

Humanities Seminars Program

VIRGIL and the EUROPEAN PASTORAL TRADITION: THE INVENTION OF ARCADIA Summer 2017

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TEXTS:

Virgil. *The Eclogues of Virgil: A Bilingual Edition*. Trans. David Ferry.
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.
ISBN-10: 0374526966; ISBN-13: 978-0374526962

Theocritus. *Idylls*. Trans. Anthony Verity. Oxford University Press, 2008.
ISBN-10: 0199552428; ISBN-13: 978-0199552429

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS
I	June 30	Introduction: The Pastoral Tradition. Rome: History, Overview: Republic to Empire. Virgil: Biography. Readings: Virgil, <i>Eclogue</i> 1. "The Anxiety of Influence" (Harold Bloom) The meaning of <i>umbra</i> (shade).
II	July 7	Greek Antecedents: The Greek Influence on Rome. The Founding of Rome: Aeneas, Troy, Greece, Carthage, Arcadia. The Hellenistic Period (Greece). Alexander the Great. Theocritus. Schiller: The Naïve v. the Sentimental. Nature in Greek and Roman poetry. The god Pan. "Great Pan is Dead." Readings: Theocritus, <i>Idylls</i> 1, 7, 11, 16
III	July 14	Discovery of "the country" (rustics). The <i>masquerade bucolique</i> Readings: Theocritus, <i>Idylls</i> , cont. Virgil. <i>Eclogue</i> 2.
IV	July 21	Roman Imitation of Greek Models. Arcadia. Roman "Romanticism" Readings: Virgil, <i>Eclogues</i> 1, 3, 4, 7, 10
V	July 28	Conclusions: European Pastoral: Milton's <i>Lycidas</i> American Pastoral: Walt Whitman