THE SEARCH FOR VALUES
IN THE LIGHT OF
WESTERN HISTORY AND RELIGION

HUMANITIES 102 (SPRING 2008)
COURSE INFORMATION FOR GLENDÁ SWAN

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In addition to the general course material available on the SEARCH Moodle site, course material specific to your colloquium is available through your section leader’s Moodle site.
I. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. WEIGHTING OF COURSE ELEMENTS AND DUE DATES

Participation (including Attendance) 20%
Mid-Term: Monday, February 25th 15%
Final Exam: Monday, April 28th at 5:30 p.m. 15%
Papers (requirements will be explained fully in each paper assignment) 50%
  Paper #1, including paper goals essays, due Wed., Feb. 6th (15%)
  Paper #2, including revised draft, due Wed. March 19th (15%)
  Paper #3 due Monday, April 28th at 5:30 p.m. (20%)

B. REQUIRED TEXTS

Reading Guide for Humanities 101-102†
  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/anselm.html†
  http://classics.mit.edu/Tacitus/annals.html†

†These items may be found on the SEARCH Moodle site.
C. PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING ATTENDANCE)

Students will be monitored in regard to their regular and prompt attendance in both colloquium and common sessions. Occasionally, a student may find that some compelling need arises that causes them to miss class completely; such matters are at the discretion of the student and the professor requires no explanation. However, missing more than three classes will result in a five-point deduction in the student’s final attendance and participation grade, with every additional absence thereafter resulting in an additional one-point deduction. Because late arrival is so disruptive to a class, any student arriving more than five minutes late will be marked late, which will effectively count as half of an absence. If the student has a serious illness or other crisis that will cause the student to miss class, it is important to promptly notify the professor and be prepared to provide written documentation upon the student’s return. If the professor feels that the absence was unavoidable, any missed class will be considered as excused when they are figured into the attendance portion of the final grade. However, no make-ups are given for any in-class activity other than exams. Absences associated with Rhodes-sponsored activities will be considered excused if advance notice is provided.

The colloquium meetings are designed for a guided discussion of common readings. It is expected that the reading assignments be completed prior to each class meeting. In some cases expect to allot several periods of reading to have an assignment finished in time for class discussion; the calendar pinpoints some of these longer assignments for you.

You are required to bring to class the text assigned for that day. You should be prepared to discuss the text, bringing your own questions and comments in writing. Use the Reading Guide to guide your reading and help you gauge the success of your reading. Develop active approaches to reading and note-taking in preparation for class: mark the text (underlining, highlighting), write in the margins indicating cross-references or key ideas or the results of dictionary searches, give special emphasis to key passages, and note places where you agree or disagree with major arguments or ideas in the text.

You should be prepared to respond to ideas and directions of thought taken by your colleagues in class. This means that you must listen to what others have to say and be able to join with them in clarifying or assessing an idea. In addition to your participation in class discussion, your colloquium leader may require any of the following activities:

- Quizzes
- Completing an in-class or out-of-class writing assignment or project
- Being called on to answer a question or lead discussion

Remember that the time in class is never sufficient to cover completely all the topics, ideas, and arguments that may be important in an assignment. Your responsibility for the assigned reading, therefore, extends beyond what is explicitly covered in the class period.

It is also student’s responsibility to stay current with all material presented and discussed in both colloquiums and common sessions. Therefore, if you are absent – regardless of the cause of that absence – you should first contact other students for notes and then reread the relevant text in conjunction with those notes. If any of the missed material still remains unclear to you, contact the professor, who will then be pleased to answer any lingering questions.
D. SPECIAL EVENTS
Throughout the academic year SEARCH sponsors and supports various events related to course content and objectives, such as lectures by visiting scholars, dramatic and musical presentations, visits to musea, recitations of ancient literature, movies, study-sessions, etc. Although not required for my section, these optional events are intended to complement and supplement the intellectual activity of the classroom and to act as an intellectual catalyst for the campus community.

