

CORE 102 – Culture and Values

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Office Hours: TBA

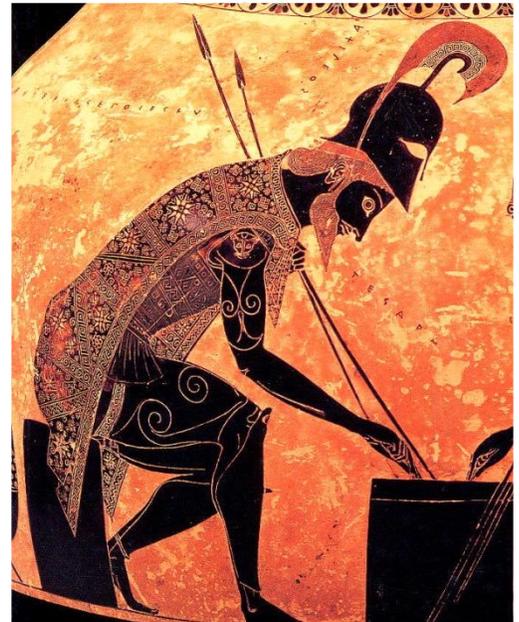
Lecture–Discussion	MW	10–11:50	VKC 257
Lab	M	5–8pm	THH 208

Attached CORE 111 – Writing Seminars

CORE 111	63560	TTh	3–4:20	AHF 410
CORE 111	63564	TTh	6–7:20	AHF 410

The Objects of Its Love

A city (*civitas*) is, according to St. Augustine, “a gathering of rational beings united in fellowship by a common agreement about the objects of its love.” The foundation of culture and of civilization (literally “citification”) is this cooperative unity among humans, and the unity can only be brought about by “a common agreement” as to the values of a culture, “the objects of its love.” This is to be a course on the formation of cultural values in what is commonly and loosely referred to as western culture. I will propose to you that western cultural values fall into three coherent systems that have superseded each other, although residue from the superseded systems always remains in some attenuated form. The first system I will term the Religio-Heroic; it is the initial system of values produced by almost all the cultures we know of, and certainly all the civilizations, western and non-western. The second system is the Religio-Philosophical. The third is the Empirico-Romantic, which persists to the present, and which is the only one of these systems that is unique to the west, and is simultaneous with western world domination. We will also follow a secondary theme: the conflict between literature and philosophy (or epic and utopia). Literature is about evil caused by the endless quest for distinction, to be greater than others. Philosophy proposes that by giving up distinction, it should be possible to live a natural life of peace.



Are cultural values arbitrary or determined? Do they exist only to mask and justify power? Are they responses to the material conditions of existence? Are they reflections, intuitions, however imperfect, of absolute values encoded within the cosmos itself? These are only a few of the questions we will ask.

Required Booklist

Freud, Sigmund. Civilization and Its Discontents. Ed. James Strachey. The Standard Edition. New York: Norton, 1989.

_____. Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria. Ed. Philip Rieff. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997.

Homer. The Iliad. Trans. Richmond Lattimore. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

_____. The Odyssey. Trans. Richmond Lattimore. New York: Harper Trade, 1999.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. The Birth of Tragedy and The Genealogy of Morals. Trans. Francis Golffing. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

_____. The Twilight of the Idols and The Antichrist. Trans. R. J. Hollingdale. New York: Penguin Classics, 1990.

Plato. Republic. Trans. Francis MacDonalld Cornford. New York: Oxford University Press, 1951.

Course Mechanics

There will be one in-class examination (September 25), two papers (October 16 and December 4), and a final examination (December 11). Each grade will count for 1/4 of the course, though they may, at my discretion, be weighted to give credit for improvement during the semester. Students are expected to complete all readings within the scheduled week, and to attend all classes and events.

Course Schedule

I. First Value System: Religio-Heroic

August 26–September 4: Anger and Civilization

Reading: Homer, The Iliad.

Yamamoto Tsunetomo, Hagakure (excerpt read in class).

EVENT: “The Heal” at the Getty Villa

Friday, Sept. 6 (Buses leave at 5pm from Gate 5)

September 9–September 18: Violence and the Recovery of Community

Reading: Homer, The Odyssey.

Last Day to drop w/o mark of “W”: Friday, September 13, 2019

EVENT: Seven Samurai (Akira Kurosawa, 1954)

Monday, September 16, 2019, 5-8pm, THH 208

II. Second Value System: Religio-Philosophical

September 23–October 2: The City and the Transcendent

Reading: Plato, The Republic.

MIDTERM EXAMINATION:
Wednesday September 25, 2019

October 7–October 23: Judaism and Jesus

Reading: Bible: Gospel According to St. John (excerpts, read online and handouts).

FIRST PAPER DUE:
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

III. Third Value System: Empirico-Romantic

October 28–November 6: Enlightenment

Reading: Francis Bacon, The Advancement of Learning, Instauratio Magna, Novum Organum, Temporis Partus Masculus (excerpts, handout).
Abbe de Condillac, La Logique (excerpts, handout).
Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents and Dora.

November 11–December 4: Romanticism and Decadence

Reading: John Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale” (handout).
Arthur Rimbaud, “Letter” (handout).
Nietzsche, The Genealogy of Morals, The Twilight of the Idols, The Antichrist.

Last day to drop class with mark of “W”: Friday, November 15, 2019

UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING RECESS:
Wednesday-Friday, November 27–29, 2019

LAST PAPER DUE:
Thursday, December 4, 2019

FINAL EXAMINATION:
Monday, December 16, 2019, 8–10am

Students with Disabilities

Students who need accommodations based on a disability are required to register each semester with Disability Services and Programs. In addition, a letter of verification to the instructor from Disability Services and Programs is needed for the semester you are enrolled in this course. If you have any questions concerning this procedure, please contact the course instructor and Disability Services and Programs at 740-0776, STU 301.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu