

## **ANCIENT HISTORY THROUGH CLASSICAL LITERATURE: THE TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY**

Literary Circle 2006/07 NCCA - Syllabus (book list revised 5-1-2006)

### **Advanced-level, College Preparatory**

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. This challenging **1.5 credit** class compares and contrasts the ideas of the Greek and Roman poets and philosophers with the teachings of the Bible. Students read and analyze classical texts from Homer, Job, Plato, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Augustine, various early church fathers, Shakespeare, and others as literature and history, concerning their contribution to the culture of the Western world in the light of the Bible. Students will explore pagan-classical and Judeo-Christian worldviews of God, the gods, the human condition, and examine the resultant cultures.
2. To acquaint students with the best-known stories, characters and authors from classical literature. Classical mythology is examined as man's attempt to explain the order, structure, and origin of the universe. These explanations are contrasted with the truth as found in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. The Bible is presented in a literal, grammatico-historical sense.
3. To improve writing skills, vocabulary, and to a lesser degree, speaking skills.

#### **CLASS FORMAT:**

1. Classes are 2.25 hours long, including a 15-minute break. Classes are Mondays in Oregon City [time TBA]. Students attend weekly classes, with reading and writing assignments. Detailed weekly schedule to be released in the early fall of 2006.
2. Students take notes from class lectures and take part in oral discussions critiquing read-aloud selections. Students bring 3" three-ring notebook and pen/pencil to class.
3. Cultural and historical information relating to the time period is presented to assist students in understanding the author and his subject. Every effort will be made to help the students view the subject with a biblical worldview. A two-page history guide for at-home use will be provided for those who choose to study World History along with World Literature this year.
4. Classes will combine lecture, class discussion, PowerPoint structured notes, weekly quizzes, semester exams, and interactive read-aloud sessions. Videos and DVDs will be scheduled as appropriate. The all-class email loop provides additional daily interaction and access to the instructor.
5. Digital recordings of sessions are posted weekly at [www.thelmaslibrary.com](http://www.thelmaslibrary.com). Username: **TBA**; Password: **TBA**. Please inform the instructor if it will be necessary for you to miss a class. For those unable to access high-speed internet, audio CDs will be made available upon request and a packet of class materials will be mailed the day following class: fee is \$6 per missed class.
6. Occasionally, additional audio recordings will be posted at the website for student listening at home. These recordings include: audio-commentary by Mrs. English on current projects (to supplement classroom introduction), readings of Greek Tragedy and Shakespeare plays (with commentary), and various outside sources.

#### **GRADING:**

1. I will grade following the standard scale (A+ 96-100; A 93-95; A- 90-92; B+ 86-89; B 83-85; B- 80-82; C+ 76-79 and so on).
2. Attendance for day classes is critical and will be calculated into the student's participation grade. Students lose one letter grade after three or more absences.
3. One paper may be turned in up to three days late without penalty. The second late paper loses one full grade three hours after it is due, and one letter grade each three days thereafter. Assignments *may not* be e-mailed to the instructor for printing without prior permission. Postal stamp dates will be accepted as turn-in dates.
4. Extra credit is available for film reviews or cultural reports not included in assignments.

**TEXTS:** (most are available used) See attached booklist

**The Iliad**, Homer (Richmond Lattimore translation) \$14.00  
**The Odyssey**, Homer (W.H.D.Rouse translation) \$5.95  
**The Last Days of Socrates**, Plato (Henry Chadwick translator) \$7.95  
**Aeneid**, Virgil (Fitzgerald translation) \$11.00

Choose one:

**The Robe**, Douglas \$14.00; or **Ben Hur**, Wallace \$13.95; or  
**Quo Vadis**, Sienkiewicz \$12.95; or **The Silver Chalice**, Costain \$13.95  
**Confessions**, Augustine, (Pine-Coffin translator, NOT Chadwick) \$8.95  
**Julius Caesar**, Dover edition \$2.00  
**Antony and Cleopatra**, Dover edition \$2.00  
**Oedipus Rex**, Sophocles, Dover edition \$1.50  
**Oedipus at Colonus**, Sophocles, Dover edition \$1.50  
**Antigone**, Sophocles, Dover edition \$1.50  
**The Oresteia Trilogy**, Aeschylus, Dover edition \$2.50  
Book of **Job**, JKV, NKJV, NAS (preferred), NIV  
**The Clouds**, Aristophanes (edited, annotated text provided by instructor)  
Book of **Acts**, JKV, NKJV, NAS (preferred), NIV  
500+ pages of additional reading in the syllabus (provided by instructor)

### **SENIORS will present a research project or paper on an approved topic (sample topics below):**

Seniors must have their presentation topics approved by Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

