



Course Syllabus
Classics of the Ancient World
HUMN 2013/4013 (online)
Fall 2021

Contact Information

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Course Description

How to live a good life well. What makes life meaningful? As a fundamental question of what it means to be human, this question sits at the core of “the Humanities.” As we will see, what makes a life meaningful is not always as obvious to us as we might like to think. In fact, many of the answers we give to this question today, like the claim that life’s meaning is related to death, or that life is made meaningful by the community to which we belong, the glory of our accomplishments, the justice we seek and fulfill, or the love we share with others, find their first expressions in the ancient world—most influentially in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. By studying various aspects of literature, philosophy, religion, and art, students in this course will acquire an interdisciplinary understanding of how these ideas developed in the ancient world and how they relate to us today. Students can expect to encounter different ways of viewing the world; learn to analyze, interpret, and think critically about literature, religion, philosophy, art, and history; and come to terms with how these various modes of cultural production help us think about how human beings have tried to make sense of themselves and their worlds. As a result, students will also develop the academic skills of synthesizing the various types of knowledge and discourses studied this semester.

Required Texts

- *Gilgamesh*, a new verse rendering by Stanley Lombardo. Indianapolis: Hackett.
- Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*. Trans. G.M.A. Grube & John M. Cooper. Indianapolis: Hackett.
- Sophocles, *The Theban Plays*. Trans. Robert Fagles. Penguin.
- All other required readings will be available as PDFs for students to access via D2L.

Recommended Text

- *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities*, volume 1, 4th edition. Janetta Rebold Benton and Robert DiYanni, editors. Pearson.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Enrollment in *any* college class comprises a binding social contract, which includes a respect for every student's right to learn. Conduct that diminishes the quality of other students' learning will not be tolerated. Every student is expected to engage with the course material in a responsible and respectful manner. Sleeping or chatting in class, coming unprepared, projecting disengagement, texting, doing another course's work—all of these actions *directly* disrespect the material and imply an unwillingness to take seriously the privileges of being able to learn in a college classroom.

Students are expected to uphold the standards of "Academic Integrity" set forth by the [MSU Student Honor Creed](#). The instructor will notify the appropriate authority of any infringement of academic honesty.

"Cheating" includes the unauthorized use of certain information, materials, or devices in exams, papers, or assignments. Additionally, grading will abide by the University's plagiarism policy.

"Plagiarism" includes but is not limited to using the published or unpublished works of another person without recognition, either by paraphrase or direct quotation. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism.

A student who makes use of plagiarized material, or anyone that profits from (or abets) cheating, will be DISMISSED from the course. Cases will also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.

Please visit the Office of Student Conduct for more information about guidelines regarding Academic Dishonesty, its prevention, and the procedures for its prosecution.

Grading

Table 1: Final grades for the course will be determined according to the following distribution:

Assignments	Weight
Engagement	5%
Quiz Average	20%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%

Table 2: Grades will be administered on an A-F scale according to the following percentages:

Grade	Value
A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-0

Quizzes

Routine quizzes will be administered via D2L throughout the semester. Quizzes ensure that students keep pace with the syllabus. For this reason, quizzes will be based entirely off of class readings and

lectures. Quiz dates are marked on the course schedule. When quiz averages are calculated for the final course grade, the lowest single quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes will be comprised of a single multiple choice question pulled randomly from a larger “pool” of available questions. Each quiz will be available for students to take between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the date posted on the schedule. Missed quizzes cannot be taken after the deadline.

Exams

Three exams will be administered throughout the semester. Exams will not be cumulative and will cover material discussed and prepared in class. Exams will be posted for students to download, complete, and return to the appropriate Assignments dropbox in D2L. These dropboxes are equipped with plagiarism detection software. Students registered at the 4000-level will submit a longer final exam, the details of which will be communicated to class midway through the semester.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be accepted in this course. Students are therefore encouraged to keep pace with the syllabus from the start of the semester to avoid a situation in which extra credit would be desired.

Make Up Work/Tests

Quizzes cannot be made up retroactively. All assignments are organized to accommodate various work and travel schedules. Unforeseen, exceptional circumstances that prevent a student from taking a *test* will require credible documentation *at that time* to make-up the assignment.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

MSU’s D2L program is a requirement this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to complete all of the course modules. The instructor receives a report form D2L of which students completed which modules when. This counts as your “attendance.” Other forms of engagement include participation in the online discussion and question boards – both as original posters, as interlocutors in discussions, and as respondents to fellow students’ questions.

Instructor Class Policies

Help — Students should discuss any concerns with the instructor as soon as possible. Many of the readings will be difficult, so *please* ask questions in class for clarification. Office hours are available in person and via videoconferencing. In-person office hours are on a drop-in basis, while videoconferencing session can be scheduled by appointment. Please do not come to in-person office hours if you are feeling ill; schedule via email a videoconference session instead.

Technology — As an online course, internet access and technological capabilities (internet, D2L, microphone, webcam) are required and it is the student’s responsibility to ensure reliable access.

Recordings — Lectures, lecture notes, assignments, etc. remain the intellectual property of the instructor. Students are not permitted to disseminate the content of our online class outside D2L.

