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ENG 3100C-001: Cultural Foundations I

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Goals:

By the end of the course, you should have a deeper understanding of three distinctive cultures: ancient Greek, Judeo-Christian, and Sub-Saharan African. Through the study of these culture's texts and orature, you should get some insight into their religious systems, social organization, and artistic achievements. In the process, you should gain a deeper understanding of your own values and of how they might differ from others.

The course involves intensive reading, writing, and you will get plenty of practice thinking and discussing. Because it is team-taught, it will probably force you at times to consider opposing views or perspectives. The result may be a deeper understanding of how differing disciplines (in this case, English and Philosophy) ask different questions of the same texts and sometimes come to different conclusions about them.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Two 4-5 page papers (15% each)= 30%
Three Exams (20% each)= 60%
Participation in class discussions and preparation of reading assignments= 10%

Texts Required:

Homer. The Iliad
Greene and Lattimore (eds.). Greek Tragedies Vol I
Plato. Great Dialogues of Plato Trans, W.D. Rouse
Plato. Timaeus
King James. The Bible
Boccaccio. The Decameron
Cervantes. Don Quixote
Scheub. The African Storyteller
p'Bitek. Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol
Achebe. Things Fall Apart
Ngugi. Weep Not Child

Course Policies:

Discussion (participation) is an important component of this course. Your presence in class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Each unexcused absence will bring your final grade down by 1%. Three late appearances equal one unexcused absence.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an 'A' essay due on Friday will be a 'F' by next Thursday. ALWAYS MAKE COPIES AND BACK UP YOUR WORK!
Plagiarism Policy (English Department)

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- "The appropriation or imitation of the language, of ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) -- has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Information for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Co-ordinator of the office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Syllabus.

Week 1
8/25- Introduction to the Course

Segment 1: The Greek Tradition

8/27- The Iliad, Bks 1, 6

Week 2
9/1- continued, Bks 18, 22-24
9/3- Sophocles's Oedipus Rex (from The Greek Tragedies)

Week 3
9/8- continued
9/10- continued

Week 4
9/15- Plato
9/17- continued

Week 5
9/22- continued
9/24- continued

Week 6
9/29- continued
10/1- Exam # 1

Week 7

Segment 2: The Judeo-Christian Tradition

10/6- The Bible
10/8- continued
Week 8
10/13- continued
10/15- continued, Essay # 1 due at the beginning of the class

Week 9
10/20- continued
10/22- Boccaccio, The Decameron

Week 10
10/27- continued
10/29- Cervantes, Don Quixote

Week 11
11/3- continued
11/5- The Rise of Secularism and the Market Society

Week 12
11/10- Exam # 2

Segment 3: The African Tradition
11/12- Scheub, The African Storyteller

Week 13
11/17- continued
11/19- Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

Week 14
12/1- Achebe, Things Fall Apart
12/3- continued

Week 15
12/8- Ngugi, Weep Not Child
12/10 - continued, Essay #2 due at the beginning of the class

Exam #3 will be held during the Final Exams' Week. This exam covers only the African tradition.