

Great Conversation 217ABC: The Tradition Renewed: New Forces of Secularization
Fall, 2008

Section A Gary Gisselman, Artistic Director, Theater 43, X3320, <gisselma>
Section B Edward Langerak, Philosophy, Holland Hall 601C, X3494, <langerak>
Section C Mary Trull, English, Library 417, X3445, <trull>

Books:

Austen, Jane, *Pride and Prejudice* (Penguin Classics, 1997) 0-14-043426-7

Behn, Aphra, *Oroonoko, the Rover, and Other Works*, Penguin Classics, 1999, 0140433384 (or 9780140433388)

Calvin, John & Sadoletto, Jacopo, *A Reformation Debate*, edited by John C. Olin (Baker Book House, 2000) 0-8010-2390-4

Cervantes, Miquel de, *Don Quixote*, trans. Edith Grossman (Harper Perennial, 2005) 0060934344 (or 978-0060934347)

Kant, Immanuel, *Kant's Foundations of Ethics*, 2nd ed. (*What Is Enlightenment?* and *The Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*), translated by Leo Rauch (Agora Publications, 2007) 1-887250481

Luther, Martin, *Selections from His Writings*, edited by John Dillenberger (Random House-Anchor, 1958) 0-385-09876-6

Machiavelli, Niccolò, *Selected Political Writings*, edited and translated by David Wootton (Hackett, 1994) 0-87220-247-X

Milton, John, *Paradise Lost; Paradise Regained*, edited by Christopher Ricks (Signet Classics, 2001) 0-451-52792-5

More, Thomas, *Utopia*, edited and translated by David Wootton (Hackett, 1999) 0-87220-376-X

St Teresa of Avila, *Interior Castle* (Dover Publications, 2007) 0486461459 (or 978-0486461458)

The Scientific Background to Modern Philosophy: Selected Readings, edited by Michael R. Matthews (Hackett, 1989) 0-87220-074-6

Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra*, Folger ed. (Washington Square Press, 2004) 0743482859 (or 978-0743482851)

Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Folger ed. (Washington Square Press, 2004) 0743482816 (or 978-07434828130)

Voltaire, *Candide*, translated by David Wootton (Hackett, 2000) 0-87220-546-8

Westermann, Mariët, *Rembrandt*, (Phaidon Press, 2000) 0-7148-3857-8

Wilson-Smith, Timothy, *Caravaggio, Color Library* (Phaidon Press, 1998), 0714834858 (or 978-0714834856)

Melchert, Norman, *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, (Oxford, 5th ed., 2007) 0-19-530682-1

Raimes, Ann, *Keys for Writers*, 4th ed. (Houghton, Mifflin, Co., 2007), 0618437851

Assignments and grading:

Two formal papers, 15% and 20% (for the better one); two response papers, 10%; midterm exam, 15%; final exam, 25%; participation, including 11 questions on the days noted, 15%.

Schedule:

- W Sept. 3 Introduction; Melchert, pp. 302-304 (especially the selection from Pico della Mirandola, *On the Dignity of Man*)
- F 1 Sept. 5 Machiavelli, *Letter to Vettori* (pp. 1-4); *The Prince*, Dedication, Chs. 1-3 (pp. 5-14), 8-9 (pp. 27-34), 15-19 (pp. 47-63), 26 (pp. 77-80). Recommended: as much of the rest as is consistent with your sanity.
- M 1 Sept. 8 Machiavelli, *Discourses I*, Preface (pp. 82-84), Chs. 17-18 (pp. 124-129), 27 (pp. 132-133), 42 (p. 139), 58 (pp. 154-158); II, Preface, Chs. 1-3 (pp. 158-172); III, 1, 3 (pp. 189-195), 9 (pp. 198-200), 31 (pp. 208-211)
- T Sept. 9, 5:30, in Viking. Special guest lecture by Nancy Thompson, Art History, on Michelangelo and Art in Papal Rome, 1500s**
- W 1 Sept. 10 Michelangelo
- F Sept. 12 No class, due to required attendance at special lecture on the 9th.
- M 2 Sept. 15 More, *Utopia*, Preface, pp. 52-115 (top) **First response paper due**
Dinner with A Man for All Seasons (Movie)
- W 2 Sept. 17 More, *Utopia*, pp. 115-160
- F 2 Sept. 19 Luther, *Selections*, pp. 489-500 (*The Ninety-Five Theses*); pp. 42-85 (*The Freedom of a Christian*); Melchert, pp. 304-312
- M 3 Sept. 22 Luther, *Selections*, pp. 363-402 (*Secular Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed*); pp. 166-171 (beginning of *The Bondage of the Will*)
First formal paper delivered to peer reviewer
- W 3 Sept. 24 Cardinal Sadoletto's letter to the senate and people of Geneva in 1539; response by John Calvin: *A Reformation Debate*, pp. 29-94.

