

# Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

## HUM 201-04, The Search for Values in the Light of Western History and Religion, Fall 2004

Item Type	Syllabus
Authors	Wirts, Stephen
Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
Rights	Rhodes College owns the rights to the archival digital images in this repository. Images are made available for educational use only and may not be used for any non-educational or commercial purpose. Approved educational uses include private research and scholarship, teaching, and student projects. For additional information please contact <a href="mailto:archives@rhodes.edu">archives@rhodes.edu</a> . Fees may apply.
Download date	2025-05-22 03:32:45
Link to Item	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10267/1623">http://hdl.handle.net/10267/1623</a>

Humanities 201  
Fall 2004

Mr. Wirls  
303 Buckman  
MWF 1:00-2:30

**THE SEARCH FOR VALUES IN THE LIGHT OF  
WESTERN HISTORY AND RELIGION  
Second Year, Politics Track**

This third semester of the two-year Search course carries forward the narrative of the history, religion, literature, philosophy, and political thought of the West from the Middle Ages through the Enlightenment, with particular emphasis on political topics and writings. More to the point, this course is a study of the most important questions that confront us as human beings: e.g. Is there a God? If there is, what does that god require of me? If there is not, how do I distinguish between right and wrong? Is there a right and a wrong to distinguish between? Is there a natural order to guide me? How does it obligate me and to what ends? To discover moral obligations, do I rely on my reason or may faith?

To study those questions, we must be engaged with and in arguments about the various and contradictory answers to them. The success of this course, therefore, depends upon our class meetings, and the success of our class meetings depends largely upon your engaging those questions directly and personally. Obviously, you cannot be an engaged participant unless you are in class: *be there for each meeting*. Being there, however, is not enough. I will expect from each of you regular and informed participation in class discussion. *In other words, your most important task is to read each day's assignment carefully, thoughtfully, and on time*. You should come with questions and comments prepared. To encourage you, I will regularly require you to prepare some sort of synopsis of the reading before the class in which that reading is discussed. If there are no volunteers to read their contributions, I will volunteer someone.

In addition, you will write three papers for the course (4 pages, 6 pages, 6 pages). I will hand out the topics well in advance of the due date, and so extensions will not be granted except under the most extreme circumstances. Late papers will be penalized one third of a letter grade per day.

You will, at the end of all written work, **affirm your adherence to the principles and terms of the College's honor code**. You are responsible for reading and understanding that code. In particular, you must become very familiar with the various forms of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a cardinal academic sin, and *ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse*. If you are ever unsure about its meaning and any particular application, ask me or a writing center tutor.

You are, in this course, allowed to discuss the paper and exam topics *with other members of this class*. But such discussions must be limited to the substance of the question and the relevant readings. *These discussions must not extend into the outlining, writing, and rewriting of the essays or answers*. You may not work with anyone, or the work of anyone, when outlining, writing, and rewriting your essay.

Your grade for the course will be calculated in the following way: class participation and attendance (20 percent); daily questions (20 percent) ; three essays (20 percent each). If you do not complete and submit all written work, you *will* fail the course.

The following books are required and may be purchased in the Rhodes bookstore. It is important that we all use the same edition of these books:

Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*  
Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*  
Dante, *The Inferno*  
Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*  
Franklin, *Autobiography*  
Hobbes, *Leviathan*  
Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*  
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*  
Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*  
Machiavelli, *The Prince*  
Milton, *Paradise Lost*  
*Rule of St. Benedict*  
Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*

#### **TOPICS AND READINGS**

Aug. 25: Introduction to the course

##### ***The holy life:***

Aug. 27: *The Rule of St. Benedict*, pp. 43-61, 69-73, 76-95

Aug. 30: *Rule of St. Benedict*, pp. 98-106  
St. Francis, "The Rule of the Franciscan Order" (acad. prog.)  
Thomas of Celano, "First and Second Lives of St. Francis" (acad. prog.)

