



Worldviews and Texts

DESCRIPTION

This course studies a selection of worldviews (ancient and modern, Western and Eastern) using short narratives (fictional and historical) as starting points for discussion.

CREDITS

3 ECTS (note: for ILCE students this course may be combined with "Worldviews & Ethics" to yield a total of 6 credits)

CONTACT HOURS

30 hours

PREREQUISITES

None

COMPETENCIES

After this course you will be able to:

- Understand how the narrative genre (in the form of short fiction stories and brief real-life accounts) reveals an author's perspective on life
- Know and appreciate diversity and multiculturalism, developing the values of respect and the capacity to comprehend different points of view and ways of life
- Understand and critically evaluate different ideas on the human person and society
- Understand the various aspects -historical, philosophical, religious, linguistic, artistic- that integrate specific worldviews
- Employ ideas from the course to reflect on current ethical and social issues

ASSESSMENT

Students will be evaluated based on their achievement of the program, which will be measured through the following components:

Components	Percentage
Participation in class and attendance	15%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	35%
Written work (homework / class work)	20%
TOTAL	100%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because of the communicative nature of this course, you need to attend class every day. Absences with no official documentation will result in the deduction of one percentage point from your final grade (of 100 total points). Any student with more than 8 unexcused absences will automatically fail the course. Absences need to be excused either before the student is absent or one classroom day after being absent. Late arrivals or early departures from class will also be counted as absences (3 occurrences = 1 absence). It is the student's responsibility to notify their instructor ahead of time of any absences and to contact their classmates to know what they missed in class and the homework that was assigned.

To receive credit for missed assignments (*achievements, homework, compositions, etc.*) students need to bring official documentation and submit them as well as letting their instructor know.

ADDITIONAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Cell Phone, Laptop Tablets, or any electronic device in the Classroom: Please be courteous and **turn off your cell phone before the start of each class**. We also request that you *do not use* a laptop computer during class without expressly being invited to do so by your Instructor (e.g., during a Writing Workshop). Your full attention needs to be committed to communicating in Spanish with your teacher and classmates during each class.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism, cheating, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, tampering with the academic work of others and other forms of academic dishonesty may lead to lowered course grades, failure of the course or more severe measures, depending on judgments of the gravity of the individual case.

Code of Student Conduct: Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting or is clearly disrespectful of the instructor or fellow students will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include but is not limited to: 1. Rude or disrespectful behavior; 2. Unwarranted interruptions; 3. Failure to adhere to instructor's directions; 4. Vulgar or obscene language, slurs, or other forms of intimidation; 5. Physically or verbally abusive behavior. Student behavior that is inappropriate will result in disenrollment from the course.

Extra Credit: No additional extra credit will be given under any circumstances.

COURSE OUTLINE

0. Introduction

Text: Raïssa Maritain, Prologue, *Memoirs of a Happy Failure*

1. Pleasure as happiness (Aristippus)

Text 1: Interviews with Kim Novak / Melissa Gilbert / Cameron Diaz /

Text 2: Lyrics of the song "Chandelier"

Text 3: Summary of the life and thought of Aristippus (Diógenes Laertius, *Lives, opinions and sentences of the most illustrious philosophers, II*)

Criticisms by Aristotle and Epicurus

2. Tranquility as a form of happiness (Epicurus)

Text 1: Leo Tolstoy, How Much Land Does a Man Need?

Text 2: Life of Epicurus (excerpt from Diogenes Laertius, Lives, Opinions, and Sentences of the Most Illustrious Philosophers, Book X, 1-15)

Epicurus' letter to Menoeceus

3. The eternal return (Hinduism)

Text 1: Steve Jobs' account of his stay in India

Text 2: Selected texts from the Upanishads and Smriti

4. In search of an ideal world (Plato)

Text 1: Plato's story of the cavern, The Republic, Book VII

Text 2: Texts on Plato's life and more selected texts by Plato

5. Happiness beyond self (Thomas Aquinas)

Text 1: Dostoyevsky's short story, "The Grand Inquisitor"

Text 2: Sayings of Teresa of Calcutta published on the occasion of her canonization in 2016 (<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/saints/quotes-from-blessed-mother-teresa-of-calcutta/>)

Text 3: excerpts from the Summa Theologica, parts I and II-1

6. Life without meaning (Sartre)

Text 1: The Myth of Sisyphus

Text 2: Sartre's short story, The Wall

Text 3: more selected texts from Sartre

COURSE MATERIALS

Course Website

The professor will provide all the required materials through ADI.

Aula Virtual ADI (Blackboard). It is essential that students check ADI daily.