

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Spring Quarter 2024

Beyond Tradition II: The Crisis of Modernity: Apocalypse

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Amy and Charles Thomas Elder	COURSE LENGTH: 10 Weeks DATES: March 19 – May 21	Gleacher Center 451 N. Cityfront Plaza
EMAIL: amythomas@uchicago.edu , celder@uchicago.edu Instructors can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Tuesdays TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC50125 24S1 PREREQUISITES: At least 2 years of the Basic Program

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“Apocalypse” has become the term of art for expressing a sense of a historical ending, near or remote, terrible or redemptive. In this class, we explore this sense through a variety of classic texts, theoretical and literary. In the seminar, we read: Horkheimer and Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (selections), Sartre, *Nausea*, Frank Kermode, *The Sense of an Ending* (selections), and Jonathan Schell, *The Fate of the Earth*; in the tutorial, selections from the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls, Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, Walter M. Miller, *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*, and Beckett, *Endgame*—together with various rather apocalyptic sounding poems.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Beckett, Samuel, *Endgame and Act Without Words* (Grove Press) 978-0802144393
2. Blake, William, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell: A Facsimile in Full Color* (Dover) 978-0486281223
3. Hersey, John, *Hiroshima* (Vintage) 978-0679721031
4. Horkheimer, Max and Adorno, Theodor, *Dialectic of Enlightenment (Cultural Memory in the Present)* (Stanford) 978-0804736336
5. Kermode, Frank, *The Sense of an Ending: Studies in the Theory of Fiction* (Oxford) 978-0195136128
6. McCarthy, Cormac, *The Road* (Vintage) 978-0307387899
7. Miller, Walter M., *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (Eos) 978-0060892999
8. Sartre, Jean-Paul, *Nausea* (New Directions) 978-0811220309
9. Schell, Jonathan, *The Fate of the Earth and The Abolition* (Stanford) 978-0804737029

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 March 19	Trakl, Georg Horkheimer and Adorno Yeats	“ <i>Untergang</i> ” (“Going Under”) [posted to Canvas] Prefaces and “The Concept of Enlightenment,” from <i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i> (pp. xi-xix; 1-34) “The Second Coming” The Book of Revelation, <i>The War of the Sons of Light Against the Sons of Darkness</i> [posted to Canvas]
WEEK 2 March 26	Horkheimer and Adorno Blake	“The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception,” from <i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i> (pp. 94-136) <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>
WEEK 3 April 2	Sartre Blake	<i>Nausea</i> (pp. 1-80) <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i> [continued]
WEEK 4 April 9	Sartre Miller	<i>Nausea</i> (pp. 80-178) <i>A Canticle for Leibowitz</i> , Part I (pp. 1-116)
WEEK 5 April 16	Kermode Miller	<i>The Sense of an Ending: Studies in the Theory of Fiction</i> , Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 3-64) <i>A Canticle for Leibowitz</i> Part II, (pp. 117-239)
WEEK 6 April 23	Kermode Miller	<i>The Sense of an Ending</i> , Chapters 4 & 5 (pp. 93-152) <i>A Canticle for Leibowitz</i> , Part III (pp. 241-334)
WEEK 7 April 30	Dickey, William Hersey, John McCarthy, Cormac	“Armageddon” [posted] <i>Hiroshima</i> [entire] <i>The Road</i> (pp. 3-143)
WEEK 8 May 7	Schell, Jonathan McCarthy, Cormac	<i>The Fate of the Earth</i> , Part I (pp. [1-96]) <i>The Road</i> (pp. 143-287)
WEEK 9 May 14	Schell, Jonathan McCarthy, Cormac Beckett	<i>The Fate of the Earth</i> , Parts II & III (pp. [99-131]) <i>The Road</i> (conclusion) <i>Endgame</i> (entire)
WEEK 10 May 21	Poets [TBA] Beckett Adorno Iser	Poems [TBA, posted] <i>Endgame</i> “Trying to Understand <i>Endgame</i> ” “When Is the End Not the End?”

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.