

**American University of Beirut
Civilization Sequence Program
CVSP 207A *Love: Human and Divine*
Fall 2013 - Dr Wrisley**

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Section 1 (11404), Nicely 327

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Love is a universal topic of reflection in religion, philosophy and literature. When we say “love” we usually collapse many concepts into one word. In CVSP 207A (*Love: Human and Divine*) we will attempt to unpack the complexity of the term while reading, discussing, writing and working in a humanities lab. CVSP 207A focuses on seminal primary texts which treat the question of love across cultures and time (from Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the early Renaissance). The readings cover a variety of genres (philosophical dialogue, poetry, mystical treatise, theology, romance, and tragicomedy) as well as a variety of European, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern contexts.

CVSP 207A counts as a sequence I CVSP course or a humanities elective.

Texts for Fall 2013 include: Plato’s *Symposium* (tr. Nehamas/Woodruff); Ibn Hazm, *Ring of the Dove*; Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Loving God*; Llull, *The Book of the Lover and the Beloved*; Nizami, *Haft Paykar*; Lorrin, *Romance of the Rose*; Fernando de Rojas, *La Celestina* (tr. Bush)

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. Targeted Skills: Classroom activities will include discussion of issues and problems found in the works and close readings. READING AND CAREFUL PREPARATION WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE. Students should expect about 30 pages of reading for each class. In this course students will

- to read closely and critically
- to situate a work in its general historical framework
- to use technology as a way of exploring cultural heritage texts
- to learn about the materiality of pre-modern texts
- to appreciate the difference between close and distant reading
- to write critically in a variety of formats

SUMMARY: WHAT WILL YOU HAVE TO DO IN THIS COURSE?

- **READ** ABOUT 30 PAGES PER CLASS MEETING, BEFORE THE DISCUSSION (WITH ONLINE READING QUIZZES ON BASIC FACTS OF THE READING), AND TAKE NOTES; IF YOU DON’T LIKE READING, THIS COURSE IS NOT FOR YOU
- INTERPRETING AND MAKING ORIGINAL COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE AUTHORS USING YOUR OWN IDEAS
- TWO VISUAL ESSAYS, TWO MIDTERMS AND ONE FINAL
- REGULAR PARTICIPATION IN IN-CLASS DISCUSSION

B. GENERAL COURSE THEMES: Student will be expected to relate the following themes to the chosen readings, both individually and in comparison.

- types of human (“profane”) love
- lost and rediscovered love
- paradoxes of love
- access to the divine through human love (mystical love)
- loving God
- love’s transformative powers
- aristocratic love codes of *fin’amor*

- love and the search for knowledge/wisdom
- love and marriage
- love and power
- erotic love and vulgarity
- normative and transgressive loves
- allegory and love

III. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION **10%**

Class **participation** means that you come prepared to discuss the reading materials, that you speak up when you have something relevant to say and that you are respectful of all students’ desire to speak. If you are not in attendance you will not be participating (more than 4 absences will have a negative impact on this portion of your grade). Excessive talking and disrupting the course will result in a reduction of grade. If you do not attend regularly, or you do not bring the book, you should also expect a low participation grade.

TEXTUAL ANALYTICS/NETWORK ANALYSIS **20%**

In this course, we will have five hands-on sessions in which you will be introduced to some technology for analyzing and visualizing texts. At three points of the term weeks 4, 10 and 14, you will have an short assignment due, a visual essay in which you make an argument about the authors supplemented by visualizations.

MOODLE READING QUIZZES **10%**

There will be a regular weekly basic reading quiz administered on moodle. You must take the quiz on the assigned date. If you do not get the answers right, you can retake the quiz, but only your first grade will count. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Your grade will be based on the average of all your quizzes over the term. I will drop your two worst grades.

IN-CLASS TEXT ANALYSIS I AND II (CLOSED BOOK, IN CLASS) **30% (10% and 20%)**

FINAL EXAM (CLOSED BOOK, 2 HOURS, OUT OF CLASS), Ibn Hazm to Dante **30%**

The final will be in two formats and students should choose which they will do by Dec 1st. (1) in-class textual analysis and essay or 2) in-class textual analysis and comparative project (using the technologies and visualizations we practiced).

The assessment scale used for evaluating your work will be located on the course moodle site.

IV. SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION)

We read selections of the listed works. Readings will be available at the bookstore and in a packet at Ghali Copy Center (items found in the course packet bear an asterisk).

This semester we should have 32 class meetings.

