

LS 800 - REFLECTIONS ON REASON AND PASSION, I

Fall 2024

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:20 on Zoom

Dr. Emily O'Brien

COURSE DESCRIPTION

LS 800 invites you to explore and reflect on the human condition through the twin lenses of reason and passion. Beginning in ancient Greece, our course traces how these two concepts have shaped understandings of human nature and society well into the sixteenth century, and, in so doing, have left a lasting imprint on the philosophical, literary, and artistic traditions of the Western world. Our selection of readings aims to capture voices of both men and women of ancient Greece and Rome, medieval Europe, and the Italian Renaissance. Each week, we will complement the discussion of these written sources with an in-class visual analysis of a painting, sculpture, or artifact.

As the introductory course to the GLS program, LS 800 is designed to give you a foundation for the years ahead. Weekly in-class seminars will offer you regular opportunities for leading and guiding discussion, and in a variety of ways. Written assignments will introduce you to the wide range of writing that you will encounter both in your coursework and in the MA project option (e.g., argument-based papers, creative writing, research-based essays, textual close-reading and analysis).

OPTIONAL SUMMER INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR

It has been a tradition in GLS to offer incoming students an optional introductory seminar in the second half of August (date TBA). This is a chance for you to meet one another and to get a first taste of what it's like to discuss a text as a group. Our seminar will focus on the remarkable exchange of letters between the twelfth-century philosopher Peter Abelard and his student and lover Heloise. Materials will be distributed via email by August 1st.

OPTIONAL IN-PERSON WEEKEND

For those of you residing in the Lower Mainland or able to travel to Vancouver, we will be having an optional in-person weekend in Week 7 of the semester (Friday, October 18th and Saturday, October 19th). The weekend will begin with a group dinner on Friday evening near SFU's Harbour Centre campus, followed by a discussion in the GLS Seminar Room of the week's

assigned reading. We will reconvene in the early afternoon on Saturday to continue and conclude our discussion. (Note that on Saturday morning, everyone is invited, though not obliged, to meet at Harbour Centre to take part in the second installment of GLS's Oxford Seminar Series, which will take place on Zoom from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.). Those of you unable to attend the in-person weekend seminar will meet for a discussion on Zoom on Sunday, October 20th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Note that these options are in lieu of the Wednesday evening seminar class this week.)

ASSIGNMENTS

Seminar participation (+ discussion posts)	20%
In-class presentation	10%
Close-reading and analysis assignment	15%
Argument-based paper	25%
Final project	30%

A fuller description of these assignments, together with due dates, will be circulated before the first week of classes.

REQUIRED TEXTS

** = electronic copy available through the SFU library

Plato, *Phaedrus*

Trans. Christopher Rowe. Penguin Classics, 2005.

ISBN 978-0140449747

****Euripides, *Medea***

Trans. Michael Collier. Oxford University Press, 2006.

ISBN 9780195145663

Sophocles, *Antigone*

Sophocles 1: Antigone, Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus. Trans. Mark Griffin, Glenn Most, David Grene, and Richmond Lattimore. Chicago University Press, 3rd edition, 2013.

ISBN 978-0226311517

OR

Sophocles, Greek Tragedies 1: Aeschylus: Agamemnon, Prometheus Bound; Sophocles: Oedipus the King, Antigone; Euripides: Hippolytus. 3rd edition. Trans. Mark Griffin, Glenn Most, David Grene, and Richmond Lattimore. Chicago University Press, 3rd edition, 2013.

ISBN 978-0226035284

Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*

Trans. David Ross. Oxford University Press (Oxford World's Classics), 2009.
ISBN 978-0199213610

Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

Trans. Stephanie McCarter. Penguin Classics, 2022.
ISBN 978-0143134237

Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

Trans. Gregory Hays. Modern Library, revised edition, 2003.
ISBN 978-0812968255

Augustine, *Confessions*

Trans. Henry Chadwick. Oxford, 2008.
ISBN 978-0199537822

Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*

Trans. Victor (V.E.) Watts. Penguin Classics, revised edition, 2000.
ISBN 978-0140447804

****Chrétien de Troyes, *Lancelot: The Knight of the Cart***

Trans. Burton Raffel. Yale University Press, 1997.
ISBN 978-0300071214

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno*

Inferno. Trans. Allen Mandelbaum. Penguin, Random House/Bantam Classics, 1982.
ISBN 978-0553213393

OR

*****Dante's Inferno. The Indiana Critical Edition.*** Trans. Mark Musa. Indiana University Press,
1995.

ISBN 978-0253209306

Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*

Trans. G. H. McWilliam. Penguin Classics, 2nd revised edition, 2003.
ISBN 978-0140449303

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

**Trans. Peter Bondanella. Oxford University Press (Oxford World's Classics), 2008.
ISBN 978-0199535699

OR

Trans. George Bull. Penguin Classics, reissue edition, 2003.
ISBN 978-0140449150

ADDITIONAL READINGS - distributed as PDFs or links to online text provided

Sappho, poetry - selections

Ovid, *Heroides* - selections

Seneca, "On Tranquillity of Mind"

Marie de France, *Lais* - selections

Francesco Petrarca, *Rime Sparse* - selections
"Ascent of Mont Ventoux" (letter)

Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, *The Tale of Two Lovers*

Michelangelo Buonarroti, poetry - selections

Francesco Guicciardini, *Maxims and Reflections* - selections

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week of August 19-23 (tba)	<u>Optional</u> introductory seminar <i>The Letters of Abelard and Heloise</i> (PDF, distributed August 1st)
Week 1 - September 4	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> Sappho, selected poetry
Week 2 - September 11	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> Euripides, <i>Medea</i>
Week 3 - September 18	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
Week 4 - September 25	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> (selections) <i>Heroides</i> (selections)
Week 5 - October 2	Seneca, "On Tranquillity of Mind" + joint LS 800/816 Writing Panel
Week 6 - October 9	Marcus Aurelius, <i>Meditations</i>
Week 7 - October 18/19 or 20	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> Optional in-person weekend: dinner + discussion on Oct. 18 + discussion Oct. 19; OR Zoom seminar evening of Oct. 20
Week 8 - October 23	Boethius, <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>
Week 9 - October 30	Chrétien de Troyes, <i>Lancelot: The Knight of the Cart</i> Marie de France, <i>Lais</i> (selections)
Week 10 - November 6	Dante Alighieri, <i>Inferno</i>
Week 11 - November 13	Giovanni Boccaccio, <i>The Decameron</i> (selections) Francesco Petrarca, <i>Rime Sparse</i> (selections) "The Ascent of Mont Ventoux" (letter)
Week 12 - November 20	Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, <i>The Tale of Two Lovers</i> Michelangelo Buonarroti, poetry (selections)
Week 13 - November 27	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> Guicciardini, <i>Maxims and Reflections</i> (selections)