

Major Courses, Spring 2021

HISTORY

Remembering the Past: The Study of History – Dr. FitzGerald

This is a course about history itself – what can we know and say about the past? what bearing does it have on the present? To answer these questions, we will examine different ways of thinking about, understanding, and writing history. This will involve a consideration of earlier historians – Herodotus, Thucydides, and Eusebius, for instance – and of more recent authors such as Christopher Dawson and John Lukacs. We will also give special consideration to exploring whether there is a distinctively Catholic understanding of history.

LITERATURE

Nineteenth Century British Literature: the Romantics and the Victorians – Dr. Esolen

Readings will include poetry by Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Tennyson, Hopkins, and Browning; Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*, Dickens, *David Copperfield*, Eliot, *Silas Marner*, and selected prose from John Ruskin, John Henry Newman, and Matthew Arnold.

PHILOSOPHY

Freedom and the Good (Ethics) – Dr. van Versendaal

Why do we desire and seek anything at all? For what purpose do we act whenever we act, and how are our judgments and dramatic decisions in the concrete events of life related to that purpose? Can I be said to act spontaneously from myself and to be responsible for myself if I have my origin and end elsewhere than in myself? Is divine freedom a foreign violence against my freedom or else its most radical source and assurance? Are you free when you receive from, depend on, and commit to another? What does it take to live a good and fulfilling life?

This course will take up dominant accounts of freedom in the philosophical tradition from the Greeks to the Germans, and will examine such basic features of human action as desire, choice, consent, commitment, authority, and creativity. Along the way, we will reflect together, in light of our great authors and our own life-experience, on several very human goods: childhood, stories, play, and celebration – each of which, we'll see, bring to light what it is to be fully free.

THEOLOGY

Patristic Exegesis – Deacon Cooper

Following the general direction of Henri de Lubac and the *Ressourcement* movement of the twentieth century, this course explores the Biblical exegesis of the patristic era. Key exegetical texts from influential authors of the patristic period will be read in depth. Students will be expected to understand and evaluate the methods used by the Church fathers in interpreting Scripture and to make use of those methods in their own exegetical work.