relation to family, friends, romantic partners, the wider community, and God(s)—through the lens of classic literary and religious texts, including Homer's Odyssey, Plato's Symposium, Virgil's Aeneid, the Bible, Dante's Divine Comedy, Shakespeare's Hamlet, Austen's Pride & Prejudice, Dostoevsky's Crime & Punishment, and more recent fiction.

Course Grading and Requirements:
Attendance & Participation (15%) and 3 Papers (85%)
1st paper: 3 pages, 25% (Due 9/24)
2nd paper: 5 pages, 30% (Due 10/29)
3rd paper: 5 pages, 30% (Due 12/16)

Attendance & Participation (15%): **Attendance to lectures and sections is mandatory, as is arriving on time.** Excused absences require signed documentation from a doctor or dean. **Participation and preparation are crucial.** There are a variety of ways to participate, including: actively contributing to section discussions, demonstrating reflection on the readings, listening actively and carefully to others' contributions (and not dominating discussion), showing respect toward classmates, and visiting office hours.

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) **may** also give pop quizzes, assign 1-2 page reading response papers, or assign other homework to ensure that students keep up with the assignments.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an F in the course. Please read the handout entitled "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity" (to be distributed with the first paper topics; also available on bSpace), and review university policy at http://www.berkeley.edu/catalog/policies/conduct.html.

Note: In writing papers for this class, use of secondary sources, outside of the assigned readings, is generally discouraged. If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment, be sure to seek clarification from me or your GSI beforehand.

You are required to read these exact editions and translations
The Odyssey of Homer (Perennial Classics, HarperCollins, tr. Lattimore)
The Aeneid of Virgil (Bantam, tr. Mandelbaum)
Plato, *Symposium* (Hackett, trs. Nehamas, Woodruff)
The Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version (Meridian)
Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* (Bantam, tr. Mandelbaum)
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Folger)
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Oxford)
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (Vintage, trs. Pevear & Volokhonsky)
Derek Walcott, *Omeros* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Course Reader (abbreviated on the syllabus as [CR])
Available at Zee Zee Copy (2431-C Durant Ave, bt Dana & Telegraph) and in PDF on bSpace

Course Schedule

Week 1
10/30 (Friday) - Introductory Lecture

Week 2
9/2 (Monday) – LABOR DAY, NO CLASS
9/4 – 3 short readings on bSpace and CR
David Foster Wallace, Kenyon commencement speech (2005) [bSpace]
Martin Heidegger, "Home: The 700th Anniversary of the Town of Messkirch" [bSpace]
Homer, *Iliad*, Book XVIII, lines 468-607, "Achilles' Shield" [CR]
9/6 – Homer, *Odyssey*, Books I-IV (pp.27-87)

Week 3
9/9 – Homer, *Odyssey*, Books V-IX (pp.88-151)
9/11 – *Odyssey*, Books X-XIV (pp.152-224)
9/13 – *Odyssey*, Books XV-XIX (pp.225-297)

Week 4
9/16 – Finish *Odyssey*, Books XX –XXIV (pp.298-359)
9/18 – Plato, *Symposium*, up to "Socrates Questions Agathon" (pp.1-44, 172A-201C)
9/20 – Finish *Symposium*, (pp.45-77, 201D-223D)

Week 5
9/23 – Virgil, *Aeneid*, I-IV (pp.1-102)

9/24 – 1ST PAPER DUE

9/25 – *Aeneid*, V-VIII (pp.103-111)
9/27 – Finish *Aeneid*, IX-XII (pp.212-331)

Week 6
9/30 – *Genesis*, Chs. 1-11 (pp.1-9)
10/2 – *Genesis*, Chs. 12-36 (pp.9-33)
10/4 *Genesis*, Chs. 37-50 (pp.33-47), *Ecclesiastes* (pp.587-594), *Job* (pp.442-474)

Week 7
10/7 – *Matthew* (pp.1-32), *Luke* (pp.52-86)
10/9 – *John* (pp.86-111)
10/11 – *Qur'an*, Surahs 1, 114, 112, 56, 2, 4 [CR]

Week 8
10/14 – Augustine, *Confessions*, Book II, "Adolescence"; Abelard & Heloise, *Letters* [CR]
10/16 – Dante Alighieri, *Inferno*, Cantos I-XIII (pp.3-121)
10/18 – *Inferno*, Cantos XIV-XXIV (pp.125-225)

Week 9
10/21 – Finish *Inferno*, Cantos XXV-XXXIV (pp.227-317)
10/23 – *Purgatorio*, Cantos I, XV-XVIII, XXVII-XXXI [CR]
10/25 – *Paradiso*, Cantos II-III, VII, XVII, XXII-XXIII, XXVII, XXX-XXXIII [CR]

Week 10
10/28 – Giovanni Boccaccio, *Decameron*, Prologue, Introduction, 1.1, 1.2, 2.9, 3.10, 5.8, 6.1, Epilogue [CR]

10/29 – 2ND PAPER DUE

10/30 – William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Act 1 (pp.7-69)
11/1 – *Hamlet*, Acts 2-3 (pp.73-185)

Week 11
11/4 – Finish *Hamlet*, Acts 4-5 (pp.189-287)
11/6 – Jane Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume I (pp.1-101)
11/8 – *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume II (pp.103-184)

Week 12
11/11 – NO CLASS ON MONDAY, ACADEMIC HOLIDAY
11/13 – Finish *Pride & Prejudice*, Volume III (pp.185-298)
11/15 – Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime & Punishment*, Part 1, Part 2 (I-IV) (pp.3-131)

Week 13
11/18 – *Crime & Punishment*, finish Part 2, Part 3 (I-III) (pp.131-235)
11/20 – *Crime & Punishment*, finish Part 3, Part 4 (I-IV) (pp.236-331)
11/22 – *Crime & Punishment*, finish Part 4, Part 5 (pp.331-436)

Week 14
11/25 – Finish *Crime & Punishment*, Part 6, Epilogue (pp.439-551)
11/27 – Friedrich Nietzsche, *Gay Science*, Aphorisms 4, 7, 34, 125, 193, 250, 283, 285, 290, 310, 319, 340, 341 [CR]
11/29 – NO CLASS ON FRIDAY, THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15
12/2 – Derek Walcott, *Omeros*, Books I-II (pp.3-131)
12/4 – *Omeros*, Books III-V (pp.133-219)
12/6 – Finish *Omeros*, Books VI-VII (pp.221-325)

Finals Week
12/16 – 3RD PAPER DUE