Conduct — Actions that diminish the quality of other students’ learning will not be tolerated. Insults, slurs, or attacks of any kind will be grounds for permanent removal from the course. Every student is expected to engage with the course material in a responsible and respectful manner. This includes

basic etiquette during videoconferencing sessions. To avoid distractions, students are expected to be fully dressed, seated, and presentable on camera.

Email — Check emails regularly, since that will be the only method by which students are informed about class cancellations or any changes to the course. Your instructor will email you via D2L. Therefore, either make sure you check your D2L email regularly, or change the settings of your D2L inbox to reroute your D2L emails to a preferred email address. When emailing your professors, please ensure that proper etiquette and professionalism is being observed. Always check the syllabus and the course schedule first to ensure that any questions are not already answered there. Your instructor will not respond at length to emails about writing assignments after the assignment has been posted. Please allow 24 hours for an email reply.

Disability Support Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Changes to Syllabus

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. All details of any changes made to the course will be made available to students via email.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies — Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy — College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy — To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE: August 23-27

Monday: Module 1: Introduction to course and procedures
Wednesday: Module 2: Paleolithic & Neolithic Lecture (no reading due)
Friday: Module 3: Mesopotamia intro #1 (no reading due)

WEEK TWO: August 30 – September 3

Monday: Module 3: Mesopotamia intro #2 (no reading due)
Wednesday: Module 4: *Gilgamesh* tablets I-III
Friday: Module 5: *Gilgamesh* tablets IV-V. **Quiz 1**

WEEK THREE: September 6-10

Monday: No class. Labor Day.
Wednesday: Module 6: *Gilgamesh* tablets VI-IX
Friday: Module 7: *Gilgamesh* tablets X-XI. **Quiz 2**

WEEK FOUR: September 13-17

Monday: Module 8: Egypt Old Kingdom Intro & “The Teachings of Ptahotep” (PDF)
Wednesday: Module 8: Middle Kingdom & “The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant” (PDF)
Friday: No module: Integrated flex day for catchup. **Quiz 3**

WEEK FIVE: September 20-24

Monday: Module 9: Egypt New Kingdom Intro & “Hymn to the Orb” (PDF)
Wednesday: Module 9: “Decree of King Tut,” “Harpist’s Songs,” “Be a Writer” (PDFs)
Friday: No module: Optional review session. **Quiz 4**

WEEK SIX: September 27 – October 1

Monday: No module: **Test #1 due by 10:00 a.m.**
Module 10: Greece Intro lecture: Cycladic Minoan, Mycenaean, Archaic
Wednesday: Module 11: Pericles’s Funeral Oration (PDF)
Friday: Module 12: Classical Greece intro lecture (no reading due)

WEEK SEVEN: October 4-8

Monday: Module 13: Plato’s *Apology* 17a-24b (in *Trial and Death of Socrates*)
Wednesday: Module 13: Plato’s *Apology* 24c-28d
Friday: Module 13: Plato’s *Apology* 28e-42a. **Quiz 5**

WEEK EIGHT: October 11-15

Monday: Module 14: Plato's *Euthyphro* 2a-16a (in *Trial and Death of Socrates*)
Wednesday: Module 14: Plato's *Euthyphro* continued
Friday: Module 14: Plato's *Euthyphro* continued. **Quiz 6**

WEEK NINE: October 18-22

Monday: Module 15: Plato's *Republic* Book VII: Myth of the Cave (PDF)
Wednesday: Module 15: Myth of the Cave continued.
Friday: Module 15: Myth of the Cave continued. **Quiz 7**

WEEK TEN: October 25-29

Monday: Module 16: Sophocles *Oedipus* lines 1-572 (in *The Theban Plays*)
Wednesday: Module 16: Sophocles *Oedipus* lines 573-1182
Friday: Module 16: Sophocles *Oedipus* lines 1183-1684. **Quiz 8**

WEEK ELEVEN: November 1-5

Monday: No module: Optional review session
Wednesday: No module: **Test #2 due by 11:59 p.m.**
Friday: Module 17: Romans Intro lecture (no reading due)

WEEK TWELVE: November 8-12

Monday: Module 18: Marcus Aurelius *Meditations* book 2 (PDF)
Wednesday: Module 18: Marcus Aurelius *Meditations* continued
Friday: Module 18: Marcus Aurelius *Meditations*. **Quiz 9**

WEEK THIRTEEN: November 15-19

Monday: Module 19: Early Christianity Intro lecture (no reading due)
Wednesday: Module 20: Augustine *Confessions* Book II (PDF)
Friday: Module 20: Augustine *Confessions* Book II. **Quiz 10**

WEEK FOURTEEN: November 22-26

Monday: No module: Integrated flex day for catchup
Wednesday: No class: Thanksgiving
Friday: No class: Thanksgiving

WEEK FIFTEEN: November 29 – December 3

Monday: Module 21: Augustine *Confessions* Book IV (PDF)
Wednesday: No module: Optional review session. **Quiz 11**
Friday: No module: **Test #3 due by 11:59 p.m.**

4000-level final assignment due in Assignments dropbox by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7