E. TESTING
There will be a 50-minute midterm given in class on Monday, Feb. 25th. The midterm will cover all course material up to that date. There will also be a 50-minute final given in our colloquium classroom on Monday, April 28th at 5:30 p.m. The final will cover all material subsequent to the midterm. The format for both exams is the same:

- 60% of the exam involves the identification of 6 out of 8 items; these items can be people, places, images concepts or quotes. To prepare for this section, pay particular attention to the Reading Guide and material from the Common Sessions. During the test, plan on spending no more than five minutes answering each identification.

- 40% of the exam will be composed of two short answer questions touching on significant issues, discussions and themes of the course that have emerged in course discussion, common sessions and readings. During the test, plan on spending no more than ten minutes answering each short answer.

F. WRITING AND PAPERS
Please see “Requirements for the Writing Portfolio” for an overview of the required paper format for the class. More specific requirements for each of the three formal papers for the class will be explained in handouts distributed by your colloquium leader. However, other less formal writing assignments will be required over the course of the semester as well; your colloquium leader will provide you with the requirements, deadlines and form of evaluation for those assignments.

G. LATE POLICY
Any required materials that are not turned in at the start of the class for which they are due are immediately lowered by 1/3rd letter grade. Further late materials are lowered by a full letter grade for each day after the due date; no late materials will be accepted more than four days after the original deadline.

H. ACADEMIC HONESTY
All work in this course must be completed in accordance with the Honor System at Rhodes College. In keeping with this policy, students are required to sign the Honor Pledge on every exam and paper submitted for this course. For specific questions in regard to course material, contact the professor before turning in the material.

I. SPECIAL NEEDS
If a student has a documented disability and which to receive academic accommodations, the student should first contact the Office of Student Disability Services (x3994) and then provide the professor with an accommodation form as soon as possible.
II. OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND FOR RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

A. UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Each year, a number of students in the SEARCH course participate in opportunities for undergraduate research. We encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities and discuss with their colloquium leader possibilities for undergraduate research.

Rhodes Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Symposium (URCAS)

This annual campus event held in April brings together outstanding student research and creative activity from all academic divisions of the college for the purpose of sharing and advancing the intellectual interests of Rhodes students.

ACTC Student Conference

At this student-organized biennial, international event, sponsored by the Association of Core Texts and Courses, selected first and second-year SEARCH students are invited to present papers. The conference brings together students in comparable programs at other institutions to exchange, discuss, and critique ideas.

Publications

Students have the opportunity to submit short manuscripts for publication in journals that specialize in publishing student work. These Rhodes publications, such as The Southwestern Review or Confluence, or regional or national journals, such as The Pierian Spring, an undergraduate research journal published at Hendrix College.

B. RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

The SEARCH program has a long tradition of recognizing students who have excelled in all aspects of the course including written work, testing, and class discussion. Each year, two students of extraordinary achievement are awarded the Fred W. Neal Prize and the W. O. Shewmaker Award in Interdisciplinary Humanities. The achievement of other outstanding students is recognized through membership on the SEARCH Advisory Council.

Fred W. Neal Prize and W. O. Shewmaker Award in Interdisciplinary Humanities

The Fred W. Neal Prize and the W. O. Shewmaker Prize honor two students with the highest distinction in first-year SEARCH. The former prize was established by colleagues and friends of Dr. Fred W. Neal, director of the SEARCH course 1969-85, and the latter was established by alumni and friends in memory of Dr. W. O. Shewmaker, Professor of Bible at Rhodes 1925-41. Candidates for these prizes are nominated by their colloquium leaders and the prize winners are selected by a committee of the SEARCH staff. The winners will be announced at the college-wide Awards Convocation in the spring.

SEARCH Advisory Council

Membership on the SEARCH Advisory Council (SAC) is awarded to those first-year students who have excelled in all areas of the course. Students are nominated to the SAC by their colloquium leaders during the spring semester. Newly designated SAC members are given the opportunity to participate in the end-of-year evaluation of the SEARCH course where they provide valuable feedback to the teaching staff. In their second year of studies, SAC students are invited to special events sponsored by the program. They also often give service to the first-year course by serving as tutors, substitute colloquium leaders, guides at Open House, and representatives at faculty candidate visits.