HUMN 220 Arts & Ideas: Ancient/Medieval

Section 02: TR 12:30-1:45pm
Room: ARTS 105
Instructor: Dr. Corey Sparks
Office: ARTS 257
Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:30pm, & by appointment.
Email: ctsparks@csuchico.edu

Course Description & Objectives
This course surveys 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.

GE Student Learning Objectives
• **Diversity**: Demonstrates an understanding of and facility with different intellectual viewpoints as well as the unique perspectives of others based on varied experiences, identities and social attributes.
• **Creativity**: Takes intellectual risks and applies novel approaches to varied domains.
• **Global Engagement**: Demonstrates knowledge and skills necessary to engage global cultures and peoples.

Required Texts & Materials
You must use the text edition listed below.

- Various readings, slideshows, and videos available on (see course schedule for more info)
- Notebook (exclusively used for your Reading/Viewing Journal)
**Course Policies**

*Participation:* Class will include lecture and discussion. Careful reading, critical thinking, and honest and thoughtful discussion will be central to the course. Regular attendance, thorough preparation, and active participation in class discussions are essential to your success.

*Attendance:* You are allowed four absences total. I do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences, so save your absences for times when you must absolutely miss class. For every absence over four, your final grade is reduced by 1/3 (i.e. from B- to C+). Regular non-attendance for any reason may result in being dropped from the course. For the relevant university attendance statement see: “Attendance in Class” https://catalog.csuchico.edu/viewer/12/ACAREGS.html#Attendance

*Assignment Credit:* All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed on the course schedule unless otherwise noted. I do not accept late work. If you know or suspect you may be absent, it is up to you to make preparations to submit your classwork.

*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.

*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 Center:* If you need course adaptations or accommodations, please see me during office hours. Please also contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/

*Title IX:* I want this course to be a safe learning environment, one in which you feel able to share information related to your life experiences during classroom discussion, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the university. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Counseling and Wellness Center (898-6345) or Safe Place (898-3030). Information about campus reporting obligations and other Title IX related resources are available here: www.csuchico.edu/title-ix
**Grading & Assignments**

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**Assignment** | **Points** | **Due Date**
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Reading & Viewing Journal | 0/1/2 | various
Premodern Space Group Project | 250 | various
Midterm Analytical Reflection | 100 | 3/10
Final Analytical Reflection | 150 | TBA

**Total: 500**

**Extra Credit Opportunities** | 5 pts ea; 15 pts max | by 11/18

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**Reading & Viewing Journal:** You will keep a semi-formal notebook for responding to particular prompts about our readings and slideshows. The prompts are either creative or analytical in nature. Collection dates will be periodic and unannounced. Journal credit is a modified credit/no credit system. Each entry receives a 0, 1, or 2. Journal credit affect your final grade in the course. Receiving a majority of 2’s will raise your final grade by 1/3; a majority of 0’s will lower your final grade by 1/3; a majority of 1’s will keep your final grade where it is.

**Midterm Analytical Reflection:** An analytical reflection essay that develops key examples from our coursework into a larger argument about your experience of and work in the course so far. 125 points.

**Final Analytical Reflection:** A reflection essay in which you develop key examples from our course’s readings and slideshows to make a claim about what you have learned in the course. 125 points.

**Premodern Space Project:** Over the course of the semester you will work on a multimodal group research project. Choose a specific premodern space (from a list I provide). The project will provide you a chance to demonstrate your critical thinking as well as a creativity. The parts of the project include:

- **Annotated Bibliography:** An MLA-format bibliography of at least 10 sources about your chosen space; each bibliographic entry has a 150-word annotation summarizing the source. 75 points.
- **Group Research Presentations:** Polished 10 minute presentation to your classmates in which you summarize your research findings and advance an interpretation of your chosen space. 75 points.
- **Group Media Piece:** A photo essay, website, podcast, model, short film, map, or other media piece that critically and creatively presents your chosen space. 100 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. 5 points possible for each response; you may complete three extra credit responses during the semester. (Last day to submit extra credit is Thursday 5/4.)
**Schedule**

1. **Tuesday 1/24**  
   Introduction of the Course: What is this course about? Who am I? Who are we doing here?  
   Journal 1

2. **Thursday 1/26**  
   Introduction of the Course, continued.  
   Introduction to Ancient Art & Literature: What’s awesome about the ancient world?

