

POWER AND PASSION: From the Bible to Modernity

I-HUM 33B

SPRING 2003-04

Spring:

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Many of the most influential texts in literary history revolve around fundamental issues of power and passion, played out by both literary and historical men and women in remarkably gripping and unpredictable ways. In this winter/spring sequence, we will focus on a series of great texts from the ancient to the modern worlds in which these issues are instrumental in driving the texts. The sequence consciously arranges the texts not only chronologically but also by genre – epic, lyric, drama, philosophy, short story, the novel – in order to explore how different genres may construct differently the complex and shifting issues of power and passion. And, in virtually every text that we treat in the sequence, gender roles and gender conflicts, both human and divine, will receive close attention. How do power and passion stand in relation to authority and specifically to male and female authorities? Are established views of the exercise of power and passion challenged? What connections exist between particular forms of thought and experience and the historical milieus in which they appear?

Lectures are at 11:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The seminar meetings will begin on the first Tuesday. During the spring quarter, students are required to write two papers, the first, 4-5 pages, due Tuesday, April 27, and the second, 6-7 pages, due Thursday, May 20. The final examination is on Tuesday, June 8 at 7-10 PM, and may not be rescheduled.

Grades for the spring quarter will be determined not only by the final examination and papers but also by regular participation and consistent performance in the seminars. In determining the final course grade, the various components of the course will be weighted as follows: seminar performance 25%; first paper 20%; second paper 30%; final exam 25%. Incompletes will not be given except for medical reasons or family emergencies.

Course Coordinator:

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Teaching Interns: from

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Texts for Spring Quarter (Brooks):

Dante	<i>The Divine Comedy: Hell (Inferno)</i> tr. Sayers, Penguin
dePizan	<i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i> , tr. Richards, Persia Books
Machiavelli	Selections from <i>The Prince</i> , tr. Bergin (Photocopy)
Luther	"The Bondage of the Will", tr. Dillenberger (Course Reader)
Marlowe	<i>Doctor Faustus</i> , Broadview Press
Montaigne	Selections from <i>Essais</i> , tr. Frame (Course Reader)
Donne	John Donne: Selected Poems, Dover Press
Wroth	Selected Poems (Course Reader)
Shakespeare	<i>Othello</i> , Signet (Penguin)
Nietzsche	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , tr. Kaufmann & Hollingdale, Vintage
Joyce	"The Dead" from <i>Dubliners</i> (Course Reader)
Rich	Adrienne Rich – "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning" (Course Reader)
Kesey	<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> , Signet (Penguin)
-----	Selected Art and Films

Course Reader: Sold at Stanford Book Store

Texts for Winter Quarter (McCall):

?????	Genesis, tr. R. Alter (Norton)
?????	Gilgamesh, tr. N. Sandars (Penguin)
Homer	Odyssey, tr. R. Fagles (Penguin)
Sappho et al.	Lyric poems, tr. D. Rayor (California)
Aeschylus	Oresteia, tr. R. Lattimore (Chicago)
Sophocles	Antigone, tr. D. Grene (Chicago)
Euripides	Medea, tr. E. Vermeule (Chicago)
Aristophanes	Lysistrata, tr. A. Sommerstein (Penguin)
Plato	Symposium, tr. S. Benardete (Chicago)
Aristotle	Nicomachean Ethics, tr. M. Ostwald (Macmillan)

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Perspectives on “power” and “passion” to consider and assess in relation to the assigned texts this quarter....

For Michel Foucault (in *Discipline and Punish*), power is more than the repression of a dominant class over a subservient class, a “tool of a conspiracy.” Rather, it is “a whole complex of forces; it is that which produces what happens. Thus even a tyrannical aristocrat does not simply wield power, for he is empowered by ‘discourses’—accepted ways of thinking, writing, and speaking—and practices that amount to power.”

--Johanna Smith on Michel Foucault

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“The problem is often said to be our own ‘irrationality,’ our sometimes extravagant but always vain desires and expectations, our sometimes uplifting but more often disruptive and destructive moods and emotions. The problem, in short, is our *passions*, those shortsighted and self-indulgent less-than-wholly-human lapses in our objectivity and knowledge of Reality....”