Week/class	Week of	READINGS to be completed before the class meeting
Week 1/1-2	2 Sep	4 Sep Introduction, Concepts, Syllabus, image 6 Sep Plato, Symposium 1 , pp. 1-19
Week 2/3-5	9 Sep	9 Sep, Plato, Symposium 2 , pp. 20-44 10 Sep DROP AND ADD OVER 11 Sep, Plato, Symposium 3 , pp. 44-77 13 Sep, <u>Hands-on Lab: Plato (Tapor tools)</u>
Week 3/6-8	16 Sep	16 Sep, Ibn Hazm, Tawq al-Hamama* 1 , pp. 33-45,68-72,87-94,102-106 18 Sep, Ibn Hazm, Tawq al-Hamama* 2 , pp.118-131,152-160,180-82, 202-219 20 Sep, Ibn Hazm, Tawq al-Hamama* 3 , 230-261
Week 4/	23 Sep	Instructor out of town Work on your Symposium visual essay (link due 27 Sep, noon)
Week 5/9-11	30 Sep	30 Sep, Ibn Hazm, Tawq al-Hamama 4* , 262-284 2 Oct, <u>Hands-on Lab; Ibn Hazm (Tapor tools)</u> 4 Oct, Bernard of Clairvaux, On Loving God* 1
Week 6/12-14	7 Oct	7 Oct, IN-CLASS TEXT ANALYSIS #1 PLATO AND IBN HAZM 9 Oct, Bernard of Clairvaux, On Loving God* 2 11 Oct, Bernard of Clairvaux, On Loving God* 3
Week 7/15-16	14 Oct	14 Oct, Llull, Book of the Lover and the Beloved* 1 16 Oct Eid al Adha, NO CLASS* 18 Oct, Llull, Book of the Lover and the Beloved* 2
Week 8/17-19	21 Oct	21 Oct, Llull, Book of the Lover and the Beloved* 3 23 Oct, Nizami, Haft Paykar* 1 25 Oct, <u>Hands-on lab: networks and Llull (w/grad students)</u>

Week 9/20-22	28 Oct	28 Oct, IN-CLASS TEXT ANALYSIS #2 BERNARD AND LLULL 30 Oct, Nizami, Haft Paykar* 2 1 Nov, Nizami, Haft Paykar* 3
Week 10/23-24	4 Nov	4 Nov, Hijra New Year, NO CLASS 6 Nov, Nizami, Haft Paykar* 4 8 Nov, <u>Hands-on lab: work on your visual essay (w/ grads)</u> (link and text due 11 Nov) 8 Nov LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW
Week 11/25-26	11 Nov	11 Nov, Guillaume de Lorris, Romance of the Rose* 1 11 Nov, noon visual essay due 13 Nov, ASHOURA, NO CLASS 15 Nov, Guillaume de Lorris, Romance of the Rose* 2
Week 12/	18 Nov	Instructor out of town Lab exercise on Rose manuscripts – image/text commentary or transcription (for Francophones) 22 Nov, INDEPENDENCE DAY, NO CLASS
Week 13/27-29	25 Nov	25 Nov, Guillaume de Lorris, Romance of the Rose* 3 27 Nov, Guillaume de Lorris, Romance of the Rose* 4 29 Nov, Ferdinand de Rojas, La Celestina 1
Week 14/30-31	2 Dec	2 Dec, FOUNDERS DAY CEREMONY, class in Assembly Hall 2 Dec, noon YOUR ROSE COMMENTARY DUE 4 Dec, Ferdinand de Rojas, La Celestina 2 6 Dec, Ferdinand de Rojas, La Celestina 3
Week 15/32	9 Dec	9 Dec, Ferdinand de Rojas, La Celestina 4 11 Dec, READING PERIOD 13 Dec, EXAM PERIOD BEGINS
Week 16		Final Exam – Final exam date TBA (Nizami, Lorris, Rojas)

Electronic versions of some of the readings will be made available from the Moodle site.

V. COURSE POLICIES

- All phones should be set to silent at the beginning of the class. You can use your tablet or phone to take notes or look up information, but refrain from texting, answering your phone or allowing it to ring.
- If you must leave class early, inform me, sit by the door and leave quietly.
- If you know that you have to miss class, please inform the instructor ahead of time, and preferably in writing. Staying in communication is the key.

- Students should bring their reading, notebook and pen/pencil to class or electronic device for taking notes. Students should have read the entirety of the assigned passages before class.
- Tests and exams begin promptly on time.
- Reading Quizzes must be taken online by the deadline. No makeups.
- Excused absences must come from AUH bearing a barcode, and are subject to verification.
- If you are caught cheating on quizzes or assignments, you will receive a ZERO for that assignment and your case will be reported to the Dean's Committee on Academic Affairs (since my policy is very clear, the result will most likely be at least a Dean's Warning in your record).

