

# Mortals, Creatures, & Subjects

FYS BC 1568

Taylor Carman  
Barnard College  
Spring 2010

326C Milbank, x42065  
[tcarman@barnard.edu](mailto:tcarman@barnard.edu)  
Office hours: T&Th 10:30–12:00

This seminar examines depictions of human beings and their relation to the divine in ancient, medieval, and early modern literature and philosophy.


**Texts** (available at Book Culture, 536 W 112th St, just off Broadway)

Epictetus, *The Handbook (Encheiridion)* (Hackett)  
*The Aeneid of Virgil*, Mandelbaum, trans. (Bantam)  
*The Portable Dante*, Musa, ed. (Penguin)  
Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian* (Fortress)  
*The Nietzsche Reader*, Pearson and Large, eds. (Blackwell)  
Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* (Vintage)

## Requirements

Your grade will be based on five written assignments and on participation in discussion. No late papers will be accepted, except by prior arrangement or under mitigating circumstances. Regular punctual attendance is also a requirement; your grade will go down if you miss more than two sessions without consulting me in advance.

## I. Ancient

19 JAN	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	
21 JAN	LUCRETIUS, <i>De Rerum Natura</i> [Dryden 190–206]	
26 JAN	EPICETUS, <i>Encheiridion</i>	
28 JAN	VIRGIL, <i>Aeneid</i> I	
2 FEB	<i>Aeneid</i> IV	
4 FEB	<i>Aeneid</i> VI	1 <sup>st</sup> paper due Fri, 5 Feb
9 FEB	Exodus 1–15:21	
11 FEB	 WRITING DAY	
16 FEB	Exodus 19–20, 32–4	
18 FEB	SAINT PAUL, Romans 7 & 1 Corinthians 13 Gospel of Matthew 5–7	2 <sup>nd</sup> paper due Fri, 19 Feb

## II. Medieval

23 FEB DANTE, *Inferno* I–VIII

25 FEB  WRITING DAY

2 MAR *Inferno* IX–XVI

4 MAR *Inferno* XXVI, XXXII–XXXIV

9 MAR *Purgatory* I, XVI–XVIII, XXVI–XXX

11 MAR *Paradise* II, XXX–XXXIII

3<sup>rd</sup> paper due Fri, 12 March

*Spring Break*

## III. Modern

23 MAR LUTHER, Letter to Pope Leo X  
*Freedom of a Christian*, 49–65

25 MAR  WRITING DAY

30 MAR GALILEO, Letter to Christina

1 APR NIETZSCHE, *Gay Science* §125 (Reader 224)  
*Beyond Good and Evil* §62 (334–5)

6 APR *Genealogy of Morality* I (395–407)

8 APR *Genealogy* II (408–24)

4<sup>th</sup> paper due Fri, 2 April

13 APR *Genealogy* III §25 (424–35)

15 APR  WRITING DAY

20 APR Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* I (3–41)

22 APR *Underground* II (42–90)

27 APR *Underground* II (90–130)

29 APR WRAPPING UP

5<sup>th</sup> paper due Fri, 30 April