RAMAPO COLLEGE of NEW JERSEY

SALAMENO SCHOOL of AMERICAN and INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Readings in Humanities: AIID 201-15, CRN 40487

Dr. Anthony T. Padovano

Fall 2015

8:30 AM—9:40 AM (MWR) Office: A-215

Classroom A-223 Phone: 201-684-7430

E-Mail: [apadovan@ramapo.edu](mailto:apadovan@ramapo.edu) Office Hours: W. and F. by appt.

College Closings: 201-236-2902 T. 11:00 AM -12:00 PM.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is the development in the student of sensitivity for the dignity of human life and the quality of literary excellence. The course will deal with some of the most effective literary artists the world has known. We shall move from ancient Greece to the new world of America and we shall encompass diverse genres of literature en-route. In all of this, the student will be invited to consider questions about human existence, which have been with us from the beginning. These questions will be presented as contemporary and personal, as inescapable and ennobling.

The texts will be presented in the order in which they are listed at a pace determined by the professor and by student ability and interest.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The intent of this course is the development in the student of critical thinking skills and aesthetic appreciation for the human values in world literature. At the end of the semester a student should be conversant with the common language and humanities themes which connect us with the past and with one another.

ELECTRONIC FORMS OF COMMUNICATIONIn accordance with College policy, I will use your Ramapo College email address (@ramapo.edu) to communicate with you about all course-related matters.

###### POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students are expected to read and understand Ramapo College’s academic integrity policy, which can be found in the *Ramapo College Catalog*. Members of the Ramapo College community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Office of the Provost.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:  
If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a documented disability, please make an appointment during my office hours.

BASIC TEXTS:

1. Odyssey, Homer (accompanied by selected readings from the Iliad)
2. Medea, Euripides
3. The Divine Comedy, Dante (all three sections)
4. Hamlet, Shakespeare
5. The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne

REQUIREMENTS

1. Mid-term and Final Examinations

2. Three Film Critique Papers

3. Scarlet Letter

4. Intermittent unannounced quizzes on the readings

5. Class attendance and participation. Roll will be taken every

class; semester grades will be adjusted on the basis of

attendance, attention, and participation.

NOTE: All papers will be returned in the next class after they are due. No late papers will be accepted. A late paper is an automatic failure.

NOTE: No electronic or digital equipment, no laptops allowed in class. Students who are addicted to messaging will be invited to drop the course.

TOPICS:

Introduction to Humanities

Greece, the Oral Tradition, the Culture of Literacy

Defining Myth and Epic

Questions of History and Selections from Iliad

Troy: A Film

The Odyssey

Medea

Hamlet: A Film

Introduction to Philosophy, Theology, Literature,

Reflections on Death, Meaning, Ethics, Guilt

The Scarlet Letter

The Inferno: The Loss of Everything

Reflections on the Problem of Evil

The Purgatorio: Recovering Authenticity

The Paradiso: Hope

Note: The Odyssey, Medea and Hamlet, center on the journey we make in the sight of our contemporaries to achieve an external objective (career, homecoming, marriage). In The Inferno, we analyze the journey we make in the depths of the self to achieve the authenticity, inner freedom and happiness without which life turns to misery. The Purgatorio and The Paradiso serve as codas to this journey.

A collateral concern will show us a different approach to that of the relationship

of Odysseus and Penelope as The Scarlet Letter develops the inner dynamics by which fidelity and commitment define marriage.

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 2 Wednesday Humanities Definitions

September 3 Thursday Humanities Definitions

September 7 Monday Humanities Definitions

September 9 Wednesday Humanities Definitions

September 10Thursday Greece

September 14 Monday Greece

September 16 Wednesday Homer

September 17 Thursday Essence of Oral Tradition

September 21 Monday Essence of Oral Tradition

September 23 Wednesday First Film Critique Paper Assigned

September 24 Thursday Film (at home) Hamlet

September 28 Monday Odyssey Book 1, Hamlet Paper Due.

September 30 Wednesday Odyssey Book 2

October 1 Thursday Odyssey Book 3

October 5 Monday Odyssey Book 4

October 7 Wednesday Odyssey Book 5

October 8 Thursday Odyssey Book 6

October 12 Monday Mid Term Exam (in class)

October 14 Wednesday Odyssey Book 7

October 15 Thursday Odyssey Book 8

October 19 Monday Odyssey Book 9

October 21 Wednesday Odyssey Book 10

October 22 Thursday Odyssey Book 11

October 26 Monday Odyssey Book 12

October 28 Wednesday Discussion: Scarlet Letter Paper

October 29 Thursday Odyssey 13-15, Scarlet Letter Paper Due

November 1 Monday Odyssey 16-18

November 4 Wednesday Odyssey 19-21

November 5 Thursday Odyssey 22-24

November 9 Monday Medea

November 11 Wednesday

November 12 Thursday

November 16 Monday

November 18 Wednesday Third Film: Troy

November 19 Thursday Troy Continued: Third film critique paper due

November 23 Monday Dante: Biography

November 25 and 26 Thanksgiving Break

November 30 Monday Nature of Evil and Inferno Cantos 1-8

December 2 Wednesday Cantos 9-16

December 3 Thursday Cantos 17-24

December 7 Monday Cantos 25-34

December 9 Wednesday Purgatorio

December 10 Thursday Paradiso

Examination Week

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS:**

Papers:

September 28: Hamlet paper due

October 29: Scarlet letter paper due

November 19: Troy Paper Due

Exams:

October 12: Midterm

December 16: Final exam