

Gods and Mortals

Ancient, Medieval, Modern

FYS BC 1568

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Office hours: TTh 10:45–12:00

This seminar examines several dominant conceptions and depictions of divine powers and human beings as articulated in the literature of antiquity, the Middle Ages, and modern times.

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

The Odyssey of Homer, Lattimore, trans. (Harper)

Aeschylus I: Oresteia, Lattimore, trans. (Chicago)

Virgil, *The Aeneid*, West, trans. (Penguin)

The Portable Dante, Musa, ed. (Penguin)

The Portable Nietzsche, Kaufmann, ed. (Penguin)

The Best Short Stories of Fyodor Dostoevsky, Magarshack, ed. (Modern Library)

Requirements

Your grade will be based on five short (4–5 page) written assignments and on your participation in seminar discussion. No late papers will be accepted (except in cases of emergency). Regular punctual attendance is also a requirement; your grade will go down if you miss more than two sessions without arranging the absences in advance.

I. Ancient

A. GREEK

20 JAN *Preliminary remarks and discussion*

22 JAN HOMER, *Odyssey* I–III

27 JAN *Odyssey* IV–VI

29 JAN *Odyssey* VII–IX

3 FEB *Odyssey* X–XII

5 FEB *Odyssey* XXII–XXIV

10 FEB AESCHYLUS, *Agamemnon*

12 FEB *The Libation Bearers*

17 FEB *Eumenides*

B. ROMAN

19 FEB VIRGIL, *Aeneid* I–II

24 FEB *Aeneid* III–IV

26 FEB *Aeneid* V–VI

C. HEBREW

3 MAR Exodus 1:1–15:21

5 MAR Exodus 19–20, 32–4

D. CHRISTIAN

10 MAR Matthew 5–7

Romans 7

1 Corinthians 13

Gospel of John 1–7

12 MAR John 8–21

Spring Break

II. Medieval

24 MAR DANTE, *Inferno* I–VIII

26 APR *Inferno* IX–XVI

31 MAR *Inferno* XXVI, XXXII–XXXIV

Purgatory I, XVI–XVIII

2 APR *Purgatory* XXVI–XXX

Paradise XXX–XXXIII

III. Modern

7 APR NIETZSCHE, *The Gay Science*, §125, §341 (*Portable Nietzsche*, 95–6, 101–2)
Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Zarathustra's Prologue, The Three Metamorphoses (121–40)

On Self-Overcoming (225–8)

9 APR *Zarathustra*, On Redemption (249–54)

On the Vision and the Riddle (267–72)

Twilight of the Idols, "Morality as Anti-Nature" (486–92)

"The 'Improvers' of Mankind" (501–5)

14 APR *The Antichrist*, §§1–38 (569–612)

16 APR *Antichrist*, §§39–62 (612–56)

21 APR DOSTOEVSKY, *Notes from Underground*, Part I (95–130)

23 APR *Notes*, Part II (130–213)

28 APR "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man" (263–85)

30 APR *Concluding remarks and discussion*