CH 201 Ancient and Medieval Cultures
Wintermester 2018

Number of Credits
3

Instructor
John Benjamin

Catalog Description
Critical survey of Near East, Greece, Rome and Middle Ages; origins of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, philosophy and science; concepts like heroism, justice, and romantic love.

Prereq(s): ENG 102.

Required Textbooks/Materials
The following texts are required material in this course:


New International Version, The Holy Bible, online access.

Student Learning Outcomes
This Core Humanities course satisfies Core Objective 5 of the Silver Core Curriculum:

**CO5. History and Culture:** Students will be able to describe the processes by which past and present societies have been created and perpetuated through their history, ideas, and cultural products. Students will engage both historical and contemporary cultural texts through critical reading, analysis, and interpretation in the context of culture, society, and individual identity.

In addition, CH 201 helps students to develop the skills described in Core Objectives 1 and 3. These objectives are reinforced throughout the curriculum in other courses students take to fulfill core and major requirements:

**CO1. Effective Composition and Communication:** Students will be able to effectively compose written, oral, and multimedia texts for a variety of scholarly, professional, and creative purposes.
CO3. Critical Analysis and Use of Information: Students will be critical consumers of information, able to engage in systematic research processes, frame questions, read critically, and apply observational and experimental approaches to obtain information.

Students successfully completing CH 201 will be able to

- express ideas clearly and persuasively both orally and in writing, using relevant evidence to support their arguments;
- read, interpret, and analyze primary source texts with attention to content, historical and cultural context, genre, and language;
- analyze authors’ arguments by identifying perspectives, assumptions, strategies, and omissions;
- demonstrate a basic familiarity with the cultural values, distinctive practices, and achievements in the arts and sciences, of the cultures of the ancient Near East, of ancient and classical Greece, of Rome, and of medieval Europe;
- recognize and identify the practices, ideas, and habits of mind that characterize a culture, be able to differentiate one culture from another, and produce a balanced comparison between two texts or cultural practices;
- recognize and analyze ancient and medieval precedents for contemporary ideas; and
- consider the development of notions of morality and justice in ancient and medieval societies, compare the ethical principles in varying systems of belief, religions, and philosophies, and articulate and defend ethical principles of their own.

First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

**January 2:**
- Course Introduction
- Lecture/Viewing for Early Mediterranean Civilizations
- Discussion of first essay and writing expectations
- Introduction to *Epic of Gilgamesh*

**January 3:**
- Discussion of *Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Lecture/Viewing of Archaic/Classical Greece (Crucible of Civilization)
- Construction of the Epic Poem
- Intro to Rome and the Roman Empire

**January 4:**
- Discussion of excerpts from the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
- Make-Your-Own Epic Activity
- Introduction to the Hebrew Civilization/Old Testament discussion
- First Mini Test
- First Essay Due

**January 5:**
- The Roman Empire and the Roman World
- Discussion of Roman Scripts (Virgil/Tacitus/Ovid/Turtillian)
- Christianity, Jesus, and the Bible
- Make-Your Own Biblical Epic
- Discussion of Second Essay

Course Details

This course will investigate the defining characteristics of critical ancient and medieval civilizations in the Western world. By examining texts and discussing ideas, it is my hope that you will have a greater understanding of Western philosophy, science, and spirituality. More importantly, we will be constantly forging links between the ideas of our ancestors and the modern Western values. Though most of this course will be text-based, we will also be examining a documentaries and feature films that truly bring the ancient and medieval worlds to life.
Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Class Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays (three worth varying points each)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Tests (three worth 100 points each)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage distribution for the course is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84–86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74–76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65–66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62–64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>