VII. CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM¹

YOU ARE IN UNIVERSITY NOW ! IT IS TIME TO LEARN HOW TO TAKE AN EXAM AND WRITE AN ACADEMIC PAPER WITH INTEGRITY. THIS MAY MEAN UNLEARNING CERTAIN HABITS ACQUIRED IN SCHOOL. MOST CASES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STEM OCCUR SINCE YOU ARE NOT WORKING AHEAD AND TAKING THE TIME TO FORMULATE YOUR IDEAS. IN THE CRUNCH FOR TIME; STUDENTS PRIORITIZE WRONG AND PASS OFF OTHERS' IDEAS AS THEIR OWN.

WHAT COUNTS AS PLAGIARISM?

Any time you use another person's ideas without giving him credit, you are guilty of plagiarism. The following, and other related activities would count as plagiarism:

- ❖ Plagiarism is copying a whole paper, a paragraph, a sentence or phrase even visual material, from some other source, without citing that source, in a paper or in an exam. Taking a Wikipedia article as the basis of your paper and changing the words around with or without citation of the source is plagiarism. The case of the exams is a bit different. If you read an essay on the Internet in preparation for the exam and it gave you a specific idea which was not yours to begin with, then you should cite it. You can write, "In an essay by Joe Smith on Plato found at philosophy.com, I read..."
- ❖ Talking about the readings is not plagiarism, but between talking and writing about a topic, there is a huge amount of effort required. Hearing a good idea and then writing it down without citing the origin is plagiarism.
- ❖ Having someone write a paper for you is not plagiarism. It is cheating and it is forgery, and is a severe infraction of the student code of conduct.

What counts as cheating?

The AUB Policies and Procedures state: "While taking a test or examination, students shall rely on their own mastery of the subject and not attempt to receive help in any way not explicitly approved by the instructor; for example, students shall not try to use notes, study aids, or another's work. Such cheating includes trying to give or obtain information about a test,

¹ I adapted this section on cheating and plagiarism from a similar sheet made by Prof. Richard Dean of the Philosophy Department at AUB.

trying to take someone else's exam, or trying to have someone else take one's own exam.”
<http://pnp.aub.edu.lb/general/conductcode/158010081.html>

Your instructor will consider any of the following as cheating and students found to be doing the following will receive an automatic zero, *no questions asked*.

- Looking at another student's paper during the test, even if you do not take anything from it. *If you have a tendency to look around during tests, sit away from other students.*
- Using anything written before the test during the test. This would include cheat sheets, summary sheets, plagiarized essays, OR essays written for you by another which you memorize and write down when you come to the test.
- Using your mobile phone during a test for any reason.
- Talking to anyone--in any language and at any volume--during the tests, whether about the test or not. *If you have a question, raise your hand and ask me ONLY.*
- Showing your paper to other students during the tests. *If you do not want to run the risk, sit away from people you suspect of looking at your paper.*
- Talking to other students between sections about the contents of an exam.

What will happen if someone cheats or plagiarizes in this class?

Nothing will happen to a cheater, as long as I don't catch him/her. If I catch him/her, what will usually happen is that s/he'll get a zero or will be reported to the Student Disciplinary Affairs Committee. If the cheating or plagiarism is very minor, the punishment may be less than that, but don't count on anything less extreme than a zero on the assignment. By doing your own work and making some effort, you can always get a better grade than zero. Assess the risk of cheating, and accept the responsibilities for doing it.

- 10** accurate, well-organized, clear, focused, thoughtfully engaged with the material, original ideas, excellent use of comparison and contrast, language level expresses ideas perfectly
- 9** accurate, organized, less thoughtful than a 10, engaged with the material , maybe superficial in parts, good use of comparison and contrast, language level expresses ideas well
- 8** accurate, adequately clear, good, demonstrates independent thinking but less engaged with the material than 9, superficially comprehensive or organized, maybe repetitive, language level good
- 7** partial description of key ideas, sufficiently engaged with material, maybe problems with organization, maybe inaccurate or vague in parts, *retells the story or restates the argument, does not directly answer the question*, maybe repetitive, maybe does not make use of comparison and contrast of ideas (ideas isolated in separate paragraphs unconnected), language level sufficient, but may impede clear expression of ideas
- 6** partial description of key ideas, problems with organization, inaccurate or vague in parts, *mostly repeats what was said in class*, little independent observation, *does not answer the question at all*, language level may impede clear expression of ideas
- 5** poor portrayal of ideas, very few ideas at all, inaccurate and generally not thoughtful, insufficient length or depth of assignment, language level impedes clear expression of ideas
- 4** a waste of your time and mine, or any portion of the written work plagiarized