

LIBS 111-04B  
Roosevelt University  
Fall 2010

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Office Hours: Th 1:00 - 2:00pm  
AUD 560

## Great Ideas I

Section 04B – TTh 11:00 – 12:15pm, AUD 644

### Course Description:

This course will be an exploration of fundamental ideas and themes through a survey of “Great Books” of literature ranging from the ancient Greeks and Hebrews to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The goal of the class will be to introduce students to these seminal texts, practice the art of textual interpretation, and explore various interpretations of the texts through class discussion.

### Course Texts:

These texts will all be available for purchase from the Roosevelt Bookstore. *These editions of the texts are required.*

- Richmond Lattimore and David Grene - *Euripides V*, UC Press (ISBN: 0-226-30784-0)
- Plato - *Five Dialogs*, Hackett (ISBN: 0872206335)
- *New Oxford Annotated Bible , College Edition*, Oxford (ISBN: 0195289609)(or any NRSV translation)
- Shakespeare - *Four Great Tragedies*, Signet Classics (ISBN: 0451527291)
- Descartes - *Discourse on Method and Meditations*, Hackett (ISBN: 046087411X)
- Boethius - *Consolation of Philosophy*, Hackett (ISBN: 0872205835)
- Machiavelli - *The Prince*, University of Chicago Press (ISBN: 0226500446)

There will be additional selections indicated on the syllabus for course assignments. These selections will be provided by the instructor in class and/or posted to Blackboard.

### Course Requirements:

- 1) **Course Discussion and Participation (25%)**– The primary goals of the course make student attendance and active class participation essential. Therefore, student participation in discussion is mandatory. Frequent absences or failure to contribute will result in a lowered grade.
- 2) In addition to in-class participation, prior to each class session half of the students will post a **1-2 paragraph response to the reading** on blackboard to help initiate discussion. Posts should raise a problem, point of interest, or question in the text that the student would wish to discuss with the rest of the class. The other half of the class will be required to reply to their classmates' discussion posts on days where they are not responsible for a response.
- 3) **Papers (75%)** – Students are required to submit three papers over the course of the semester based upon topics received from the instructor. All papers should be

typed in 12 point font, double-spaced, and have a margin of 1 inch on all sides of the page. The word limit for each paper will be strictly enforced. The lengths of the papers will be as follows:

- **Paper 1 (15%):** 1250 – 1500 words, due 10/5/10
- **Paper 2 (25%):** 1250 – 1500 words, due 11/4/10
- **Paper 3 (35%):** 1500 - 2000 words, due 12/14/10

Papers will be evaluated on the basis of their composition (grammar, organization, and spelling, strength of their textual interpretation, and quality of the argument. An “A” paper will have little to no grammatical errors, have a well thought out interpretation of the work supported by strong textual evidence, and display originality in approaching the material.

**Late Paper Policy:** Unless excused, late papers will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade per day. However, each student may take a 24-hour extension for *one* of the two papers. (If you choose to use your extension, please indicate this on the front page of your paper.)

**Attendance Policy:** As mentioned above, attendance to class is mandatory. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in your grade being lowered a letter. More than 6 absences will result in a failing grade for the course. In cases of illness or emergency please notify me of your circumstances so that arrangements can be made for missed assignments. Students can miss class for a religious holiday without penalty, but must inform me of their intentions during the first week of class. Work missed for religious holiday must be made up.

**Grading Scale for the Course:** Your final grade will be based upon a 100pt scale that breaks down as follows:

A 93-100    A- 90-92    B+ 88-89    B 83-87    B- 80-82    C+ 78-79  
C 73-77    C- 70-72    D+ 68-69    D 63-67    D- 60-62    F 59 and lower

**Additional Information:**

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism in the course will not be tolerated and will be punished by a failed assignment and/or notification of university officials. For any questions, please see the University Plagiarism Policy, located here: <http://legacy.roosevelt.edu/current/judicial/academic-dishonesty.htm>

**ADA policy:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact the office of Disability Services (DS), a part of the Academic Success Center (ASC) <http://legacy.roosevelt.edu/asc>, AUD 442, Center, 312-341-3818, or SCH 125, 847-619-7978, as early as possible in the term.

**Technology in the Classroom:** Students are asked to turn off cell phones or other

telecommunications devices during class time. Students caught texting during class will be counted as absent for the day. Laptops may be used for note-taking or reading electronic texts during class time. Students found looking at non-course related websites, checking email, etc, will be counted as absent for the day.

**Reading Assignments:**

Week 1	08/31/10	Introduction
	09/02/10	Bible - Genesis Ch. 1-11; John Ch. 1; Acts Ch. 1&2, Excerpt from <i>Gilgamesh</i> (Handout);
Week 2	09/07/10	Bible - Genesis 12-15;
	09/09/10	Bible – Job (all)
Week 3	09/14/10	Greek Lyric Poetry (Handout)
	09/16/10	Euripides – Bacchae (pp155-187)
Week 4	09/21/10	Euripides – Bacchae (pp. 188 - end)
	09/23/10	Plato - Meno
Week 5	09/28/10	Plato – Apology
	09/30/10	Plato - Phaedo
Week 6	10/05/10	Plato – Selections (Handout) ( <b>First Paper Due</b> )
	10/07/10	Boethius - <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> I
Week 7	10/12/10	Boethius – <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> II
	10/14/10	Boethius – <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> III
Week 8	10/19/10	Boethius – <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> IV/V
	10/21/10	Machiavelli – <i>The Prince</i> , Dedicatory Letter & Chapters I-VI; <i>Discourses on Livy</i> , Letter, I Preface, 9-10, 19-20, 58, II 2, III 30.1 (all <i>Discourses</i> selections from handout)
Week 9	10/26/10	Machiavelli - <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters VII-XIV; <i>Discourses on Livy</i> , I 11-12, 18.4, 27
	10/28/10	Machiavelli - <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters XV-XIX; <i>Discourses on Livy</i> , III 40-42
Week 10	11/02/10	Machiavelli - <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters XX-XXVI; <i>Discourses on Livy</i> , III 9
	11/04/10	<i>Othello</i> Introduction/Video ( <b>Second Paper Due</b> )
Week 11	11/09/10	<i>Othello</i> - Act I
	11/11/10	<i>Othello</i> - Act II
Week 12	11/16/10	<i>Othello</i> - Act III
	11/18/10	<i>Othello</i> - Act IV/V
Week 13	11/23/10	THANKSGIVING

	11/25/10	THANKSGIVING
Week 14	11/30/10	Descartes – <i>Discourse on Method</i>
	12/02/10	Descartes – <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>
Week 15	12/07/10	TBA
	12/09/10	Final Discussion
Week 16	12/14/10	FINAL PAPER DUE BY NOON