

LS 800: Reflections on Reason and Passion I

The Making of the Modern

Fall 2018 | Dr. Sasha Colby

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How did we get here? This is a question asked with various inflections, from the wondering to the incredulous in a time often accused of being fixated on the 'perpetual present.' There are many roads to the modern, some of which will be explored in 800 and some in 801. This semester, we will focus on the influence of the ancient Greeks, ancient eastern thought, and nineteenth century England, Europe, and North America as major influences that shaped the emergence of modernity. In turn, we will also examine how these influences have been re-interpreted in our own 'post-modern' moment. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively in analyzing and responding to the readings. In order to create effective comparisons across time and space, we will use the themes of 'reason and passion' to shape our survey.

REQUIRED READINGS

- *Antigone* Sophocles (Trans. Braun), ISBN 019506167
- *Death in Venice* Mann, ISBN 0679722068
- *Love is a Stranger* Rumi, ISBN 978-1-57062-527-5
- *Phaedrus* Plato, ISBN 0140449744
- *Poetry* Sappho, ISBN 0-87220-591-6
- *The Communist Manifesto* Marx and Engels, ISBN 1551113333
- *Things Fall Apart* Achebe, ISBN 0385667833
- *The Autobiography of Red* Carson, ISBN 0224059734
- *The Medea* Euripides (Trans. Collier), ISBN 0195145666
- *The Communist Manifesto* Marx and Engels, ISBN 9780199535712
- *Illuminations* Benjamin, ISBN 0805202412
- *The Age of Innocence* Wharton, ISBN 9780199540013
- *Dao De* Laozi (Trans. Henricks), ISBN 978-0345370990
- *The Flowers of Evil* Baudelaire, ISBN 9780199535583
- *The Great Gatsby* Fitzgerald, ISBN 9780199536405
- *Sexing the Cherry* Winterson, ISBN 9780676973488
- *The Rez Sisters* Highway, ISBN 9780920079447
- *All that is Solid Melts into Air* Berman, ISBN 9780140109627

Online texts:

- Euripides, [The Bacchae](#)
- Baldwin, "[Sonny's Blues](#)"
- Rossetti, "[Goblin Market](#)"
- Morris, "[Useful Work versus Useless Toil](#)"
- Pound, "[The River Merchant's Wife: A Letter](#)"
- Hemingway, "[Hills Like White Elephants](#)"
- Adichie, "[The Danger of the Single Story](#)"
- Adichie, "[Apollo](#)"
- Clarke, "Privilege" (to be distributed)
- Didion, "[Goodbye to All That](#)"