

Humanities 201  
Literature Track  
Fall 2004

Prof. Judith Haas  
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Office hrs: M 1-3,  
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## The Search for Values in the Light of Western History and Religion

### Course Description:

This course examines a selection of major works of European literature, philosophy, and religion from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance, Reformation, and Enlightenment. We will consider the historical context in which these texts were produced, the literary and intellectual traditions which they have come to define, and the ways in which the texts speak to each other. The goals of the course are

1. to develop an understanding of these texts and the cultures that produced them
2. to develop an ability to approach these texts and ideas critically
3. to develop an ability to discuss and write about these texts effectively

### Required Texts: (available at Rhodes College Bookstore)

Course Packet (CP)

*The Rule of St. Benedict* (Ed. Fry)

Chrétien de Troyes, *Erec and Enide* (Trans. Gilbert)

Dante, *Inferno* (Trans. Pinsky)

Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Trans. Griffin)

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Trans. Mansfield)

*The Song of Roland* (Trans. Burgess)

Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Ed. Mowat)

Voltaire, *Candide* (Trans. Butt)

Selected on-line sources, as needed \*\*

### Requirements:

Paper #1 (3-5 pages)	25%
Paper #2 (4-6 pages)	25%
Final paper (5-7 pages)	30%
Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%

I calculate final grades based on the 4.0 scale as described in the Rhodes College catalogue (p. 69).

**Participation:** This course is a seminar and requires the active and engaged participation of every member of the class. Make sure you read each day's reading carefully and come to class with questions or comments to bring to the discussion. While I encourage you to choose your own moment to enter a discussion, if you haven't contributed in a while, be prepared to be called on.

**Quizzes:** There will be about 10 unannounced quizzes during the course of the semester to reward careful reading. I will drop the two lowest grades. Quizzes cannot be made up.

**Policies:**

All assigned reading and writing is due at the beginning of the class for which it is assigned unless otherwise noted. Always bring the assigned text (in addition, of course, to paper and pen) to class; repeated failure to do so will cause you to be marked absent. I expect you to be on time to class. Repeated lateness will also cause you to be marked absent.

The schedule of assignments is subject to change as needed, so **if you miss a class, make sure you check with a classmate to get both notes and confirm the next assignment.** Except under extraordinary circumstances, I do not provide lecture notes to students who miss class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to catch up on what you missed from someone in the class.

**In-class writing, including quizzes, may not be made up.** Late papers will be penalized a third of a letter grade per day. Except in the case of documented illness or family emergency (and by prior arrangement with me), papers more than a week late will receive a failing grade. Under special circumstances I will grant extensions on papers. If you need an extension, please contact me **at least one class period before** the paper is due.

Informed participation in class discussion is part of the work of the course; thus, **more than three absences** during the semester will adversely affect your final grade. Failure to complete one or more assignments or to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failing grade for the course.

**First Drafts:** Since one of the goals of this course is writing effectively, you will be required to hand in a first draft prior to the final due date of each paper (see schedule of assignments). First drafts are not graded; however, a final draft will not be considered complete without a first draft.

**Writing workshops:** For the first two papers we will spend class time discussing papers written by members of the class. These will be photocopied and the name of the author will be removed. Because of time constraints, not everyone will necessarily have his or her paper discussed. You will receive more guidelines later in the semester.

**All work for this class must be done in compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.**

W 8/25 Introductions

F 8/27 *The Rule of St. Benedict* pp 3-35

M 8/30 *The Rule of St. Benedict* pp 36-70

W 9/1 "The Speech at the Council of Clermont" **CP**  
Usamah Ibn Munqidh, *Autobiography* **CP**  
From *Arab Historians of the Crusades* **CP**

F 9/2 *The Song of Roland* (through verse 92)

M 9/6 Labor Day holiday

W 9/8 *The Song of Roland*

F 9/10 *The Song of Roland*

M 9/13 Chrétien de Troyes, *Erec and Enide*

W 9/15 *Erec and Enide*

F 9/17 *Erec and Enide*

M 9/20 *Erec and Enide*

W 9/22 *Erec and Enide*

F 9/24 Begin Dante, *Inferno*  
Augustine, from *Confessions*

M 9/27 Dante, *Inferno*

W 9/29 *Inferno*

F 10/1 **Drafts of paper #1 due outside my office by 9am/in-class workshop**

M 10/4 *Inferno*

W 10/6 *Inferno*

F 10/8 *The Decameron* **CP; Final draft of paper #1 Due in class**

M 10/11 *The Decameron* **CP**

W 10/13 Machiavelli, *The Prince*

F 10/15 Machiavelli, *The Prince*

M 10/18 Fall recess

W 10/20 TBA

Fri 10/22 TBA

M 10/25 Christine de Pisan, from *The Book of the City of Ladies*

W 10 27 Martin Luther (electronic handout)

F 10/29 Calvin **CP**

M 11/1 Council of Trent (electronic handout)

W 11/3 de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*

F 11/5 **Draft of paper #2 due; in-class writing workshop**

M 11/8 de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*

W 11/10 Montaigne, "Of Cannibals" **CP**

F 11/12 Shakespeare, *The Tempest* **Final draft paper #2 due in class**

M 11/15 *The Tempest*

W 11/17 *The Tempest*

F 11/19 Hobbes, from *Leviathan* **CP**

M 11/22 TBA

W 11/24 Thanksgiving recess

F 11/26 Thanksgiving recess

M 11/29 Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government*

W 12/1 Voltaire, *Candide*

F 12/3 Voltaire, *Candide*

M 12/6 Rousseau from *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

Wed 12/8 Rousseau from *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

**Final paper due Monday 12/13**