

Humanities 6: : Great People, Great Ages

Dr. Dean Pickard
Pierce College, Spring 2000

Office: FO 3008, Ph: 710-4398
Hrs: T 2:30-3, Th 2:30-4 & by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: *General description:* An interdisciplinary course which covers leading figures and major cultural developments in an historical period, such as the Greek playwrights and 5th century Athens; Augustine and the Augustinian Age; Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and the Renaissance; Descartes to Kant and the Enlightenment; Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche and the 19th century, etc. The course can also focus on a major development or issue of a particular period, such as the problem of truth and the sacred as it developed in the 19-20 centuries or the transition from modernism to postmodernism.

Title and Description of Spring 2000 course: *Philosophy as a Way of Life and its Relevance to the 21st Century*
Western philosophy has been practiced as both a theoretical enterprise and as the basis of a way of life, a way to improve oneself. Both traditions emerged side by side, for example in Plato, the Stoics, and Augustine. But eventually the theoretical approach came to dominate: the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, rather than practical wisdom. This course will explore the development of philosophy as a way of life, the pursuit of wisdom in how to live based on wisdom about ourselves and the world. This approach to philosophy seems to be enjoying a renaissance and we will examine its potential for living in the 21st Century.

- Note:**
1. If you drop the class, do so officially or you may receive an automatic F for the course.
 2. You are subject to automatic exclusion if you miss 2 weeks of class during the first 12 weeks.
 3. If you come to class late or leave early, please sit near the door. Seats there should be otherwise left empty.
 4. **Beepers** should be turned off before entering class.
 5. Please see me first for help or complaints.
 6. This outline is a basic guide and is subject to revision. Follow announcements in class of any changes.

- TEXTS:**
1. Hadot, *Philosophy as a Way of Life* (Hadot)
 2. Pickard, *Supplemental Readings for Humanities 6* (Includes material on philosophy, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, Jerome Miller, Nehamas, Pickard) (P)
 3. Kingsley, *In the Dark Places of Wisdom* (K)
 4. Wittgenstein, *On Certainty* (W)
 5. Heidegger, *On the Way to Language* (Heid)

GRADING: 1) Two essay exams: each essay 3-5 standard typed pages, 100 pts. each. 2) A journal of collected favorite passages from your reading briefly saying why each passage both represents a major issue raised in the text and was particularly meaningful for you. Late exams are not graded until the end of the semester. Thoughtful, informed class participation can raise the grade. Perfect attendance raises the grade one level.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment DUE</u>
1/12	Introduction: Philosophy and the 21 st Century	
1/19-26	Parmenides, Socrates, Plato, the Stoics	P, K
2/2, 2/9	The Art of Living, Socratic Irony	P (Nehamas)
2/16, 2/23, 3/1	Philosophy as A Way of Life	Hadot
3/8- 3/15	Augustine	P
EXAM 1		
3/22	Spring Vacation	
3/29, 4/5	Nietzsche	P
4/12, 4/19	Wittgenstein	W, P
4/26, 5/3, 5/10	Heidegger	Heid
EXAM 2		