##### ***Reason, worldliness, and the holy life:***

Sept. 1: Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, pp. 11-22, 30-33, 42-45, 87-93, 95-98

Sept. 3: Dante, *The Inferno*, Cantos 1-7; 11:1-90; 14:4-75

Sept. 8: *The Inferno*, Cantos 15 (all); 16:106-134; 18 (all); 19 (all); 21:1-60; 22 (all)

Sept. 10: *The Inferno*, Cantos 24: 79-149; 26 (all); 28: 1-42, 112-143; 32-34 (all)

##### ***The calculus of self-preservation contra the holy life:***

Sept. 13: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedicatory letter; Chapters 1, 6-8

Sept. 15: *The Prince*, Chapters 15-18

Sept. 17: *The Prince*, Chapters 25

***Reformations: church and state, body and soul***

Sept. 20: Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, Acts I-II

Sept. 22: *Measure for Measure*, Acts III-IV

Sept. 24: *Measure for Measure*, Act V

Sept. 27: Writing

Sept. 29: Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty* (acad. prog.)

Oct. 1: John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book I.1:1-3; 4:1-2; 5.1,11; 6:1-2; 7 (all); 16 (all); 17:1, 3, 4, 9; Book II.1:1, 2, 8; 2 (all); 3:3, 4, 10

Oct.: 4 *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book III.2:6; 9 (all); 10:1-2; 14:2, 3, 9; 17:8; 19 (all); 21:1, 7; 22 (all); 24(all); Book IV.1:1, 4, 13; 15:3

Oct. 6: John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1:1-270; Book 2:1-505; Book 3:1-343; Book 4:1-113, 295-305, 393-535; Book 5.1-210  
(Also read the Argument that begins each book)

Oct. 8: *Paradise Lost*, Book 5: 211-245, 497-907; Book 6:1-98, 304-910; Book 7:131-550; Book 8 (all)

Oct.11: *Paradise Lost*, Book 9:135-1189; Book 10:95-263, 455-522, 845-965; Book 11:1-358; Book 12:270-650

Oct. 13: Pause

***The new science and its new society: Machiavelli revisited?:***

Oct. 15: Bacon, *The Great Instauration*, pp. 7-17

Oct. 20: Bacon, *The Wisdom of the Ancients* (handout)

***The new science of politics and the natural law of preservation***

Oct. 22: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Letter Dedicatory (p. 3); Introduction; Chapters 1-3 and 6 (1-3, 6-7, 11-33, 36, 39, 49-51, 53)

- Oct. 25: *Leviathan*, Chapters 10 (1-3, 16). 11, 13
- Oct. 27: *Leviathan*, Chapters 14 (1-5, 8-9, 18-20, 23, 26, 29, 31, 33); 15 (1-8, 14, 40-41); 17 (1-2, 13-15); 18; 21
- Oct. 29: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Preface; Chapters I-III
- Nov. 1: *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters V; IX
- Nov. 3: *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters XI; XII; XVIII (199, 202-204, 207, 209); XIX (223-229)
- Nov. 5: Pause: Liberty and order

***Providence, industry, and virtue in liberal society***

- Nov. 8: Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*, pp. 1-13, 33-72
- Nov. 10: *Robinson Crusoe*, pp. 82-86, 91-97, 112-121, 124-128, 131-166, 204-205
- Nov. 12: Adam Smith, *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* pp. 1-15 (acad. vol.)
- Nov. 15: *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* pp. 15-end
- Nov. 17: James Madison, *Federalist* 10 (acad. vol.)

***Religious toleration and skepticism***

- Nov. 19: John Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*
- Nov. 22: David Hume, *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section 11

***Liberalism and a new world order***

- Nov. 29: Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace*, 107-127
- Dec. 1: *Perpetual Peace* 127-139

***Liberal citizen and citizenship***

- Dec. 3: Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*, Parts 1-2
- Dec. 6 *Autobiography*, Part 3