

The Self and Society

CORC 3109 Fall 2012

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3316B Boylan Hall Ext. 5570

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 1pm-2pm

Required Texts:

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*. Hackett. ISBN: 9780872206052

Albert Camus, *The Stranger*. Vintage. ISBN: 0679720200

George Orwell, *1984*. Signet. ISBN: 0451524934

Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*. Penguin. ISBN: 0140455124

Additional texts to be distributed via BlackBoard

Schedule:

8/30 Introductions

9/6 "What is Enlightenment?" by Immanuel Kant (on BlackBoard)

9/13 "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King Jr. (BlackBoard)

9/20 Camus, *The Stranger* Part One (pp. 3-59)

9/27 Camus, *The Stranger* Part Two (pp. 63-123)

10/4 *Utilitarianism* Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

10/11 *Utilitarianism* Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

10/18 *Utilitarianism* Chapter 5 and Mill's Speech on Capital Punishment

10/25 **Midterm Exam**

11/1 Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* Part I (pp. 15-46)

11/8 Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* Part II (pp. 47-123)

11/15 Orwell, *1984* Part One (pp. 1-104)

11/22 **No Class**

11/29 Orwell, *1984*, Part Two (pp. 105-224)

12/6 Orwell, *1984*, Part Three (pp. 225-298)

12/13 Conclusion/Review

Final Exam TBA

Methods of Assessment:

Midterm 30%

Final 30%

Term Paper 30%

Participation 10%

Objectives of Core Course:

1. Students will become acquainted with literatures of the past and present, and with significant ideas and real life issues presented in these literary works. (3)
2. Students will understand philosophical literature, past and present, and will acquire a critical appreciation of their contribution to the life of the individual and society. (4)
3. Students will develop skills of conceptual analysis and argumentation. (9)
4. Students will be able to express ideas clearly in writing. (10)
5. Students will be able to communicate thought orally. (12)
6. Students will be able to develop a basis for evaluating texts. (13)
7. Students will become acquainted with ethical theories presumed and moral issues presented in literary works. (1)
8. Students will acquire an understanding of their own identity and of personal integrity. (20)
9. Students will confront ethical issues that arise in real life situations in the context of interpreting literary works and they will develop skills of using reasoning to construct possible solutions to ethical problems and to construct personal standards of responsibility. (26)

Outcomes for Core Course:

1. Students can identify, engage with, and discuss important literary works and significant issues presented in these works. (3)
2. Students can reflect upon and critically examine fundamental themes and issues of important literary works, and can assess their significance to past and to contemporary human life. (4)
3. Students will be able to analyze and critically examine philosophical issues of self and society found in literary works. (9)
4. Students can use writing to reflect on, to explain, and to critically examine concepts and issues relating to self and society that are presented in literature. (10)
5. Students can orally explain, and critically examine concepts and theories relating to self and society presented in literary works. (12)
6. Students can analyze and interpret themes of literary works, focusing especially on the self and personal integrity, issues of justice and responsibility, and alienation. (13)
7. Students can explain and critically examine some moral issues that arise in literary works. (1)
8. Students can reflect upon their own identity, personal integrity, values, and moral responsibility. (20)
9. Students can explain and engage with concrete real life moral and values problems that are presented in literary works and can develop reasoned solutions and arguments that respond to

such problems. (26)

University policy on Academic Integrity:

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

Center for Student Disability Services:

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

Nonattendance because of religious beliefs:

Title I, Article 5, Section 224-a of the New York State Education Law provides that:

"1. No person shall be expelled from or be refused admission as a student to an institution of higher education for the reason that he [or she] is unable, because of his [or her] religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirements on a particular day or days.

"2. Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because of his [or her] religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused from any examination or any study or work requirements.

"3. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of his [or her] religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study or work requirements which he [or she] may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such equivalent opportunity.

"4. If classes, examinations, study or work requirements are held on Friday after four o'clock post meridian or on Saturday, similar or makeup classes, examinations, study or work requirements shall be made available on other days, where it is possible and practicable to do so. No special fees shall be charged to the

student for these classes, examinations, study or work requirements held on other days. "5. In effectuating the provisions of this section, it shall be the duty of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to exercise the fullest measure of good faith. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his [or her] availing himself [or herself] of the provisions of this section.

"6. Any student, who is aggrieved by the alleged failure of any faculty or administrative officials to comply in good faith with the provisions of this section, shall be entitled to maintain an action or proceeding in the supreme court of the county in which such institution of higher education is located for the enforcement of his [or her] rights under this section."