

# Social Foundations I

## Class code

T03.0101.088  
**Freshman Programme**

## Instructor Details

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Office – NYU London, 6 Bedford Square – Office hour : Tuesdays, from 1.15pm.

## Class Details

Fall 2009  
Tuesday 2:30 – 5:30pm  
Classroom – TBC

## Prerequisites

None.

## Class Description

The first semester of Social Foundations - Social Foundations I - introduces students to the ancient world and ends with the dissolution of the Western Roman Empire, of the Gupta Empire in India, and of the Han Dynasty in China. This course takes a global perspective and uses an interdisciplinary approach, and part of its aim is to explore enduring questions such as the relation between the individual and society, between justice and power, and between humanity and the divine.

Seminars/lectures, involving examinations of texts and sources and class discussion.

## Desired Outcomes

1. Introducing students to key thinkers, writers and texts, and schools of philosophical, social and religious thought, from the Western and Eastern traditions – some of the most influential in human history.
2. Introducing students to the three monotheistic faiths, and key Eastern religions, by reference to their holy texts.
3. Developing student understanding of philosophical thought and enquiry, and the role of the philosophy and thought we will be studying on society, politics, religion and the study of philosophy today.
4. Developing students' skills of critical analysis and refining students' language of critical discussion.

## Assessment Components

Class contribution – 5%; Class presentation – 10%; Book review – 15%; Midterm exam – 20%; Essay – 20%; Final exam – 30% [Exam dates : Midterm, October 16; Final examination, December 15 2009 ].

Book review due **September 29**, Essay due **November 10**; Full details of paper/essay requirements will be given in class.

**Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.**

## Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** A-quality work is based on a range of primary and secondary sources, but it will go beyond those sources to draw its own conclusions. An A-quality essay will also be elegantly structured and very well argued and written.

**Grade B:** B-quality work is well organized, using a close analysis of its sources to make a useful point, backed up with some secondary material. Conversely, a B-quality paper may be as original, even adventurous, as an A-grade paper, but only merit a B because it is badly-structured or poorly written.

**Grade C:** C-quality work fulfils the basic conditions of the assignment. It has an argument and demonstrates a basic

understanding of the subject, but this is not supported by close or wide reading. A C-quality essay may contain obvious gaps or internal contradictions and it may also be structured in a confusing way or full of grammatical errors.

**Grade D:** D-quality work lacks an argument and its point is unclear. It may often leap from subject to subject without a smooth transition. A D-quality essay may simply summarise material without analysis. Serious grammatical flaws or unreadability can result in a D being awarded to a paper that would otherwise have earned a C.

**Grade F:** An F is only awarded to a paper which barely tries to tackle its subject. It will have no argument and show little acquaintance with the relevant texts. Any paper which is plagiarized, incomprehensible or incomplete will earn an F.

### Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100

A-=90-93

B+=87-89

B=84-86

B-=80-83

C+=77-79

C=74-76

C-=70-73

D+=67-69

D=65-66

F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

### Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to insure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-. (Stern has a different grading policy that we follow in all Stern courses, please see below).

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that-it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

### Attendance Policy

NYU-L has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should **NOT** approach them for excused absences. Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons will not be considered.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

**All absences due to illness must be reported on the first day of absence via phone (Freephone 0800 316 0469) or email [freshmen.in.london@nyu.ac.uk](mailto:freshmen.in.london@nyu.ac.uk).** Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshmen Programmes. You will be asked to complete an Excused Absence Form (which can be obtained from NYU in London staff) and you will also need to produce a valid doctor's note, having sought treatment for the illness within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non-illness purposes** must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshmen Programmes

prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for non-illness purposes can be applied retrospectively.

Unexcused absences will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student's final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYU-L also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for further details.

### Late Submission of Work

- (1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- (2) Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes **in office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to Becky Kelley ([becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk](mailto:becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk)) for submission to Turnitin.
- (3) Work submitted up to 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.
- (4) Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- (5) **Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

**All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission (see section 12 below) and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.**

#### Electronic Submission

All students must submit an electronic copy of their written work to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). This database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students' work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it. The database is managed by JISC (Joint Information Systems Council) and has been established with the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

- 1) Go onto the Turnitin website <http://www.turnitin.com>
- 2) Click 'New Users' in the top right hand corner
- 3) Select user type of 'student'
- 4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrollment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact Becky Kelley if you have misplaced these at [becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk](mailto:becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk))
- 5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

- 1) Log in to the Turnitin website
- 2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
- 3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the 'submit' icon
- 4) Enter the title of your piece of work
- 5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click 'submit'
- 6) Click 'yes, submit' to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or 'no, go back' to retry)
- 7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
- 8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the 'file' icon in the 'content' column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

#### Required Text(s)

Aristotle, *The Politics*. Penguin Books Ltd (Jun 1992) ISBN : 0140444211 - £6.90

Plato's *Republic* (Oxford World's Classics) (Paperback) ed. and Robin Waterfield. Oxford Paperbacks (5 Mar 1998) ISBN: 0192833707 - £4.50

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War* [Edition?- To be advised by bookshop via Becky]

*The Gospel of Mark* (Paperback) Hodder & Stoughton Ltd (Jul 2003) ISBN: 0340861843 - £0.99

*All the above are easily purchased through NYU-London's recommended bookshop.*

#### Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)

*You are not required to purchase these texts, but they are also very useful resources if you do wish to consult other sources as you prepare for classes, and for the purpose of reference/quotation for your papers/essays.*

Phil Washburn , *The Many Faces of Wisdom*, Prentice Hall (2002). ISBN: 0130941204 (*Strongly recommended*)

