

Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas
Humanities 111: Ancient and Classical Civilizations
Fall 2021



Topic: Community and Mourning

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

— John Donne, Meditation XVII

Instructor: Dr. Angelina Del Balzo (she/her)
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Office Location: GB 18-1 (basement level)
Student Hours: Tuesdays 10:30-12:20 and by appointment

Course Times and Locations

Section 5: Tuesdays 15:30-17:20, Fridays 10:30-11:20 (Spare Hour 11:30-12:20) in G-134

Section 21: Tuesdays 13:30-15:20, Fridays 9:30-10:20 (Spare Hour 8:30-9:20) in G-229

Section 23: Tuesdays 8:30-10:20, Thursdays 13:30-14:20 (Spare Hour 14:30-15:20) in G-154

Course Description

This course is the first in a two-semester sequence that considers the meaning of culture: what it is, how it functions, and how we participate in it. Here, we will read some of the foundational texts that have been used to define “Western civilization,” including some of the earliest extant writing, while simultaneously interrogating the assumptions in that definition. In doing so we will ask questions such as: How do these texts define a culture? A civilization? Who or what may these definitions exclude? In what ways do contemporary ideas about human nature, the supernatural, knowledge, war, etc., correspond to or deviate from these ideologies? COVID-19 has brought new immediacy to the understanding that civilizations are made up of communities, and that an important part of communities is how we mourn the dead. The texts we will read for this course are all concerned with how communities are central to the project of civilization, and how difficult and necessary it is to deal with loss in those communities. We will grapple with these questions and others while developing skills in critical reading, analytical writing, and oral discussion.

Required Texts

- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, trans. Andrew George (Penguin, 1999)
- Homer, *Iliad*, trans. Robert Fagles (Penguin, 1991)
- Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates*, trans. Christopher Rowe (Penguin, 2010)
- Sophocles, *Three Theban Plays*, trans. Robert Fagles (Penguin, 1984)
- Required additional readings posted as PDFs on Moodle

The listed books are available to purchase at the bookstore or online. Please make sure you have a copy of the text **BEFORE** we begin discussing the text in class.

Course Requirements

Participation (10%): **This course is modeled on the seminar rather than the lecture format.** Seminars require students to actively contribute to group discussions, rather than passively listen to an instructor's presentation. To get an A in participation, you must do the assigned reading listed on the syllabus before class meets, attend classes **with a copy of the text**, and **regularly** contribute to discussion (at least once a week).

***A note on participation:** Some students feel like they don't know enough about the topic to participate, or their English isn't strong enough, or have a variety of other reasons why they don't feel comfortable participating. However, I promise you that everyone else is in the same boat. Participation is crucial for the learning process and is also important as one of the main ways beyond graded assessments that I can understand how students are understanding the material. You will never be graded on if your contribution is "right." Participation is like analytical writing in that it is a skill you develop through practice, not a gift you are born with or without. In your participation grade, I am also looking for development and improvement over the semester. It is never too late to participate!

Short Assignments (30%): Throughout the semester there will be four short assignments due on the dates/times indicated on the course schedule. All assignments will be counted towards the final grade.

- Short Assignment #1 (5 points): syllabus quiz
- Short Assignment #2 (5 points): annotated reading assignment
- Short Assignment #3 (10 points): close-reading assignment
- Short Assignment #4 (10 points): staging *Antigone* assignment

Course Project (30%): The course project will have two parts, an analytic close-reading (15 points) and a creative assessment (15 points). Further details to follow.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will be three close-reading short answers based on provided prompts. Date and time TBA. Further details to follow.

Grading

93-100%	A	Outstanding	73-76%	C	Pass
90-92%	A-		70-72%	C-	
87-89%	B+	Very Good	67-69%	D+	
83-86%	B		60-66%	D	Lowest Grade for Credit
80-82%	B-	Good	Below 60%	F	Fail
77-79%	C+				

I am always happy to discuss your work and ways to improve in office hours. You may request a formal regrade of any assignment, but please be aware that your grade **may go up or down**.

Course Policies

Assignments: **Extensions are given upon request, no questions asked.** In other words, if you want an extension on an assignment, I will grant you one without needing to hear a reason. **There is no grade penalty for work turned in with an approved extension.** The amount of time the deadline will be extended will be decided between the student and me on a case-by-case basis, and generally ranges between one day to one week. You may certainly tell me why you want one, and it can help if the reason may affect your performance in the course more broadly, but you do **NOT** need to disclose anything you would rather keep private. It's always better (for both me and for students) to ask in advance for an extension and not use it than to not ask for one and frantically email me minutes before the deadline.