“Or, are the passions the central and defining roles in our lives, which have so long and persistently been denied.... [Should we] limit the pretensions of ‘objectivity’ and self-demeaning reason which have exclusively ruled Western philosophy, religion, and science since the days of Socrates.... Is it that our passions *constitute* our lives...that our passions, and our passions alone, provide our lives with meaning?”

--Robert C. Solomon

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Tuesday	Mar	30	Introduction - Dante: <i>Divine Comedy: Hell (Inferno)</i>
Thursday	April	1	Dante Alighieri: <i>Divine Comedy: Hell</i> (13??-1321) (See p. 138 (Signet): Schematic of Dante's Hell and <u>Course Reader Material</u> on Medieval Cosmology, including John Donne's Sermon on "Kings are Gods"). <u>Please bring Course Reader to lecture.</u>
Tuesday	April	6	Dante: <i>Divine Comedy: Hell and</i> Dante: <i>Divine Comedy: Paradise (Paradiso),</i> <i>Canto 33 (CR)</i> <u>Please bring Course Reader to lecture.</u>
Thursday	April	8	Christine de Pizan: <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i> (1405) Boccaccio, fr <i>Concerning Famous Women (CR)</i>
Tuesday	April	13	de Pizan: <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i>
Thursday	April	15	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (1604) Luther: fr <i>On the Bondage of the Will</i> (1525) (CR)
Tuesday	April	20	Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i> Calvin and Knox on "Predestination" (CR) Pico Della Mirandola, fr "Oration on the Dignity of Man" (CR) (c1486)
Thursday	April	22	John Donne: "The Flea"; "Break of Day"; "The Good Morrow"; "Holy Sonnet XIV: "Batter my heart"; "Holy Sonnet XIX: "Oh, to vex me" (Pub. 1633); Montaigne: "Of the Inconsistency of Our Actions"; fr "An Apology for Raymond Sebond"; fr <i>Essais</i> (CR) (pub. 1580)
Tuesday	April	27	**FIRST PAPER DUE: 11:00 AM** Donne: Holy Sonnet X: "Death be not proud", "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" Adrienne Rich: "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning" (CR) (1971)
Thursday	April	29	Lady Mary Wroth: Ben Jonson: "Epigram CV" (CR) Wroth: "Sonnet XV"; and "Sonnet XXVII" (CR) Mannerist and Baroque Art

- Monday May 3 **Film/Pizza Night – 6:15PM – Bldg. 420-040**
A class event.....please mark your calendars!
“Othello”
- Tuesday May 4 **William Shakespeare: *Othello*** (1603-04)
fr Aristotle's *Poetics* (CR)
- Thursday May 6 **Shakespeare: *Othello***
Rec: Madelon G. Sprengnether: “I wooed thee with
my sword: Shakespeare’s Tragic Paradigms”
(In Signet edition of *Othello*, 188-210)
fr sixteenth century “Matrimonial Guidebooks” (CR)
Greenblatt, on “Improvisation” (CR)
- Tuesday May 11 **Friedrich Nietzsche: “Preface”; “First Essay”**
from *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1887)
Guest Lecture: Professor R. Lanier Anderson,
Dept. of Philosophy
- Thursday May 13 **Nietzsche: “Second Essay”**
from *On the Genealogy of Morals*
Guest Lecture: Professor R. Lanier Anderson
- Tuesday May 18 **James Joyce: “The Dead” from *Dubliners*** (CR) (1914)
- Thursday May 20 ****SECOND PAPER DUE: 11:00 AM****
Joyce: “The Dead” (Film Clips)
- Tuesday May 25 **Ken Kesey: *One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest*** (1962)
Art: Picasso and Bacon
- Thursday May 27 **Kesey: *One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest***
- Tuesday June 1 **Kesey: *One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest***

****Final Examination: Tuesday, June 8, 7-10 PM****

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