

Studies in Literature and Politics

Political Science 4234
MWF 12:30-1:2

Fall 2016

Well deserving, yet poetically man dwells on this earth

+ ü O G H U O L Q

Readings: The Art of the Novel Chapter One, Milan Kundera
Hölderlin, In lovely Blue

+ H L G H J J H U 3 R H W L F D O O \ 0 2 0 L ' 0 6 1 0 0 J Thinking "

II. What is the Measure of Human Being?

A man thought the gods deigned not to punish mortals who trampled down the delicacy of things inviolable. That man was wicked.

Aeschylus

Readings: Aeschylus, Oresteia
Plato, Republic Book IV

III. The Death of the Gods & The Birth of Freedom?

Zeus: What will they make of it?

2 U H V W H V : K D W W K H \ F K R R V H 7 K H \ ¶ U H I U H H D Q G K X P D Q

IV. Freedom? Identity?

6 K L S V D W D G L V W D Q F H K D Y H H Y H U \ P D Q ¶ V Z L V K R Q E R D U G
others they sail forever on the horizon, never out of sight, never landing until the Watcher turns
his eyes away in resignation, his dreams mocked to death by Time. That is the life of men. Now,
Z R P H Q I R U J H W D O O W K R V H W K L Q J V W K H \ G R Q ¶ W Z D Q W W R
want to forget. The dream is the truth. Then they act and do things accordingly.

Thurston

Readings: Zora Neal Thurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

IX. And What, Now, of Dwelling Poetically?

Yet us it behooves, you poets, to stand Bare-

Course Objectives

First, as you can see from the syllabus, I am conducting a literal phenomenology of the poetic. In it, the first question we encounter, and a question we will continue to encounter throughout the semester, is the following: what is the relationship between being, the poetic, and politics? In order to answer this question satisfactorily, we must examine what is meant by poetics, politics, and being. Second, as you can also see, the syllabus continues this reflection on poetry and being by examining a selection of poetic writings with parallel philosophical discussions, each in their own way concerned with an important aspect of human being. In this manner, we shall engage in the exercise of dwelling poetically about being (this will require that we spend some considerable time reflecting on the nature of mythos and logos.) Third, and finally, the particular form of being with which we are concerned is the political. Here we diverge considerably from Heidegger and attempt to come to some understanding of what it means to dwell politically and what this being is who does the dwelling, namely the human being.

Course Requirements:

1. Reflections: At the conclusion of sections two through nine you will be required to write and submit (on Moodle) a 1 page (minimum 300 words) set of reflections on the relevant poetic/philosophical/political readings and class discussions. It is expected that these reflections on your part will be cumulative in nature, building on what you have read and reflected upon in previous sections. It is also expected that your thoughts will vary considerably depending on where you are in your own intellectual and experiential journey. These reflections will be due one week after a section is completed and, combined, will be worth 40% of your grade in the course.
2. Two semester examinations, only one of which will count. These will occur at about the 1/3 and 2/3 marks of the semester. Everyone in the class must take the first of these; you may choose whether you wish to take the second. You may take the higher grade for the two exams. The examination will count for 30% of your grade in the course.
3. Final project: In lieu of a final exam, or what in effect is your final exam, you will write a final project of 6 to 8 pages (Using Word, double-spaced and in a 12 pitch font) on a poetic/philosophical/political reading(s) that we do not cover in the course. (Graduate students are expected to write longer projects.) In every case, your selection of a set of readings to cover in this assignment must be approved in advance. (I will give you a list of suggestions.) It is important that you begin this project early in the semester, most assuredly by the mid-semester point. This final project will count for 40% of your course grade and it will be due no later than Midnight, November 30. (For those of you so inclined, this project may be a multi-media or

Reflections = 40%
Exam = 30%
Final Project = 30%

Total = 100%

Readings:

The readings are listed on the syllabus. Some are books that I have asked you to purchase, either at local book stores and/or via Amazon or other on-line book sellers. Others are links to internet +REEHV /HYLDWKDQ 6WL00 RWKHUV ZLOO EpsteUd DGLQJV V Moodle, as will the links to internet versions mentioned above. I will, on occasion, add or suggest other readings as we progress through the semester.

Moodle:

I will make extensive use of Moodle for this course, first, by posting the syllabus and various course readings and by providing Moodle assignment access for you to submit your reflections and your final project. There will be a grade book published on Moodle as well.

Attendance:

I do not take attendance and there is no specific attendance grade for this course. However, I hasten to add that doing well in the course is very dependent on your continual participation in the conversation we are going to have about the way we think, u V H W K H O D Q J X D J H D Q G 3 S R H W L F D O O 3 S R D L W H O D O D V ' , Q V K R U W R X U G L V F X V V L R Q V participating in them at a meaningful level will require a commitment/presence on your part to attend class on a regular basis, do the readings in a timely manner, and engage the material with utmost seriousness.

Office Hours:

My schedule this semrrtri7WdHhE make