MMW 121: Exploring the Pre-Modern World (4 credits)
Professor Chang
Section B03 (Tues. 4-4:50, Village Bldg. 2, Rm. B) and B04 (Tues. 5-5:50, Village Bldg. 2, Rm. B)

TA: Ian Jones
Office: MMW TA Suite, Desk 28
Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:00-2:00 (also available by appointment)
Piazza: http://piazza.com/ucsd/fall2014/mmw121
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Section Objective: Section has two main purposes: (1) to improve your understanding of the course content from lecture and readings and (2) to improve your critical thinking, reading, writing, studying, listening, and speaking skills.

Section will help you to:
• Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context, developing ideas in dialogue with course readings and lectures
• Conduct academic research and use library resources
• Write coherent academic argument essays that address a significant issue; ask a specific, open-ended, arguable question; answer the question by making a claim and backing it up with sufficient, relevant, specific, compelling evidence; consider and rebut counterarguments; demonstrate significance of the argument; and accurately cite sources in MLA format
• Know the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use them in academic writing
• Engage in substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers

I am here to answer your questions, facilitate discussion, provide you with information, and do all of the other things that a TA does, but our success here is primarily dependent on your participation. This is, after all, a discussion section.

Attendance, Participation, and Section Requirements: Regular attendance and participation in section is mandatory. Students who miss 3 sections — excused or unexcused — will fail section. Students who miss 4 sections — excused or unexcused — will fail the course. Any absence can lower your grade.

You must arrive on time and be prepared to discuss and write about course material. Consistent tardiness will lower your grade.

Since section goals will primarily be accomplished through discussion, it is important that everyone participates – including you! This means that you must bring any assigned readings, relevant lecture notes, and assigned homework with you to class and, even more importantly, be prepared to discuss them, which means that you need to have read/completed them before section. Failure to these things will result in a loss of participation credit. You'll also need to contribute to discussions, both by talking and by listening attentively to what your classmates
have to say. Remember, participation is a big part of your section grade (one might say it’s worth 60% of your section grade)!

**Homework, Quizzes, In-Class Work:** Homework, in-class work, and quizzes will make up 40% of your section grade (and, therefore, 4% of your overall course grade; see below). Homework and in-class work will vary, but will generally consist of responses to readings, free-writing assignments related to broader course themes, or preparatory exercises for upcoming writing assignments. I prefer to avoid quizzes in section if possible, but reserve the right to modify that policy if reading responses and in-class discussions indicate that you aren’t doing the required reading.

**Grading:** Section counts for 10% of your overall grade in the course. That 10% will be broken up into 100 points. 60 of those points will be based on attendance and participating in discussion, and the other 40 will come from homework, quizzes and in-class writing exercises. If you have concerns about your grade, you should talk to me and address those concerns as early in the quarter as possible.

**Letter Grade Requirement:** You must take MMW courses for a letter grade. If you have selected Pass/No Pass as a grading option, you should immediately change your option to letter grade, or you will not fulfill the ERC General Education Requirement and will have to take this course again.

**Writing Assignments and Late Policy:**
In MMW 121, you are required to complete three writing assignments. The assignments will build your research skills and argumentative writing skills. Assignments will be covered in section, along with the MMW “Style Sheet” for guidelines on how to format and submit your papers. Failure to meet ALL criteria for writing assignments will result in the loss of points.

All papers must be turned in **directly** as a **hard copy** to me in section, lecture, or office hours, in addition to an electronic copy uploaded to turnitin.com. Papers left in my mailbox or the MMW office **will not be graded**. You will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late (including weekends). If you are unable to attend section the day the paper is due, you must make other arrangements to submit your work. In addition to taking the mid-term and final exams and attending section regularly, you must submit **ALL** writing assignments (both as a hard copy to me and to turnitin.com) **in order to pass the course**.

**Classroom Environment:** Respectful discussion is expected during section. Remember that full participation in class discussions involves not only contributing, but also listening to the contributions of your classmates, and responding to those contributions once they have finished making them. There are 31 of you this quarter, and everyone should have a chance to contribute.

You are free to do in-class writing assignments and take notes when necessary on a laptop or tablet, provided it doesn’t prove to be a distraction. In other words, you are **not** free to check your e-mail, baseball scores, your Facebook feed, your favorite cat photo Tumblr, etc. Cellphones, smart or otherwise, should not be used during section at all.
**Course Resources:** The following links may be helpful and/or necessary this quarter.

MMW Website: [http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmw/courses/mmw121.html](http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmw/courses/mmw121.html)
UCSD Library: [http://libraries.ucsd.edu/](http://libraries.ucsd.edu/)
Excellent search engine for books and journal articles, Melvyl: [http://ucsd.worldcat.org](http://ucsd.worldcat.org)
UCSD Writing Center: [http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/](http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/)
Bedford/St. Martin's Research and Documentation Online (MLA Style, etc.): [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/)

**Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting accommodations for section due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty and to the OSD Liaison in the department **in advance** so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information:
858.534.4382 (phone)
osd@ucsd.edu (email)
[http://disabilities.ucsd.edu](http://disabilities.ucsd.edu) (website)

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offenses, with serious negative consequences for your academic career. Plagiarism includes both quoting someone without giving a citation and also using someone else's ideas without citing them. Please familiarize yourself with the section on plagiarism and academic misconduct in the Style Sheet for Writing Assignments. If you have any questions about plagiarism or how to properly cite sources, don't hesitate to ask me. That's what I'm here for.

For more information, see
[http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/ai-and-you.html](http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/ai-and-you.html)

**Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email:** As you have no doubt seen, because I invited you all personally, we will be using Piazza this quarter. This will be the easiest way to get a very quick response, as both your classmates and I will have an opportunity to answer your questions, and I will likely be able to approve answers on Piazza more quickly than I can answer questions myself. If you prefer to ask me directly, you are of course welcome to e-mail me. Keep in mind, however, that it is easier for me (and usually more useful to you) to answer long questions and have discussions about the writing assignments in person during my office hours.

When sending me an e-mail, please include your name and section number in the subject line, and include a salutation, body, and closing. You don’t need to call me “Mr. Jones” (“Ian” is fine), but keep in mind that we’re in an academic setting, so our correspondence should be more formal than making weekend plans with your friends. I will respond to all e-mails within 36 hours. I may send you a response much sooner than that, but it’s possible that I won’t, so you should still plan ahead.