

Baylor in Greece & Turkey

Summer I, 2024
Courses Available

Social World I: The City and the Soul (BIC 2330)

Have you ever wondered why different people have such different ideas about morality, justice, and happiness? Or why there is such deep division on what kind of political leaders we should elect? These disagreements are nothing new. We find them in the Agora in 5th-century Greece BC, during the reign of Alexander the Great, and in 19th-century Europe. This course explores some of the most influential conceptions of morality, justice, happiness, and political order in Western history from Socrates to Nietzsche. The storied history of successive empires, monarchies, tyrannies, and republics will foreground our conversation about and reflection upon the texts used in the course.

BIBLICAL HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (BIC 3358)

In this introduction to selected texts from the Old and New Testaments and to early Christian literature and thought, we will engage contemporary ethical and political issues. Biblical perspectives on such issues as human rights, environmental concerns, and the relation of church and state will be examined to provide a bridge between the literary/cultural settings of the Bible and contemporary human experience. We will visit important archaeological sites and some of the most revered locations in the early history of the Christian Church, including Corinth, Ephesus, Pergamum, Izmir (Smyrna), Laodicea, Athens, and more.

CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS (PHI 1308)

This course will use Classical Greek texts to explore contemporary moral and social problems. Should the government censor media? Would communism be the best economic system? Should the best, most qualified individuals rule instead of elected officials? Would the world be better if we eradicated traditional gender norms? How important is friendship to our personal and communal health? These are some of the questions we will explore using Plato and Aristotle as our guides.

CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHI 3310)

While walking in the steps of the great Greek philosophers, we will ask their questions in search of true wisdom. We will visit the birthplace of philosophy at Miletus, Turkey. We will talk about Socrates in the Athenian market where he met friends to discuss virtue. We will marvel at ancient Delphi

where Socrates' friend Chaerephon heard the oracle profess that no one was wiser than Socrates. We will enjoy inquiring about virtue with Plato in some of his dramatically charged, philosophically rich dialogues. We will see the site of the Lyceum established by Aristotle where his brilliant "peripatetic" lectures were first heard and discussed by students. Aristotle said that "philosophy begins in wonder," and our trip will offer ample confirmation of his dictum.

INTELLECTUAL TRADITION OF THE ANCIENT WORLD (GTX 2301)

We will read, study, and discuss many of the great texts of the ancient world in the settings in which they were written. The Trojan War will come alive as we visit the archeological site of ancient Troy. We will see the sites of New Testament churches at Pergamum, Corinth, Ephesus, Laodicea, and more. We will climb "Mars Hill" where St. Paul first preached to the Athenians and journey to historic Delphi where the great oracle presided in mystery, passing Thebes and Mt. Parnassus on the way. This is the ideal setting to read ancient great texts.

PILGRIMAGE AND MARTYRDOM (BIC 4389 / REL 4300 / GTX 4V99)

This course explores the concepts of pilgrimage and martyrdom. Medieval pilgrimages by Christians were a significant spiritual discipline. "Pilgrimage is a journey to sacred places. Every place has a story, and sacred places are those places whose story is associated with God's self-revelation and with the lives of the holy" (*New Westminster Dictionary of Spirituality*). These pilgrimages had as their goal to visit the places of martyrdom and martyr relics. Thus, we will examine how the stories of martyrs shape our own understanding of the life that is worth living. We will also examine how the metaphor of pilgrimage helps us examine the lives we have lived and the ones we hope to live.

PAUL AND HIS WRITINGS (REL 3314)

The course looks at one of the most pivotal figures of the early Christian movement, the Apostle Paul, and the letters he sent to the early churches. We will consider key elements of Paul's gospel, how he addressed his gospel to the issue that arose in his churches, and what legacy Paul left. We will do this all in the context of Greece and Turkey visiting sites where Paul planted churches and learning about the context in which Paul's ministry took place