- Choose and research one classical author
- Research classical theater
- Research a prominent monarch or ruler
  - Cyrus (c.557-530 BC)
  - Xerxes
  - Alcibiades
  - Xenophon, the *Anabasis*
  - Alexander the Great
  - Julius Caesar (100-44 BC)
  - Augustus Caesar (63 BC-AD 14)
- Research Thucydides, Herodotus, or Plutarch
- Research the Peloponnesian War (431 BC)
- Research the battles of Salamis or Marathon (490 and 480 BC)
- Athenian democracy
- Life of Plato, or Aristotle
- Delphic Oracle
- Life of Pericles
- Life of Augustine

### **CREDIT HOURS:**

This class will account for **1.5 credits** towards your high school diploma. Claim 1 English credit + .5 History credit, or claim 1 English credit + .5 Bible credit (depending on your needs). You may add a broad text such as *Streams of Civilization, Vol. I* (chapters 1-12) and other books to round out your student's knowledge of ancient world history and earn additional credit. Additional literature choices include *The Old Testament*; *Augustus Caesar's World*, by Genevieve Foster; *The Golden Fleece*, by Cullen; *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Mythology*; Ruth Beechick's *Adam and his Kin*, plus an Old or New Testament Survey. Students can adjust additional studies to incorporate History, and Bible as needed. Students who need additional writing or grammar studies should supplement this at home.

### **COST:**

Materials (100s of photocopies) cost **\$40.00**. Books cost **\$61.90** (see booklist).

### **The Program:**

The studies your student/s will undertake this fall reflect many hundreds of hours of personal study, seminary studies, prayer, and fasting. My personal belief is that a thorough study of the ancient pagan world engenders a new appreciation for the Bible. The comparison of ancient heroes (Achilles, Odysseus, and Job), help the student to understand the profound impact of the Hebrews on the world. The concept of one God, of a personal God, helped to prepare the world for the coming Christ. Alexander the Great's love for all things Greek, translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek (Septuagint), and world dominion by the Romans – all of these historical events were providential – to prepare the world for the birth of the Messiah and the triumph of Christianity!

## **CLASSICAL LITERATURE 2006/2007 BOOK LIST**

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

**The Iliad**, Homer  
Richmond Lattimore translation  
ISBN: 0226469409  
Format: Paperback, 527 pp  
Pub. Date: June 1972  
Publisher: University of Chicago Press, \$14.00

**The Odyssey**, Homer  
W.H.D. Rouse translation  
ISBN: 0451527364  
Format: Mass Market Paperback, 304 pp  
Pub. Date: August 1999 (earlier editions okay)  
Publisher: Signet Classics, \$5.95

**The Last Days of Socrates**, Plato  
Hugh Tredennick translation  
ISBN: 0140449280  
Format: Paperback, 272 pp  
Pub. Date: April 2003 (new edition only)  
Publisher: Penguin Group (USA), \$12.00

**Aeneid**, Virgil  
Fitzgerald translation  
ISBN: 0679729526  
Format: Paperback, 464 pp  
Pub. Date: May 1990  
Publisher: Knopf Group, \$11.00

**Confessions**, Augustine  
Henry Chadwick translator  
ISBN: 0192833723  
Format: Paperback, 311 pp  
Pub. Date: June 1998  
Publisher: Oxford University Press, \$7.95

**Julius Caesar**, Shakespeare,  
Dover edition 0-486-26876-4, \$2.00

**Ant. & Cleopatra**, Shakespeare,  
Dover edition 0-486-40062-X, \$2.00

**Oedipus Rex**, Sophocles,  
Dover edition 0-486-26877-2, \$1.50

**Oedipus at Colonus**, Sophocles,  
Dover edition 0-486-40659-8, \$1.50

**The Oresteia Trilogy**, Aeschylus,  
Dover edition 0-486-29242-8, \$2.50

**Antigone**, Sophocles,  
Dover edition 0-486-27804-2, \$1.50

Total cost of books is **\$61.90**. Materials are **\$40**. This does NOT include the historical novel (see below). These are available used or new. Contact Exodus bookstore for a possible 10% discount. Students ordering books from Mrs. English pay full price. In addition to the above, students choose ONE of the following historical novels:

**Ben Hur**, Wallace  
ISBN: 0192831992  
Paperback, 530 pp  
Oxford University Press, 1998  
\$13.95

**Quo Vadis**, Sienkiewicz  
ISBN: 0760763097  
Paperback, 656 pp  
Barnes & Noble Books, 2004  
\$12.95

**The Robe**, Douglass  
ISBN: 0395957753  
Paperback, 520 pp  
Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999  
\$14.00

**The Silver Chalice**, Costain  
ISBN: 0829423508  
Paperback, 456 pp  
Loyola Press, available April 2006  
\$13.95

Students who wish to order books through Mrs. English may do so by CLEARLY marking the texts needed and enclosing payment by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. After carefully totaling the cost of books, please send book money to: Thelma English, 1000 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Woodburn, OR 97071

As always, contact Mrs. English with any questions about the booklist, materials fee, the curriculum, or other details concerning the class: 503-982-5347, Thelma@thelmaslibrary.com, www.thelmaslibrary.com