

## Summer 2015 Graduate Institute Preceptorial Descriptions

### **Dante Alighieri, *Paradiso* and *Monarchia***

This preceptorial will explore Dante's views on Empire, freedom, intellectual flourishing, world history, Church and State, grace, and the figure of Beatrice, Dante's beloved. We shall focus on two works written at roughly the same time: the *Paradiso* (the third part of the *Divine Comedy*) and *Monarchia*, Dante's Latin treatise on world government. We'll start with the *Monarchia* and then turn to the *Comedy*. After reading select cantos from the *Inferno* and *Purgatorio*, we shall do a more thorough reading of the *Paradiso*—which ends, dramatically, with the vision of God.

**Required Texts:** Dante, *Monarchy*. Translated by Prue Shaw. Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996) [ISBN-10: 0521567815, ISBN-13: 978-0521567817]; Dante, *Divine Comedy*. Three Volumes. Translated by John D. Sinclair. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1961) [*Inferno*: ISBN-10: 0195004124, ISBN-13: 978-0195004120; *Purgatorio*: ISBN-10: 0195004132, ISBN-13: 978-0195004137; *Paradiso*: ISBN-10: 0195004140, ISBN-13: 978-0195004144].

**First Assignment:** *Monarchy*, Book 1

**Tutor:** Mr. Peter Kalkavage

**This preceptorial applies to the History, Literature, and Philosophy & Theology segments.**

### **Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier* and *Parade's End***

The first of these novels, *The Good Soldier* (published 1915), is set just before World War I. The second, *Parade's End*, originally published as four separate novels (1924, 1925, 1926, 1928), is set mainly during WWI, and can be considered as a continuation of the first.

The novels are about transition, about a whole era and its destruction. They explore how people were becoming modern throughout the period before, during and just after WWI. They depict change both in the nature of personal and intimate relationships and on the level of the society as a whole. *Parade's End* is considered among the best novelistic treatments of war. Ford wrote, "This is what the late war was like: this is how modern fighting of the organized, scientific type affects the mind."

Part of our focus will be on epistemological and hermeneutical issues as experienced by the central character in each novel in the face of dislocations. We will aim to understand how disruptions came to undermine a stable sense of self-identity and of confidence in an independent, stable social order. Two central philosophical concerns will be the issue of the self and the phenomenological—in the Husserlian sense—approach to experience. These two concerns come together in the role that retrospective reflection on unreflective experience plays in the constitution and alteration of one's sense of self.

On the average the readings will be 60 pages for Wednesdays and 90 pages for Mondays.

**Required Texts:** Please note both the publisher and the date of publication. Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier*. Oxford World's Classics. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012) [ISBN-

10: 0199585946, ISBN-13: 978-0199585946]; Ford Madox Ford, *Parade's End*. Either the Vintage Classics Edition (Vintage, 2012) [ISBN-10: 0307744205, ISBN-13: 978-0307744203]; or the Everyman's Library Edition (Everyman's Library, 1992) [ISBN-10: 0679417286, ISBN-13: 978-0679417286].

**First Assignment:** *The Good Soldier*, pp. 11-62. When you do the first reading, notice which passage of a page or less strikes you as most significant. Then by June 13<sup>th</sup> send an email attachment, in MS Word doc or docx, containing the following: a) an identification of the passage by page number and location on the page; b) a few sentences stating what you think the passage is saying; c) a few sentences stating what significance you felt the passage has.

**Tutor:** Mr. Robert Druecker ([Robert.Druecker@sjc.edu](mailto:Robert.Druecker@sjc.edu))

**This preceptorial applies to the History, Literature, and Philosophy & Theology segments.**

## **Herodotus, *History***

In this preceptorial, we will read and discuss the whole of Herodotus' *History* of the war between the Greeks and the Persians.

**Required Text:** Either Herodotus, *History*. Translated by David Grene. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1988) [ISBN-10: 0226327728, ISBN-13: 978-0226327723], or Herodotus, *The Landmark Herodotus: The Histories*. (Anchor Books, 2009) [ISBN-10: 1400031141, ISBN-13: 978-1400031146].

**First Assignment:** Herodotus, *History*, Book I, sections 1-94 (pages 33-79 in the Grene translation; pages 3-56 in the Landmark edition).

**Tutor:** Ms. Emily Langston

**This preceptorial applies to the History, Literature, and Philosophy & Theology segments.**

## **Selected Speeches of Abraham Lincoln**

In undertaking a careful exploration of Lincoln's speeches, the broad aim of the preceptorial is to help bring to light Lincoln's understanding of political association and political rule, as that understanding emerges in the context of his early occasional speeches, his various political campaign speeches and his presidential speeches. The achievement of that general aim, then, requires that we confront Lincoln's understanding of American constitutionalism, his understanding of the supremacy of the union over-against the supremacy of individual sovereign states and his opposition to slavery *vis a vis* the slaveholders on one side and the abolitionists on the other.

**Required Texts:** Abraham Lincoln, *Lincoln, Selected Speeches and Writings*. Edited by Don E. Fehrenbacher, with an Introduction by Gore Vidal (Library of America, 2009) [ISBN-10: 1598530534, ISBN-13: 978-1598530537]. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, *The Federalist* (any edition).

**First Assignment:** Lincoln's "Address to the Washington Temperance Society, Springfield, Illinois" which was delivered in 1842, and *Federalist* #1.

**Tutor:** Mr. George Russell

**This preceptorial applies to the Literature and History segments.**

**Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and Jane Austen, *Emma***

Two of the subtlest and most profound studies of sympathy were both completed in the same half-century – one by Adam Smith, the other by Jane Austen. We will examine what the philosopher's theory and the novelist's *poiesis* have to teach us about the moral life's sources in imagination, convention, and the passions.

**Required Texts:** Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Glasgow Edition of the Works and Correspondence of Adam Smith, Volume 1. (Liberty Classics, 1982) [ISBN 10: 0865970122, ISBN 13: 978-0865970120]; and Jane Austen, *Emma* (any edition).

**First Assignment:** Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Part I, section I.

**Tutor:** Mr. Matthew Caswell

**This preceptorial applies to the Literature and Philosophy & Theology segments.**