Class Activities:

1) In this course you will explore the origins of modern Western culture in the great civilizations of antiquity so as to appreciate both how the ancients differed from us, and gain insight into some abiding features of the human situation. You will learn how to reflect on and debate central questions and ideas about the human situation through close readings and group discussions of great works from the Ancient Mesopotamian, Greek, Roman and Christian civilizations.

2) Through regular attendance at the lectures, you will also learn about the main features of different genres and types of writing (e.g., epic poetry, history, philosophy, and drama). You will be exposed to the different methods and approaches that various academic disciplines bring to these texts, and discuss these different perspectives and approaches in class.

3) You will complete several assignments designed to improve your ability to read carefully, think critically, argue persuasively and write with both clarity and depth.

Learning Outcomes for the Course:

- Students will develop their critical reasoning in reading, discussing and writing on a variety of classic texts.
- Students will become familiar with some of the central philosophical, political, historical and scientific issues that have dominated the history of Western thinking.
- Students will enhance their communication skills through intensive small-group discussions, papers, and written examinations.

Grade Distribution:

Papers: 40%
Midterm Exam: 15%
Final Exam: 30%
Class Participation: 15%

21 August (Monday): Gilgamesh

23 August (Wednesday): Gilgamesh
25 August (Friday): Iliad, Bks 1-4
28 August (Monday): Iliad, Bks 5-8
30 August (Wednesday): Iliad, Bks 9-12
1 September (Friday): Iliad, Bks 13-16
4 September (Monday): Labor Day
6 September (Wednesday): Iliad, Bks 17-20
8 September (Friday): Iliad, Bks 21-24 FIRST PAPER DUE!
11 September (Monday): Sappho
13 September (Wednesday): Sappho
15 September (Friday): Symposium, 172a-178a
18 September (Monday): Symposium, 178a-185c
20 September (Wednesday): Symposium, 185c-193e
22 September (Friday): Symposium, 193e-201c8
25 September (Monday): Symposium, 201c8-212c
27 September (Wednesday): Symposium, 212c-end
29 September (Friday): Philoctetes
2 October (Monday): Philoctetes
4 October (Wednesday): Philoctetes
6 October (Friday): Philoctetes
9 October (Monday): Lysis, 203a-216a (pp.1-16)
11 October (Wednesday): Lysis, 216a-end (pp.16-25) SECOND PAPER DUE!
13 October (Friday): Ethics, Bk VIII, chs 1-8
16 October (Monday): Ethics, Bk VIII, chs 9-14
18 October (Wednesday): Ethics, Bk IX, chs 1-6
20 October (Friday): Ethics, Bk IX, chs 7-12
23 October (Monday): Roman Art
27 October (Friday): Mid-term Exam
1 November (Wednesday): On the Nature of Things, Bks 4-5
3 November (Friday): Aeneid, Bks
6 November (Monday): Hellenistic World
8 November (Wednesday): Aeneid, Bks
10 November (Friday): Aeneid, Bks
13 November (Monday): Aeneid, Bks, 7-9
15 November (Wednesday): Aeneid, Bks, 10-12
17 November (Friday): Illuminated Manuscripts
20 November (Monday): Confessions, Bks I-IV, pp.3-71
22 November (Wednesday): Thanksgiving
24 November (Friday): Thanksgiving
27 November: (Monday): Confessions, Bks V-VII, ch.ix (13), pp.72-123
29 November (Wednesday): Confessions, Bks VII, ch x (16) – IX, pp.123-178
1 December (Friday): Confessions, Bks X – XI, ch.xxi (26), pp.179-236
THIRD PAPER DUE!