

LS 800 – Reason and Passion 1 – Fall 2022 – Wednesdays – Online
6:30 – 9:20 pm

Instructor: Prof. Stephen Duguid

This course is labeled ‘Reason and Passion 1’ because the follow-up course is LS 801, Reason and Passion 2. The idea of ‘Reason’ we tend to think is pretty clear even though in current times it seems to be in some jeopardy given the pervasive ‘fake news’ and increasing suspicion of facts. Passion in many ways is equally complex, including emotion, feelings, and desires. In this first exploration of these twin complexities, we will focus on their origins in Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Eurocentric cultures as well as brief looks at the parallel manifestations of reason and passion in East Asian, South Asian and Middle Eastern cultures. In LS 801, Gary McCarron will carry on this exploration in the Modern and Post-Modern eras.

We will be reading together a variety of texts and you will be asked to forward to me each week a one or two page ‘response’ to the readings by the Sunday evening preceding our Wednesday class. In addition, there will be one 10-15-page essay due toward the end of the semester. More details to come.

We will have a meeting in August (date tba) and read a short text together and discuss its intersection with Reason and Passion. This is meant to be a chance for you to see who else you are with in the class and practice assessing a reading. The reading will be the ‘*Personal Letters of Heloise and Abelard*’, a 12th century couple caught up in an explosive case of reason, passion and desire seeking some kind of resolution.

From then on we will take on the following:

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| Week 1 (7 Sept.) | Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i>
Sappho, <i>Poems and Fragments</i> |
| Week 2 (14 Sept) | Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>
Bible, <i>Genesis 1-22</i> |
| Week 3 (21 Sept) | Aristotle, <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> |
| Week 4 (28 Sept) | <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i>
Seneca, <i>Letters from a Stoic</i> |
| Week 5 (5 Oct.) | <i>Mencius</i>
Euripides, <i>Medea</i> |
| Week 6 (12 Oct.) | Lucretius, <i>The Nature of Things</i> |
| Week 7 (19 Oct.) | Karen Armstrong, <i>Islam: A Short History</i>
Rumi, <i>Selected Poems</i> |

- Week 8 (26 Oct.) Dante, *The Divine Comedy: Vol. 1 The Inferno*
Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*
- Week 9 (2 Nov.) Bartolome De Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*
Thomas More, *Utopia*
- Week 10 (9 Nov.) Michel de Montaigne, *Apology for Raymond Sebond*
Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method*
- Week 11 (16 Nov.) Nicolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*
The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself
- Week 12 (23 Nov.) Denis Diderot, *Rameau's Nephew*
Voltaire, *Candide*
- Week 13 (30 Nov.) Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Fifth Walk in his Reveries of the Solitary Walker*