Communication: The best way to discuss your work is during my office hours on Zoom, which will be arranged **by email appointment.** I need **at least 3 days' notice** to arrange a meeting. For all email correspondence, please put your section number in the email. I will respond within a day during the week, but I will not answer email on the weekends. **I will not respond to emails regarding assignments sent 24 hours before the deadline or sent within 24 hours after assignments are returned.** Make sure that you are following the syllabus, completing the readings on time, starting major assignments before the week they are due, and communicating your issues with me before any university deadlines. **A failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine.**

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of ideas or words of another without citation. The work you do for this course must be your own. Any instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but at a minimum plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment in question. Other consequences may include failing the course and possible expulsion from the university. For the university policy on plagiarism, see https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/web/provost/SAIC_Students.pdf **Academic integrity is important. Appropriate citation is not just a way of avoiding punishment, but it is important to acknowledge and recognize whose works and ideas we are building on. No one works in complete isolation, and it's important both during university and in your work afterwards to be open and clear about your intellectual debts.**

Technology: Please be aware of how your technology usage affects your engagement with the class and those around you. Tablets and e-readers may be used for readings and cell phones may be used for dictionaries during class (on silent), but electronics will not be allowed for the final exam.

Course Schedule [subject to change]

Week	Session 1	Session 2
1 22-24 September	Course introduction	N/A
2 27 September – 1 October	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Tablets I-II pg. 1-22	<i>Gilgamesh</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Tablets III-V pg. 22-47
3 4 – 8 October	<i>Gilgamesh</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Tablets VI-VIII pg. 47-69 Short Assignment #1 [during first 15 minutes of class]	<i>Gilgamesh</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Tablets IX-XII pg. 70-100

<p>4 11 – 15 October</p>	<p>Homer, <i>The Iliad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Book 1, lines 1-469 (pg. 77-90) <p>Short Assignment #2 [due at the beginning of class]</p>	<p><i>Iliad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Book 6, lines 282-631 (pg. 203-213)
<p>5 18 – 22 October</p>	<p><i>Iliad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Book 16, lines 1-322 (pg. 412-421) and lines 665-end (pg. 431-441) 	<p><i>Iliad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Book 18, all (pg. 467-487)
<p>6 25 – 29 October</p>	<p>No class</p>	<p>No class Course Project due Sunday 31 Oct. at 23:59 to Moodle</p>
<p>7 1 – 5 November</p>	<p><i>Iliad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Book 22, all (pg. 541-558) 	<p>No class</p>
<p>8 8 – 12 November</p>	<p><i>Iliad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Book 24, all (pg. 588-614) 	<p><i>Iliad</i> *SPARE HOUR*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish <i>Iliad</i> discussion <p>*Friday 12 Nov. Withdraw Deadline*</p>
<p>9 15 – 19 November</p>	<p>Derek Walcott, <i>Omeros</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read PDF on Moodle 	<p><i>Omeros</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read PDF on Moodle
<p>10 22 – 26 November</p>	<p>Sappho</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read #147 “someone will remember us” and #31 “he seems to me” trans. Carson, PDF on Moodle 	<p>Sappho</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read #16 “some men say” trans. Carson and “Some call ships” trans. Poochigian, PDFs on Moodle
<p>11 29 November – 3 December</p>	<p>Plato, <i>Phaedo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 116-137 	<p><i>Phaedo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 137-157
<p>12 6 – 10 December</p>	<p><i>Phaedo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 158-179 • Short Assignment #3 [first hour of class] 	<p><i>Phaedo</i> *SPARE HOUR*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 179-199 (end)

<p>13 13 – 17 December</p>	<p>Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 59-77 	<p><i>Antigone</i> Read pg. 78-90</p>
<p>14 20 – 24 December</p>	<p><i>Antigone</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 91-106 • Short Assignment #4 [first hour of class] 	<p><i>Antigone</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 107-128 (end) *SPARE HOUR*
<p>15 27 – 30 December</p>	<p>Course conclusion Final exam review session</p>	<p>No class</p>
<p>Finals Week 3 – 15 January</p>	<p>Date and Time TBA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exam 	