*The Penguin Atlas of World History : Prehistory to the Eve of the French Revolution Volume 1*, Hermann Kinder and Werner Hilgemann, Penguin Books Ltd (2004) ISBN: 0141012633 - £9.99

Morton Smith, *Jesus the Magician: Charlatan or Son of God?* Ulysses Press (Sep 1998) ISBN: 1569751552 (*Plus other earlier editions*)

Plato's *The Symposium* (Great Ideas Series) (Paperback) Penguin Books Ltd (25 Aug 2005) ISBN: 0141023848

*(New and quality used editions are also easily and cheaply purchased (often new for below the above stated prices) on online book retailers [including Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk], though we we advise that you do purchase new or nearly-new copies.*

**Additional Requirements**

**Readings and Discussion:** In each session we will examine and discuss primary documents and secondary works. Active participation is both encouraged and expected, for learning is a collaborative endeavor. Participation is however not about who says the most or who is most forceful, but rather is about dialogue, meaningful questioning and enquiry, developing knowledge, and listening and responding to the comments and opinions of others.

**Week to week readings :** Each week a list of 'Topics For Class Discussion' will be provided for the following week. These should be taken into consideration when undertaking the required reading/preparing for the following class, for these will form the basis of class discussion. It is essential that the required reading is also undertaken as advised.

**Communications :** You will receive regular important communication regarding the course via your NYU e-mail account. Please ensure you thus check your e-mail on at least a weekly basis.

**Session 1**

8/9/2009

**Intro class – Intro to course, intro to terms and concepts etc. **INTRO EXERCISE / NING CONTACT****

Required Reading –  
None

**Session 2**

15/9/2009

**Epic of Gilgamesh (Part 1) **[TWIN COURSE VIDEO LINK 1]****

Required Reading –  
Gilgamesh Epic (Excerpts)  
Epic – Definition and History

**Session 3**

22/9/2009

**Epic of Gilgamesh (Part 2)**

Required Reading –  
Gilgamesh Epic (Excerpts)  
Epic – Definition and History

**Session 4**

29/9/2009

**Sun Tzu - Art of War**

Required Reading –  
Sun Tzu - Art of War (Selected readings)

**Session 5**

6/10/2009

**Confucius **[TWIN COURSE VIDEO LINK 2]****

Required Reading –  
Confucius/Confucianism (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)  
The Sayings of Confucius (Excerpts)

Additional Reading –  
The Many Faces Of Wisdom – Chapter 1 : Confucious, Philosophy As Interdependence.

**Session 6**

13/10/2009

**The Greek Legacy – Philosophy 1 : Socrates.**

Required Reading –  
Socrates : Apology  
The Penguin Atlas of World History (Vol. 1) – P46 to 63.

Additional Reading –

The Many Faces Of Wisdom – Chapter 2.

**Session 7**

**16/10/2009**

**Friday**

**Midterm Exam: The Greek Legacy – Philosophy 2 : Plato.**

Required Reading –

Plato, excerpts from The Republic, and The Symposium  
The Penguin Atlas of World History (Vol. 1) – P46 to 63.

Additional Reading –

The Many Faces Of Wisdom – Chapter 3.

**Session 8**

20/10/2009

**The Greek Legacy – Philosophy 3 : Aristotle. [TWIN COURSE VIDEO LINK 3]**

Required Reading –

Aristotle – The Politics (Excerpts)  
Aristotle's Political Theory (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)  
The Penguin Atlas of World History (Vol. 1) – P46 to 63.

Additional Reading –

The Many Faces Of Wisdom – Chapter 3 : Aristotle, Philosophy As Science.

**Class trip**

23/10/2009

**Joint Social Foundations/Cultural Foundations trip.**

**Session 9**

27/10/2009

**[US/UK TIME CHANGE] Rome – The Stoic Marcus Aurelius. [TWIN COURSE CONTACT POINT 2 (ONLINE)]**

Required Reading –

Stoicism (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Additional Reading –

The Many Faces Of Wisdom – Chapter 5 : Marcus Aurelius, Philosophy As Consolation

**Session 10**

03/11/2009

**Divinity, Theology, Morality – The Monotheistic Faiths, 1: An Intro. To Judaism and Islam**

Required Reading –

Torah - Exodus (Excerpts)  
Koran and Hadith (Excerpts)  
The Penguin Atlas of World History (Vol. 1) – P36 to 40 : The Early Empires/Palestine I and II  
The Penguin Atlas of World History (Vol. 1) – P134 to 138 : Early Middle Ages/Islam I and II

**Session 11**

17/11/2009

**The Recognition of Sakuntala – India, Hinduism, Buddhism [TWIN COURSE VIDEO LINK 4]**

Required Reading –

The Recognition of Sakuntala (Introduction and Act I)

**Session 12**

24/11/2009

**Divinity, Theology, Morality – The Monotheistic Faiths, 2 – Christianity (Part 1)**

Required Reading –

Gospel of Mark  
The Penguin Atlas of World History – P. 129, and P. 140 to 143.

Magic and Magicians in the Roman Empire

**Session 13**

01/12/2009

**Divinity, Theology, Morality – The Monotheistic Faiths, 2 – Christianity (Part 2); Saint Augustine**

Required Reading –

Saint Augustine (Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy)

Augustine (Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy)

Augustine, Confessions (Excerpts)

The Penguin Atlas of World History (Vol. 1) – P106 to 108.

Three Faiths Comparison Chart

**Session 14**

08/12/2009

**Conclusion class and Revision session.**

**Session 15**

15/12/2009

**Final Exam Date**

**Classroom  
Etiquette**

Students are expected to remain in class for the duration of the class.

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.

Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

**Required Co-  
curricular  
Activities**

Social Foundation/Cultural Foundation joint trip (see above)

**Suggested Co-  
curricular  
Activities**

None.