AESTHETICS, VALUES, AND AUTHORITY: TRIALS, CASES, DISPUTATIONS

Deep stresses in social life often rise to public attention in arenas designated for conflict resolution. Here values, beliefs, authority and power jostle for position in the struggle between change and stasis. Sometimes themselves about art and aesthetics, these dramas often become material for art as parts of arguments made in other places, or other times. We will look at trials, cases, and disputations that have marked western history. We will ask what they are about, what was at stake, who were in battle, and what stories were made of them.

READINGS:

Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*
Shaw, *Saint Joan*
Bolt, *A Man for all Seasons*
Brecht, *Galileo*
Miller, *The Crucible*
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*
Lawrence, *Inherit the Wind*

ASSIGNMENTS:

Everyone starts with 55 points.
Beginning with the week of September 18 (and each week thereafter) I will ask students for a 2-page thought piece on the previous week's topic. Possible questions include: What were the issues? Who fought them? What aesthetics came into play in the imaginative works? What do you think? Handwriting is fine.

Each piece that I accept earns 5 points. 9 of them will bring you to 100 points. You'll get an A+. The University won't record it, but we'll know.

CALENDAR:

R Aug 28  
Introduction: No assignment

R Sept 4  
Reprise: Origins of Ideas, Idea of Origins; Inhabiting Other Lives

R Sept 11  
Socrates Readings: *The Trial and Death of Socrates*  
Film: *The Death of Socrates*

R Sept 18  
Jesus Christ  
Film: *Jesus Christ, Superstar*

R Sept 25  
The Inquisition  
Film: *The Name of the Rose*

M Sept 29  
The Honors College Convocation  
http://honors.fiu.edu

R Oct 2  
Joan of Arc  
Reading: *Saint Joan*  
Film: TBA
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>R Oct 9</td>
<td>Thomas More</td>
<td>A Man for all Seasons</td>
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<td>Galileo</td>
<td>Galileo Film: TBA</td>
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<td>Salem</td>
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<td>Thoreau</td>
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<td>Civil War</td>
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<td>The Scopes Trial</td>
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<td>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING</td>
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<td>R Dec 4</td>
<td>Brown vs. The Board of Education</td>
<td>Simple Justice</td>
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