HUMN 220 Arts & Ideas: Ancient/Medieval

Section 02-7128: MW 4:00-5:15 pm, HOLT 352
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Office Hours: TBA
Email: ctsparks@csuchico.edu

Course Description & Goals
What does it mean to be free? Who counts as free and who doesn’t? How do freedom and confinement characterize the human condition, shaping Western art, space, and thought? This course will focus on such questions in order to survey the intellectual and cultural history of the West from ancient Mesopotamia to the later Middle Ages (approximately 2000BC—1500AD). We will attend to a variety of texts and objects: literary, religious, philosophical, architectural, and artistic.

This course counts towards the major in Humanities (40-41 units, in which it is a core requirement); the minor in Humanities (21 units); the minor in Classical Civilization (19-21 units); the minor in Modern Jewish and Israel Studies (18 units); and the minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (18 units); as well as GE credit in the Ethics, Justice, and Policy pathway. The Ethics, Justice, and Policy Studies Pathway (Area C1: Arts) is designed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge for active and responsible engagement in the social decision-making process. The pathway recognizes that a person’s position on any public issue needs to be tied not only to facts and a thorough understanding of the issues and mechanisms that guide the policy process, but also to an ability to draw on and challenge culturally informed understandings of what constitutes justice and ethical behavior.

Over the course of the semester, students will:
- Carefully analyze and interpret texts and objects.
- Demonstrate knowledge of crucial events, people, places, and objects of western culture.
- Critically engage with persistent humanistic ideas and questions across the varied disciplines of philosophy, religious studies, history, literature, art, music, and theater.
- Create written, oral, and multimodal projects.

Required Texts & Materials
You must use the text edition listed below.
- Various readings, slideshows, and videos available on Bb.
- Course-specific Tumblr account
Course Policies

Careful reading, critical thinking, and honest and thoughtful discussion will be central to the course. Because learning best occurs in engaged communities, attendance, preparation, and participation in class discussions are essential to your success.

Participation: Class will include lecture and discussion. All students will be expected to participate (by both actively listening and thoughtfully contributing to class discussion) and to treat everyone in the class with respect and dignity. Doing well in this course means you should: read assigned texts multiple times before coming to class, ask questions, use electronic devices appropriately, join discussions by speaking to your classmates, and prepare assignments thoroughly. All assignments are due by class on the date listed on the course schedule unless otherwise noted. I do not accept late work.

Attendance & Tardiness: Tardiness after 10 minutes may be counted as an absence. You are allowed 4 absences total in HUMN 220, which you will need to save for illnesses and emergencies. There is no difference between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. Your final grade will be dropped a third of a letter grade (e.g., B to B-) for each absence after four. If you have an emergency or extended illness, it is your responsibility to remain in contact with me so that we can work out a plan for you to complete your assignments despite your absences. Please inform me in advance of special circumstances such as religious holidays, for which there will be no penalties (you must provide all relevant university documentation).

Academic Integrity: Any assignment you submit with your name on it signifies that you are the author—that the wording and ideas are yours, with exceptions indicated by quotation marks and citations. Briefly, plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of others’ materials (words or ideas). We will discuss how to avoid it, including correct quotation and citation practices. Evidence of cheating, plagiarism, or other misuse of sources may result in the reduction of an assignment grade or a reduction in your course grade. Please see the “Policy on Academic Integrity and the Establishment of the Academic Integrity Council; Revised,” at http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2004/04-036.shtml.

Digital Projects & Electronic Communication: Our course will use digital media for communications, readings, and projects. If you do not have personal access to a computer, there are several computer labs available across campus. Computer glitches, long lines in the computer labs, or printing problems will not be accepted as excuses for being unprepared for class or missing assignment deadlines. I expect all electronic communication to follow professional standards of form and content, which we will briefly discuss and practice. I do my best to respond to emails within 24 hrs; however, do not expect an immediate response.

Tutoring Services (SLC): Tutoring is available through the Student Learning Center, 400 West First Street, 530-898-5839, http://www.csuchico.edu/slc/

Accessibility Resource Services (ARC): Students requiring assistance or appropriate academic accommodations for a disability may contact me after class, during office hours, or by appointment. Please make sure to establish your eligibility for disability support services through the Accessibility Resource Center in the Student Services Center 170, (530-898-5959), http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/

Grading & Assignments

Final grades in the course will take into account the work on various assignments, your participation and attendance, and any extra credit you have completed. The course uses the following percentage scale:

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\begin{align*}
A &= 100 - 93, \\
A- &= 92 - 90, \\
B+ &= 89 - 87, \\
B &= 86 - 83, \\
B- &= 82 - 80, \\
C+ &= 79 - 77, \\
C &= 76 - 73, \\
C- &= 72 - 70, \\
D+ &= 69 - 67, \\
D &= 66 - 60, \\
F &= 59 - 0
\end{align*}
\]
Below are the point totals, due dates, and descriptions for the major assignment categories of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Assignments</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>Due: various (see schedule)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial Observation Posts &amp; Responses</td>
<td>150 pts (6 x 25 pts each)</td>
<td>Due: various (see schedule)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm (Analytical Reflection)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>Due: 3/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premodern Space Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
<td>Due: 3/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
<td>Due: 4/27 – 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Piece</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
<td>Due: 5/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
<td>Due: Finals Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit Opportunities</td>
<td>(10 pts each, up to 30 pts)</td>
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**Miscellaneous Assignments:** Quizzes, in class work & presentations, other small assignments. 100 points total.

