Making of the Modern World 121: Exploring the Pre-modern World

Summer Session I 2015
SOLIS 104
T/Th 11-1:50

Instructor
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Course Overview

In this course, we will explore humans’ struggles to understand their existence and organize themselves into societies by examining samples of some of the most influential myths, stories, sacred texts, and philosophical treatises composed all over the world from the earliest literate civilizations through the end of the Middle Ages. We will discuss some of the most influential thinkers in the history of humankind and examine how their ideas came to be applied, attacked, and modified. Making connections between systems of thought, modes of social organization, and systems of governance will provide a holistic overview of the major predecessors of our modern civilization. An analytical writing assignment will supplement the course material to better enable students to critically engage with primary and secondary texts, form original scholarly arguments, and express and defend them through the genre academic writing. Overall, this class will help students understand where we as humans are coming from and give them the tools to make intelligent arguments about where we should be going.

Required Texts
Lunsford, Andrea. Easy Writer, 5th edition

***Additional readings are available on UCSD Library E-reserves reserves.ucsd.edu or online via links posted below***

Grade Allocation
Midterm - 20%
Final Exam - 35%
Policies

Late Work
Assignments submitted after the due date will be docked 1/3 letter grade for each day they are late (including weekends). All assignments are due in section, and a hard copy must be given to the TA in person.

Communication
You can contact us via email for basic questions about the course, and we will do our best to respond within 48 hours. You also can post questions on Piazza for an even faster response. However, for complex questions about course material or paper topics, please come talk with one or both of us in person during office hours.

Classroom Environment
Please silence your cellphone and put it away during class. I can see you texting in your lap and it is rude and distracting. You may use a laptop to refer to class readings or take notes, but please do not use it for Facebook or other activities during class time.

Academic Support Services
If you require accommodations due to a disability, you must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Please present AFAs as soon as possible to allow time for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations.

Passing MMW Courses:
• To pass this MMW course, you must satisfy all course requirements; i.e. you must take all exams and turn in all writing assignments to your TA and the final paper to Turnitin.com.”

• The Pass/No Pass grading option is NOT permissible for MMW courses; all ERC students must take this course for a letter grade in order to fulfill the ERC general education requirement.” [This is important because it is physically possible for students select the P/NP option when they register for courses; however, they MUST take the course for a letter grade in order to fulfill their graduation requirement. A few students slipped through the cracks this year, causing problems with their degree audits.]

Academic Integrity:
As an ERC/UCSD student, you share responsibility for contributing to a culture of academic integrity. You are responsible for:
• Completing your academic assignments honestly, fairly, responsibly, and respectfully (according to the expectations of each individual instructor)
• Learning and demonstrating your individual level of competence through each assignment so that the instructor can evaluate and certify your knowledge and abilities.
• Ensuring that you're being honest, transparent, and accountable in all your student activities.
• Knowing and observing all of the UCSD rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. You should familiarize yourself with your responsibilities and rights under the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship (http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2) and with MMW policies governing academic integrity included in the MMW Program Policies handout.”

Students with Disabilities
Students requesting accommodations and services for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) prior to eligibility for requests. Receipt of AFAs in advance is necessary for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations. OSD Academic Liaisons also need to receive current AFA letters if there are any changes to accommodations. For additional information, contact the Office for Students with Disabilities: 858-534-4382 (V); 959-534-9709 (TTY – reserved for people who are deaf or hard of hearing); or email: osd@ucsd.edu. OSD Website: http://disabilities.ucsd.edu.

Schedule of Readings
(all readings must be completed before lecture and section on the date listed)

Week One: Comparative Myths and Heroes

June 30: Prehistory and Creation Myths
Strayer 11-46
Hesiod. Theogony.
Chinese Myths: The Tale of Pangu the Giant, Nuwa Creates People, The Tale of Fuxi, The Invention of Marriage, and Nuwa Repairs the World
http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/hbtales.html#myths
The Ancient Near East, A Babylonian Theogony, A Memphite Theology, and Genesis chapters 1-4
Enuma Elish: The Babylonian Epic of Creation
http://www.sacred-texts.com/ane/enuma.htm
Rig Veda 23-40

July 2: Early Civilizations and Their Heroes
Strayer 47-77
Emperor Yao, How Yu the Great Tamed the Waters
http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/hbtales.html#myths
Emperor Shun: The Feeling of Filial Piety Moved Heaven:
Week Two: Chinese and South Asian Cosmo-Political Orders

July 7: Chinese Ideologies and Social Organization
Strayer 151-158, 168-171
Confucianists: Confucius, Mengzi, Xunzi,
Legalists: Lord Shang and Han Feizi
Women’s Virtues and Vices: Mother of Mencius and Ban Zhao
Heaven, Earth, and Man: Dong Zhongshu
The Great Declaration
The Debate on Salt and Iron
The 24 Filial Exemplars [http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/shiaw/shiawoo.html](http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/shiaw/shiawoo.html) (either original versions or retellings)

July 9: South Asia
Strayer 111-114, 126-132, 159-162
Upanishads (selection)
Bhagavad Gita (all)
Kama Sutra, Introduction, Chapters 2, 3, and 4
[https://www.gutenberg.org/files/27827/27827-h/27827-h.htm](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/27827/27827-h/27827-h.htm)
Life of the Buddha

Week Three: Chinese religion, Greece, and Rome

July 14: Chinese Religiosity: Daoism, Buddhism, and folk religion
***Critical Reading Assignment Due***
Strayer 117-126, 249-277
Daoists: Zhuangzi and Dao De Jing
Stories of Daoist Immortals as retold by David K. Jordan
[http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/bashian/bs0Intro.html](http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/bashian/bs0Intro.html)
Steven P. Sangren, P”Female Gender in Chinese Religious Symbols: Kuan Yin, Ma Tsu, and the “Eternal Mother”
Huineng the Zen Patriarch (Intro and chapters 1-8)
[http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/LiowTzuu/HueyNeng.html](http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/LiowTzuu/HueyNeng.html)
The Peach Blossom Spring
July 16: Greece and Rome: Reason and Representation

***MIDTERM***
Strayer 87-111, 135-139, 163-168, 171-175
Plato’s Apology
The Old Oligarch,
Polybius “On the Roman Constitution at its Prime”
Augustus, Res Gestae

Week Four: Early Abrahamic Monotheisms

July 21: Hebrews: the Problem of Monotheism
Strayer 132-135
Book of Job (entire)
1 Samuel:7-22
Israel Finkelstein and Neil Asher Silberman “Did The Exodus Happen?”

July 23: Christianity: Universal and Divided Religion of Salvation
Strayer 139-148, 315-349
Gospel of Matthew
Gospel of Mary
Elaine Pagels “God the Father/ God the Mother”
Romans chaps 3 &13
I Corinthians 7
Acts chaps 9-11

Week Five: Medieval Religion in Europe and the Islamic World

July 28: Islam: A New Abrahamic Ummah
Strayer 281-312
Surat Miriam
Surat An-Nisa
Hadith (selections)
Constitution of Medina

July 30: Modes of Knowledge: Mystical, Rational, and Revealed

***Analytical Essay Due***
Averroes/Ibn Rushd,
Rumi, al-Hallaj
al Ghazali, “Deliverance from Error”
Augustine
Thomas Aquinas
Hildegard of Bingen, The Book of Divine Works

Final Exam: Aug. 1, 11:30 am