3. **Tuesday 1/31**  
   Foucault, “Of Other Spaces”  
   Journal 2

4. **Thursday 2/2 (no class meeting)**

5. **Tuesday 2/7**  
   The Mesopotamians: Epic Literature  
   *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (PDF on ChronoZoom)  
   Journal 3

6. **Thursday 2/9**  
   The Mesopotamians: Epic Literature  
   *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (PDF on ChronoZoom)

7. **Tuesday 2/14**  
   The Jews: Cosmogony  
   *Genesis* 1-4, 6-9 and 11 (on ChronoZoom)  
   Journal 4

8. **Thursday 2/16**  
   The Jews: Existential Literature  
   *Job*, chapters 1-14, 29-31, and 37-42 (will be on pp 5-37 and 69-91 of the pdf) (on ChronoZoom)

9. **Tuesday 2/21**  
   Medieval Manuscripts  
   Slideshow #1 (On ChronoZoom)  
   Journal 5

10. **Thursday 2/23**  
    The Greeks: Cycladic, Minoan, & Mycenaean Art  
    Slideshow #2 (on ChronoZoom)  
    Journal 6 & 7

11. **Tuesday 2/28**  
    The Greeks: Tragedy  
    Euripides, *The Suppliants* (on ChronoZoom)  
    Journal 8  
    Library Research Workshop

12. **Thursday 3/2**  
    The Greeks: Sculpture & Architecture  
    Slideshow #3 (on ChronoZoom)  
    Journal 9 & 10  
    Midterm Essay Workshop

13. **Tuesday 3/7**  
    The Romans: Lyric Poetry  
    Sulpicia, *Six Poems*; Ovid, *Ars Amatoria*, selections; Catullus, selected poems  
    Midterm Essay Workshop

14. **Thursday 3/9**  
    The Romans: Art & Architecture
Slideshow #4
Journal 9
Premodern Space Project Workshop: Annotated Bibliography
Midterm Essay Due (to BbL on Friday, 3/10 by 11:59pm)

SPRING BREAK (3/13-17)

8. Tuesday 3/21 Late Antiquity: Allegorical Literature
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* (Book 1-3)
Journal 10
Thursday 3/23 Medieval Maps
TBA

9. Tuesday 3/28 Late Antiquity: Allegorical Literature
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* (Books 4-5)
Thursday 3/30 Medieval Architecture: Religious Architecture
Slideshow #6 (on ChronoZoom)
Journal 11
Premodern Space Project Workshop: Annotated Bibliography

10. Tuesday 4/4 Medieval Literature: Chanson de Geste
*Song of Roland* (laisses 1 – 177)
Journal 12
Thursday 4/6 Medieval Literature: Chanson de Geste
*Song of Roland* (laisses 178 – 298)

11. Tuesday 4/11
Medieval Architecture: Secular Architecture
Slideshow #7 (on ChronoZoom)
Journal 13
Thursday 4/13
Premodern Space Project Workshop: Media Piece
Annotated Bibliography Due (to BbL)

12. Tuesday 4/18 The Muslims: Art & Architecture
Slideshow #8 (on ChronoZoom)
Journal 14 & 15
Thursday 4/20 The Muslims: Poetry
Selected poems (on ChronoZoom)

13. Tuesday 4/25 Medieval Literature: Letters
*Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Letters 2 – 6)
Journal 16
Thursday 4/27 Medieval Literature: Letters
*Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Letters 7 & 8)
14. Tuesday 5/2 Medieval Literature: Allegorical Literature
Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, selections TBA
Journal 17

15. Thursday 5/4 Medieval Literature: Allegorical Literature
Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, selections TBA

15. Tuesday 5/9 & Thursday 5/11
Premodern Space Project Presentations
Premodern Space Media Pieces Due

16. Finals Week
Final Reflection Essay Due TBA