F 3 Sept. 26 St Theresa, *Interior Castle*; selections from her *Life*:
http://www.catholicfirst.com/TheFaith/CatholicClassics/St*Teresa*/*life*/*teresa*of*avila*.cfm

M Sept. 29 Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Plenary lectures in Viking: the Gary and Mary show

W 4 Oct. 1 Shakespeare, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, Acts 1-2

F 4 Oct. 3 Shakespeare, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, Acts 3-5
First formal paper due

M Oct. 6 Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part I Prologue (3-9) and Chs. I-XI (19-81)
Plenary lecture in Viking: Gwendolyn Barnes-Karol, Romance Languages
Dinner: Compositions

W 5 Oct. 8 Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part I Chs. XVI-XXII (109-172)

F Oct. 10 **Midterm Exam** (through Shakespeare)

Oct. 11-15 Fall Break

F 5 Oct. 17 Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, Part I Chs. XXV-beginning of XXVII (190-214), XXIX (excerpts, 241-249), XXXI (258-266), XLV-XLVII (391-414), LII (429-449); Part II Prologue (456-58) and Chs. I (459-468), III (473-485), X (513-521), XVII-XV (526-550), LXXII (924-928), and LXXIV (934-940)

M 4 Oct. 20 Melchert, pp. 312-318; *Scientific Background to Modern Philosophy*, pp. 33-44, 53-86 (Copernicus, Galileo)

W 6 Oct. 22 *Scientific Background to Modern Philosophy*, pp. 45-52 (Bacon); Melchert, Chap 13, pp. 319-27 and 336-38 (Descartes' *First Meditation*)

F 6 Oct. 24 Descartes: Melchert pp. 327-29 and 338-41 (*Second Meditation*) and 356-59.

Second response paper due

Recommended for today and Monday: as much of the rest of Melchert's chapter 13 as is consistent with your sanity; pp. 330-31 have important definitions of Innate Ideas and of Solipsism; the Third Meditation has a famously unconvincing argument for God's existence but the Fourth, in the second column on p. 349 and the first column on p. 350 has a snappy version of the Ontological Argument; p. 354 has interesting thoughts on the mind-body relationship and on where colors exist; and the conclusion of the *Meditations* in the second column of p. 356 shows you how you know that right now you are not dreaming (this is not a nightmare!)

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, in honor of Milton's 400th birthday (Dec 9), Richard DuRocher is sponsoring a day-long reading of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, beginning at 9am in Buntrock's Crossroads; you are invited to participate.

M 5 Oct. 27 Descartes, con't; and Pascal: handout.

Dinner: Debates

W Oct. 29 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book I, lines 1-380; II, 1-505&629-1055. (Note: the entire work is recommended, but the assigned lines will be our focus. Also, Biblical background that Milton assumes you know includes Genesis 1-3; Isaiah 14:1-21; Romans 5:15-21; and I Corinthians 15:42-50; these are worth reviewing)

Plenary lecture in Viking: Richard DuRocher, English Dept.

F 7 Oct. 31 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, III; IV, 1-113&284-392; "Argument" (summary) for V-VII

M 6 Nov. 3 Milton, *Paradise Lost*, VIII, argument and 249-653; IX, argument and 176-1189; X, argument and 846-1104; XI, argument; XII, argument and 446-478&606-649; Amelia Lanyer, "Eve's Apology," handout

W 7 Nov. 5 Hobbes and Locke; Melchert, Chap. 14, pp. 360-71 and 382-85 (and Rousseau box, p. 455); Declaration of Independence, handout

F 8 Nov. 7 Locke con't: Melchert, pp. 372-81.

M Nov. 10 Mozart

Plenary lecture in Viking: Steven Amundson, Conductor of St. Olaf Orchestra

Dinner: Poetry slam

W 8 (and M 7) Nov. 12 Mozart

F 9 Nov. 14 Aphra Behn, *The Rover*

Saturday, November 15: Second formal paper delivered to peer reviewer

M Nov. 17 Hume and Kant (epistemology): Melchert Chap. 15, pp. 397-419 and Chap. 16, pp. 426-51; Kant's "What is Enlightenment?" in *Kant's Foundations of Ethics*, pp. 1-6.
Plenary lecture in Viking: Ed Langerak

W 9 (and M 8) Nov. 19 Hume and Kant (ethics): Melchert pp. 419-25 and 450-60; Kant's *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*, section one, in *Kant's Foundations of Ethics*, pp. 13-23

F 10 Nov. 21 Hume and Kant's ethics con't: *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*, section two, in *Kant's Foundations of Ethics*, pp. 25-50 (top paragraph) and last paragraph on p. 53

M 9 Nov. 24 Voltaire, *Candide*

Dinner: Gary Gisselman, optimist

Nov. 26-30 Thanksgiving Break

M Dec. 1 Rembrandt and Caravaggio (Hughes and Wilson-Smith)

Second formal paper due
Plenary lectures in Viking: Gary and Mary and Ed, no credentials but love

W 9 (and M 10) Dec. 3 Rembrandt and Caravaggio (Hughes and Wilson-Smith)

F 11 Dec. 5 Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Chaps. 1-30

M 11 Dec. 8 Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Chaps. 31-61

W 11 Dec. 10 Austen, con't, and review

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2pm: Final Exam

Academic accommodations: Any student with a documented cognitive, physical or social/emotional disability needing academic accommodations is expected to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with a disability who do not have an accommodation letter to present to the instructor must also contact Ruth Bolstad (bolstadr@stolaf.edu) or Connie Ford (ford@stolaf.edu) in Student Disability Services in the Academic Support Center (x3288) located in the back of the Modular Village.

Some St Olaf links: Here is the link to St. Olaf's Plagiarism policy, which the course instructor endorses and enforces: <http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/plagiarism.html>

Here is the link to St. Olaf's newly revised grading system:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/committees/cepc/cepcgreensheets/2006-07/cepcpreissuedgs060707.html>

Great Conversation GE Credits

GC 113: One Elective

GC 115: WRI, BTS-B

GC 116: HWC, FYS

GC 217: ALS-L, WRI

GC 218: HWC, ALS-A, ORC, WRI