MMW 121: Exploring the Pre-Modern World  
Professor Chang, Track B  
Sections B09 and B10

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Section Objective:  
The purpose of section is to improve your understanding of and engagement with the course content by giving you an opportunity to exercise critical thinking, writing, reading, studying, listening, and speaking skills in a small, supportive group led by a knowledgeable guide.

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

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 the course again.

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.

You are REQUIRED to bring all relevant material, especially lecture notes, homework, and assignments, to section each week. We will be working with this material hands-on in the classroom. I will let you know ahead of time when I need you to bring readings or textbooks to class.
For those students who have scheduling problems, e.g. you have class across campus and might not be able to arrive on time, please e-mail me your schedule so we can come to some arrangement. Students who are disruptively late—over 10 minutes for no valid reason—can expect a short make-up assignment or activity.

**Homework, Quizzes, In-Class Work:** Much of the work you will complete for section will be based on group activities and discussion, with some individual writing and argument exercises. Take home work outside of the major writing assignments will be rare, but I expect students to be fully prepared to discuss any and all class readings for that week.

**Grading:**
Section counts for 10% of the overall class grade. This grade generally consists of a combination of attendance, individual participation, and other activities such as group work. I encourage you to see me at office hours or make an appointment if there are any concerns about your grade.

**Writing Assignments and Late Policy:**
In MMW 121, you are required to write an academic research paper in 5 stages. 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 www.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:**
1. The point of this section is for me to hear what you have to say – verbally or in writing – about the themes of the course. Be prepared to work in groups and offer constructive criticism of each other’s work, and be ready to defend your interpretation of the primary materials. My voice should not be the only one, or even the dominant one, in the classroom. By all means, you guys will carry the class and make it interesting. I’m here to help you do that.

2. I know that we are all immersed in social media, but that should not be a distraction in the classroom. Phones should be turned off or on silent mode during section. If I see you texting (or speaking on the phone) during section…well, let’s just say I need a new phone. I have no problem with the use of laptops or tablets for taking notes or going over the readings, but reserve the right to prohibit them on a case-by-case basis if they are a distraction.
Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email/Piazza:

Please keep your e-mails concise – shorter than a paragraph if possible. This will help with your writing too trust me! I will generally respond to any e-mail within 24 hours, though if you send it Saturday or Sunday I will likely not respond until Monday morning.

This course will be using the Piazza platform for class discussion online, to help you get answers to your questions and concerns fast and efficiently. When you have a question or are struggling to understand a concept or assignment, ask questions on Piazza. Your classmates may be able to help you sooner than I can. I will check the site every 24 hours, but by then your classmates might have answered your question already. I will “endorse” correct answers, good questions, and good reflections, and edit incorrect information. You can also edit each other’s questions and answers.

I look forward to a great quarter!