

Professor Warner
Spring 2014
Roosevelt University
ACP 110-99 (Honors), Primary Texts

Course Description

What should be most important for us to understand is perhaps more than anything else most shrouded in darkness, namely, what it means to be human. It seems as if the matter is straightforward enough: just look within. However, the fundamental character of our humanity proves very difficult to catch even a glimpse of. One mark of a book of the utmost importance is its capacity, in the face of grave difficulties, to make us think deeply about what it means to be human, to excite our sense of wonder, to unsettle and disturb us by challenging our natural complacency, and even—in the best of all worlds—to reveal something profound about the human condition. Hoping that the importance of such an understanding is apparent, we will be reading a variety of books that many have thought are among the greatest books ever written. Their greatness becomes visible only if one is willing to read both very carefully and very critically—otherwise they will seem no different from any common book. In one way or another, the books we will be reading concern two difficulties: the problem of coming to know the world; and the problem of coming to know oneself. These are not the only issues we will be canvassing, but they usually will be lurking around most of our corners.

Books

Homer, *The Odyssey*, translated by Richmond Lattimore (Harper Classics)
Mark Kremer (translator), *Apologies: Plato and Xenophon* (Focus Publishing)
Shakespeare, *Winter's Tale* (Oxford World's Classics)
Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, translated by Richard Kennington (Focus Publishing)
Albert Camus, *The Stranger*, translated by Matthew Ward (Vintage)

Reading Assignments and Due Dates for Writing Assignments

January 13	<i>Odyssey</i> , Books I-IV
January 15	<i>Odyssey</i> , Books V-VIII
January 22	<i>Odyssey</i> , Books IX-XII
January 27	<i>Odyssey</i> , Books XIII-XVI
January 29	<i>Odyssey</i> , Books XVII-XX
February 3	<i>Odyssey</i> , Books XXI-XXIV

February 5	Plato, <i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 17a-20e (Stephanus pagination)
February 10	Plato, <i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 21a-27d
February 12	Plato, <i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 27e-35d
February 17	Plato, <i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 35e-42a
February 19	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act I
February 24	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act II
February 26	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act III
March 3	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act IV
March 5	<i>Winter's Tale</i> , Act V
March 17	Descartes, Part 1
March 19	Descartes, Part 2
March 24	Descartes, Part 2
March 26	Descartes, Part 2 and 3
March 31	Descartes, Part 3
April 2	Descartes, Part 3
April 7	Descartes, Part 4
April 9	Descartes, Part 5
April 14	Descartes, Part 6
April 16	Camus
April 21	Camus
April 23	Camus

Essay Competition

The Montesquieu Forum—directed by Professor Warner and assisted by Professor Minkov—is sponsoring an essay contest. All of the papers that are written in the Honors sections of ACP 110 will be automatically submitted as entries. The six best papers (written by six individual students) will be chosen as winners. The winners will then work with Professors Minkov and Warner over the summer to improve their papers (the work will be somewhat minimal). The papers will then be presented at a conference devoted to those papers. Two internationally renowned scholars will respond to the students' papers. Each of the six winners will receive an honorarium of \$300.