From gods to God and back
(Revised syllabus)
This course will compare and contrast the Greek, Medieval and Modern worlds as expressed in their greatest literature. We will follow in detail how in the West polytheism gradually became more and more monolithic until everything was understood in relation to a single God, and then how this synthesis fell apart and left our culture with a choice between nihilism or a return to polytheism. The goal of the course is both to illustrate how to read difficult texts and to provide an understanding of the cultural paradigms that have formed and focused our shared beliefs and practices.

Introduction

January 18,

The Odyssey
Bks 1 through 11
Jan. 25, Feb. 1
Bks 12 through 24
Feb. 3, 8, 10

The Oresteia-
Agamemnon
Feb. 15, 17, 22
Libation Bearers
Feb. 24
Eumenides
March 1, 3

FIRST PAPER DUE
March 7th

The Aeneid
Bks I, IV, VI
March 8, 10

Gospel of John
(xeroxed excerpts)
March 15 17,

The Divine Comedy
Inferno-
Cantos I-XI,XXVI,XXXII-XXXIV
March, 29, 31, Apr 5
Purgatory
Cantos I, XVI-XVIII, XXVI-XX
April 7, 12
Paradiso (xeroxed excerpts)
April 14

SECOND PAPER DUE
April 18

Moby Dick
April 19 to May 5

Conclusion
May 10

THIRD PAPER DUE
May 10th

Requirements: An average of 100 pages of reading per week, three 7-8 page papers, and attendance at weekly discussion sections.
**Required texts:**

  Homer(Fitzgerald,tr.), *The Odyssey*, (Random House)
  Aeschylus(Latimore,tr.), *Oresteia*, (University of Chicago Press)
  Virgil(Mandelbaum,tr.), *Aeneid*, (Bantam)
  Dante(Ciardi,tr.), *Inferno*, (NAL)
  Dante(Ciardi,tr.), *Purgatorio*, (NAL)
  Melville, *Moby Dick*, (Penquin)