

**History 501 (Spring 2005)**

**1641 Humanities Building**

Professor Shoemaker

T-Th 11-12:15

Office hours: T 12:15-2:15 (4109 Humanities)

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## **History of Punishment**

### **Required Texts:**

**Course Reader:** Available at Bob's Copy Shop in University Square. (Please note: this is the only Bob's Copy Shop location that will carry the text.)

**Aeschylus, Prometheus Bound.** Any translation you wish to use is acceptable for purposes of this course. (<http://classics.mit.edu/Aeschylus/prometheus.html>)

**Aeschylus, Oresteia** (which includes three separate plays Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, and The Eumenides). There is a popular translation by Richmond Lattimore (The University of Chicago Press, 1953), but you may use another if you wish.

(These texts are available online: <http://classics.mit.edu/Aeschylus/>)

**Sophocles, Oedipus at Colonus** recommended translation, Robert Fagles

(texts also available online: <http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/>)

**(NB:** If you choose to use internet editions, please print the text. This will make it possible for you to consult the text in class.)

**The Bible,** (Obtain your own copy. We will be reading portions of the book of Genesis and the Psalms.)

**Beowulf,** recommended translation by Burton Raffel; others are widely available as well

### **Description:**

Among the most evocative aspects of human history is the way we have fined, shamed, exiled, imprisoned, pained, maimed, dismembered or killed those deemed to be in violation of the laws of gods and men. This course examines punishment across a vast range of historical traditions, examining how wrongdoing and punishment have been figured in law, literature, art and philosophy. Through the semester we will examine ancient, medieval and modern traditions.

## Examinations:

Over the course of the semester there will be three examinations, two mid-term examinations and a final examination. The midterm examinations will account for 25% each of your final grade, the final will account for 40%. The exams will be composed of short take-home exams. They will be based on the readings and the lectures.

## Attendance Policy:

Attendance and classroom participation will account for 10% of your final grade. In addition, anyone missing more than 4 class meetings (that is, more than 2 full weeks of the 15 week semester), **regardless of reason**, will be unable to pass the course.

## A word about the format of the course:

Throughout the course, Tuesday meetings will be devoted much more to lecture than classroom discussion. Thursdays, on the other hand, will provide much more time for classroom discussion. Thoughtful questions are welcome at any time, of course. But for purposes of course management, Thursdays will be given over much more to questions, discussion and interaction. Please keep this in mind, and always come to class prepared.

## Syllabus

### Week 1

January 18<sup>nd</sup> Introduction to the course; distribution of syllabus; exams, grading and attendance policies

### Crime and Punishment in the Medieval World

January 20<sup>th</sup> Taking measure of the distance between then and now

Reading: Singleton v. Norris (in the course Reader).

### Week 2

January 25<sup>th</sup> Revenge as an organizing principle of the medieval social order

Reading: Excerpts from the Deeds of Louis the Fat (in course Reader)  
Decretum on revenge (handout)  
Excerpts from medieval law codes (in course Reader)  
Excerpts from medieval liturgy (in course Reader)  
Read Psalm 109 (from your own copy)

January 27<sup>th</sup> cont'd.

### Week 3

February 1<sup>st</sup> Sin, Penance, Intercession; Flight and Sanctuary

Reading: Augustine's letters #152 and 153  
Translated materials on sanctuary in Course Reader

<b>Week 4</b>	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	con't
	February 8 <sup>th</sup> Reading:	Beowulf: Feud, Wrongs and Gifts <u>Beowulf</u> ; Sichar's Feud (in course Reader) Saga of Egil Skalla-Grímsson
	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	con't
<b>Week 5</b>	February 15 <sup>th</sup> Reading:	Sin, Sanction and Pain in Dante's <u>Divine Comedy</u> Selections from the <u>Inferno</u> and <u>Purgatorio</u> (in course Reader)
	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	con't; <b>1<sup>st</sup> Take home exam distributed; Due Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Crime, Punishment, and the Ancient Greek Polis</b>	
	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	Crime, the Birth of Mankind, and the Birth of the Polis <u>Prometheus Bound</u> ; Also, begin reading <u>The Oresteia</u>
	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	con't
<b>Week 7</b>	March 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 12:1-20; 20:1-18	<u>The Oresteia</u> continued
	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	con't
<b>Week 8</b>	March 8 <sup>th</sup> Reading:	Oedipus at Colonus <u>Oedipus at Colonus</u>
	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	con't
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Crime, Punishment and the Biblical Fall</b>	
	March 15 <sup>th</sup> Reading:	The Birth of Man as a Great Sin Genesis 1:1-3:24
	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	con't
<b>Week 10</b>	March 29 <sup>th</sup> Reading:	Divine and Human Punishments Genesis 12:1-20; 20:1-18; 18:16-19:29.

And Exodus 32:1-35; 20:19-23:33

March 31<sup>st</sup> con't; **2<sup>nd</sup> Take-home exam distributed (due April 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Week 11**

**Crime, Punishment, and Modernity**

April 5<sup>th</sup> Enlightenment and the New Understandings of crime

Readings: Excerpts from Hugo Grotius and Cesare Beccaria (in course Reader)

April 7<sup>th</sup> con't

**Week 12**

April 12<sup>th</sup> The calculus of pleasure and pain

Readings: Excerpts from Jeremy Bentham (in course Reader)

April 14<sup>th</sup> con't

**Week 13**

April 19<sup>th</sup> Hegel on the Greeks on Punishment

Reading: Excerpts from Hegel, The Philosophy of Right (in course Reader)

April 21<sup>st</sup> con't

**Week 14**

**Punishment and Community Identity**

April 26<sup>th</sup> The Cherokee Nation Cases and the Death of Comity

Readings: Cases in Reader  
Excerpts from Hobbes, Leviathan (in course Reader)

April 28<sup>th</sup> con't

**Week 15**

March 3<sup>rd</sup> Review of Themes

March 5<sup>th</sup> **Final Exam (take-home) distributed; Due May 9<sup>th</sup> by 3pm (in my office).**