



ST JOHN'S
College

GRADUATE INSTITUTE

SPRING 2020 GRADUATE INSTITUTE PRECEPTORIALS St. John's College | Annapolis, MD

The Old Testament: Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel I and II, Kings I and II, Esther

Tutor: Mr. Louis Petrich

Description: These books follow the history of the Hebrews as they leave Mt. Sinai under Moses, wander the wilderness for forty years, battle their way into the promised land, rule themselves by judges, later by kings, and after 700 years find themselves captive to the Persians and threatened by holocaust.

Robert Musil, The Man Without Qualities

Tutor: Mr. Mark Sinnett

Description: In Central Europe, in the years between the World Wars, social scientists were at a loss to account for the political and cultural collapse of their societies. "The only sources of insight," in the experience of Eric Voegelin, "were the artists: painters, composers and especially novelists and poets." Among the great names of the period—Thomas Mann, Karl Kraus, Heimito von Doderer, Alfred Schnitzler, Herman Broch—none stands higher than Musil, whose great, unfinished, novel depicts the descent of Austro-Hungarian society into the social and psychological pathology known as "ideology."

Spinoza's Ethics

Tutor: Mr. Michael Dink

Description: The full title of Spinoza's book gives some idea of its scope and ambition: *Ethics: Demonstrated in Geometric Order and Divided into Five Parts, which treat I. Of God; II. Of the Nature and Origin of the Mind; III. Of the Origin and Nature of the Affects; IV. Of Human Bondage, or the Power of the Affects; V. Of the Power of the Intellect, or on Human Freedom*. Spinoza uses traditional language about God, substance and attribute to radically transform traditional Aristotelian and scholastic metaphysics so as to provide a framework for a new Cartesian science of matter in motion which is meant to be more satisfactory than that which Descartes himself had appeared to provide. He also claims to fully integrate within that account an explanation of the human good and how to attain it. Although Spinoza's identification of God and Nature and his denial of free will to humans led to the condemnation of his philosophy by most orthodox Christians and Jews, he himself identified the intellectual love of God as the highest form of human freedom and happiness.

T.S. Eliot: “The Waste Land” and “Four Quartets”

Tutor: Ms. Pamela Kraus

Description: “The Waste Land” is generally agreed to be one of the most important poems of the 20th century. In the years after its publication, T.S. Eliot continued to dwell on the perils of modern life: about how, in its midst, to live the best life, the life closest to perfect. Almost twenty years after “The Waste Land,” he gave us the poem he regarded as his best work, his culminating work, “Four Quartets.” The preceptorial will study both poems.

Ancient Greek Translation: Plato’s *Republic*, Book 1

Tutor: Mr. Robert Goldberg

Description: We will translate (and study) Book 1 of the *Republic*. GI students who have previously completed Introduction to Ancient Greek are welcome to enroll in this preceptorial. Students who have taken spring Greek Translation in the past may enroll in this course for credit provided they did not translate the same text in their previous class.