

LS 800 - REFLECTIONS ON REASON AND PASSION, I

Fall 2024

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:20 on Zoom

Dr. Emily O'Brien

COURSE DESCRIPTION

LS 800 invites you to explore and reflect on the human condition through the twin lenses of reason and passion. Beginning in ancient Greece, our course traces how these two concepts have shaped understandings of human nature and society well into the sixteenth century, and, in so doing, have left a lasting imprint on the philosophical, literary, and artistic traditions of the Western world. Our selection of readings aims to capture voices of both men and women of ancient Greece and Rome, medieval Europe, and the Italian Renaissance. Each week, we will complement the discussion of these written sources with an in-

assigned reading. We will reconvene in the early afternoon on Saturday to continue and conclude our discussion. (Note that on Saturday morning, everyone is invited, though not obliged, to meet at Harbour Centre to take part in the second installment of GLS's Oxford Seminar Series, which will take place on Zoom from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.). Those of you unable to attend the in-

Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week of August 19-23 (tba) Optional introductory seminar
The Letters of Abelard and Heloise (PDF, distributed August 1st)

Week 1 - September 4 Plato, *Phaedrus*
Sappho, selected poetry

Week 2 - September 11 Sophocles, *Antigone*
Euripides, *Medea*

Week 3 - September 18 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Week 4 - September 25 Ovid, *Metamorphoses* (selections)
Heroides (selections)

Week 5 - October 2 Seneca, "On Tranquillity of Mind"
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Week 6 - October 9 Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

Week 7 - October 18/19 Augustine, *Confessions*snBT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 72.025 3810912 0 612 792 re0 0 1 3 0