**Spatial Observation Posts & Responses:** 6 Tumblr posts (3 posts + 3 responses) using various media to present your analytical observations of a chosen particular space. You will reblog at least 3 of your classmates’ posts and write a brief response. 25 points each.

**Midterm:** An analytical reflection essay that carefully considers your work in the course up until this point. The essay will include in-class outlining and drafting. 100 points.

**Final Exam:** Exam will include concept ID, quote ID, short answer, & essay questions. Exam will cover readings, slideshows, and lectures from entire semester. (So take good notes!!) 150 points.

**Ancient/Medieval Space Project:** The course culminates in a multimodal research project. Choose a specific Ancient/Medieval space (a particular city, building, street, country, region, forest, field, port….). The project will engage key concepts from the course and utilize your practice with various media in the spatial observation posts. The parts of the project include:

- **Proposal:** Identifies your chosen Ancient/Medieval space and explains your intended research program. Includes a 2 page essay, annotated bibliography, and work plan. 75 points.
- **Presentation:** Brief presentation to your classmates in which you summarize your research findings and discuss your media project. 75 points.
- **Media Piece:** A photo essay, website, podcast, model, short film, map, or other media piece that critically and creatively presents your chosen space. 75 points
- **Essay:** A 5-7 page essay that provides a compelling interpretation of your space and discusses how your media piece says something new and interesting about your space. 75 points.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** Attend a cultural event and write a 500-word response that briefly summarizes what happened and connects the event to our course. 10 points possible for each response; you may complete three extra credit responses during the semester. (No extra credit submissions after the semester's schedule.

**Schedule**

1. **Wednesday 1/21**
   Introduction of the Course

2. **Monday 1/26 The Mesopotamians: Epic Literature**
   The Epic of Gilgamesh (PDF on Bb)
   Due: reading response (counts toward “miscellaneous assignments”)

Wednesday 1/28 The Jews: Cosmogony
*Genesis* 1-4, 6-9 and 11 (on Bb)

3.
Monday 2/2 The Jews: Covenant community, Early History, theology, cultural identity
*Genesis* 12, 15, and 17-46; *Exodus* 1-20 (on Bb)

Wednesday 2/4 The Jews: Existential Literature
*Job* 1-14 and 29-31 and 37-42 (will be on pp 5-37 and 69-91 of the pdf) (on Bb)

4.
Monday 2/9 The Greeks: Minoan & Mycenaean Art
Slideshow #1 (on Bb)

Wednesday 2/11 The Greeks: Black-figure & Red-figure Ware
Slideshow #2 (on Bb)

5.
Monday 2/16 The Greeks: Tragedy
Sophocles, *Antigone* (pp. 161 – 184) (on Bb)
Due: create a Tumblr account

Wednesday 2/18 The Greeks: Tragedy
Sophocles, *Antigone* (pp. 184 – 212) (on Bb)
Due: Observation Post 1

6.
Monday 2/23 Greek & Roman Sculpture & Architecture
Slideshow #3

Wednesday 2/25 The Romans: Literature
Ovid, *Letters from the Black Sea* (on Bb)
Due: Response Post 1

7.
Monday 3/2 The Romans: Literature
Ovid, *Letters from the Black Sea* (on Bb)

Wednesday 3/4 The Christians: The Early Church
Paul’s Letter to the Romans (on Bb)

8.
Monday 3/9 Late Antiquity: Allegorical Literature
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* (Books 1, 2, & 3)

Wednesday 3/11 Late Antiquity: Allegorical Literature
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* (Books 4 & 5)
Due: Ancient/Medieval Space Project Proposal

9.
Monday 3/1 & Wednesday 3/18 Spring Break: No Class
   Slideshow #4 (on Bb)
   Due: Observation Post 2

Wednesday 3/25 Ancient & Medieval Music
   Slideshow #5 (on Bb)
   Due Friday 3/27: Midterm Reflection Essay

11. Monday 3/30 Medieval Literature: Chanson de Geste
    *Song of Roland* (laissez 1 – 177)
    Due: Response Post 2

Wednesday 4/1 Medieval Literature: Chanson de Geste
    *Song of Roland* (laissez 178 – 298)

    Slideshow #6 (on Bb)

Wednesday 4/9 Medieval Maps
    Slideshow #7 (on Bb)

    *Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Letters 2 – 6)
    Due: Observation Post 3

Wednesday 4/15 Medieval Literature: Letters
    *Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Letters 7 & 8)

    Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* (reading selections, TBA)
    Due: Response Post 3

Wednesday 4/22 Medieval Manuscripts
    Slideshow #8

15. Monday 4/27
    Ancient/Medieval Space Project Presentations
    Due: Ancient/Medieval Space Project Media

Wednesday 4/29
    Ancient/Medieval Space Project Presentations

16. Monday 5/4
    Ancient/Medieval Space Project Presentations
Wednesday 5/6
Ancient/Medieval Space Project Presentations
Due Friday 5/8: Ancient/Medieval Space Project Essay

Finals Week (May 11 – 15)
Final Exam