

Values of Western Civilization
Verbrugghe
Spring 2014

510:107
BSB 334
MW 1:20– 2:40 PM

Syllabus

This course looks at five pre-modern epics of the Western World: *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *The Aeneid*, *The Shahnameh* (Persian *Book of Kings*), and *The Nibelungenlied*; and seeks to compare the human values expressed in them with the values of the major religions of the west as seen in their sacred literature: *The Tanach* (Hebrew Sacred Scripture), *The New Testament*, and *The Qur'an*. We will not by a long shot read all of these works; our reading will be a close one of selected passages in order to compare and contrast “secular” literature with the “religious” literature.

My home page is <http://crab.rutgers.edu/~verbrugg/>, which under courses for 510:107 has this syllabus and the URL to Sakai, given here: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>. At Sakai Rutgers, when you log in using your Rutgers user name and password, our course should appear along with any other courses you are enrolled in that also use Sakai. Click on our course (Values of Western Civ 510:107:01 Sp 14), and under Resources, in the headings on the left, you will find available in electronic format almost all of the readings needed for this course. Under Syllabus, you will also find another copy of this syllabus.

My office is 200 in 429 Cooper; my office phone number is 225-6075; my internet e-mail address is Verbrugg@camden.rutgers.edu (please, put “Values in WC” in the heading to alert me). I will be available for questions or consultation each class day (MWF) during Office Hours from 7:15 to 8:45 AM. If these times are not convenient, arrangements can be made for a mutually agreed upon time for meeting.

Required Readings Available at the Bookstore:

Shahnameh: *The Persian Book of Kings* – Abolqasem Firdawsī, trans. By Dick Davis (Penguin) ISBN 9780143104933

Other Required Readings are available on Sakai, or over the internet, at your local library, or perhaps already in your own collection of your favorite readings;

The Bible, both Jewish and Christian sacred literature (Tanach – what Christians call the Old Testament, Apocrypha, and New Testament): in whatever translation you like, but usually the more modern the translation, the easier to read and understand. There are a number of translations available over the internet, including the [Revised Standard](#). On our Sakai site are the Revised Standard’s translations of *Genesis*, *Exodus*, *1 & 2 Samuel*, *1 & 2 Kings*, *Luke*, *Romans*, *1 & 2 Corinthians*.

The Qur'an available at a number of sites, among which is <http://quran.com/>. On our Sakai site are Surahs 1, 2, 36, 67, 75, 113, and 114

The Iliad is available at <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>. On our Sakai site are available books 1, 9, 14, 16, 22, 24

The Odyssey is available at <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/odyssey.html>. On our Sakai site are available books 9-12, 18-23

The Aeneid is available at <http://classics.mit.edu/Virgil/aeneid.html>. On our Sakai site are available books 2, 4, 6, 10, 12

The Nibelungenlied is available at

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1151/pg1151.txt>. See also

<http://omac1.org/Nibelungenlied/> for a different translation. On our Sakai site are

Aventiure 1, 16, 33-39

Basis for the Determination of Final Grade:

There will be eight (8) quizzes, one mid-term examination, a final examination, and a 7-10 page paper. There are **NO** make-up quizzes or examinations. This policy is easily VITIATED (If you don't know what *vitiated* means, please look it up in the dictionary.). If you are going to have to miss a quiz or examination when scheduled because of absolutely unavoidable circumstances, courtesy and I demand that you notify me beforehand or in an unforeseen and unforeseeable situation as soon as possible afterwards (**NOT** just the next time you happen to be in class) either in person, by phone, or by e-mail so that arrangements can be made. A number grade will be given for each quiz and examination. The average of the eight quizzes will count for 25% of the final grade, the average of the two hourly examinations will count 30% of the final grade, the paper will count 10% of the final grade, and the final examination will count 35%. The resulting figure will have the following letter grade correspondence:

100 –90 = A

89 –80 = B

79 –70 = C

69 –60 = D

59 – 0 = F

Class Policies:

Please feel free to use whatever means you want to help you in class: laptops for note-taking, recordings of lectures, or just plain note taking. The Power Point presentations or notes in class are NOT available on Sakai.

Your in-class quizzes and in-class mid-term and final examination are to be your own work exclusively. Notes or prewritten work to be copied during in-class quizzes and in-class mid-term and final examination are not allowed. During in-class quizzes and essays, you should not use your phone or computer, nor should you disrupt the class by leaving and returning to your seat. Please, take care of bathroom necessities before or after class.

I expect the reading assignments to be done for the class day they are assigned. A good rule of thumb is that for every hour of class, two hours of preparation are necessary.

Although no grade is given for class attendance or participation, I expect everyone to attend and participate in class. Such attendance and participation should show good results on the quizzes and essay examinations

Schedule of meetings, assignments, and examinations

Jan. 22 (1 class)	Introduction to the Course
Jan. 27, 29, Feb. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19 (8 classes)	Homer – The <i>Iliad</i> and the <i>Odyssey</i> Read <i>Iliad</i> books 1, 9, 14, 16, 22, 24 Read <i>Odyssey</i> books 9-12, 18-23
Jan. 28	Last Day to DROP course without \$5.00 fee and without a grade of "W"
Feb. 10	Quiz 1 on <i>Iliad</i>

Feb. 19	Quiz 2 on <i>Odyssey</i>
Feb. 24, 26, Mar. 3, 5, 10, 12, 14 (7 classes)	Sacred Scripture for Jews (Tanach) and Christians (Old and New Testament) Read <i>Genesis, Exodus, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings</i> Read <i>Luke, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians</i> .
Mar. 3 Mar. 5 (1 class) Mar. 12	Quiz 3 on Tanach <u>Mid-Term Examination</u> Quiz 4 on New Testament
Mar. 15-23 Mar. 16	SPRING BREAK PURIM begins at Sunset
Mar. 24, 26, 31, Apr. 2 (4 classes)	Virgil – the <i>Aeneid</i> Read <i>Aeneid</i> books 2, 4, 6, 10, 12
Apr. 2	Quiz 5 on Virgil
Apr. 7, 9, 14, 16 (4 classes)	Qur'an Read Surahs 1, 2, 36, 67, 75, 113, and 114
Apr. 9 Apr. 14 Apr. 16	<u>Last day to drop a course with a "W" grade and \$5.00 fee</u> PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNSET Quiz 6 on Qur'an
Apr. 18, 21, 23, 28 (4 Classes)	<i>Shahnameh</i> – ***change the readings Read “Rostam, The Son of Zal-Dastan” to “The Death of Rostam”, pp. 104-439.
Apr. 18 Apr. 22 Apr. 28	GOOD FRIDAY <u>Paper Due</u> Quiz 7 on <i>Shahnameh</i>
Apr. 30, May 2, 5 (3 classes)	<i>Nibelungenlied</i> Read <i>Aventiure</i> 1, 16, 33-39
May 5	Quiz 8 on <i>Nibelunglied</i>
May 6-7 May 12, 2:00 pm	Reading period <u>Final Examination</u>