

Baylor in Greece & Turkey

Summer I, 2023

Courses Available

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

Classic works of Western social/political thought ground study of civic life in this course, with an emphasis on perennial questions of human nature, moral limits and possibilities, and life together. 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.

Pilgrimage and Martyrdom (BIC 4389 / GTX 4V99 / REL 4300)

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. Another title of the course could have been "living courageously."

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 Pergamun, 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.

Medieval Intellectual Tradition (GTX 2302)

Read the Great Texts of the Medieval and Renaissance periods in that part of the world which was so often the focus and the point of reference for the medieval and renaissance authors. We will read Byzantine authors and contrast them with their Roman and Western European counterparts, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic mystical thought, Medieval and Renaissance dramas set in ancient Greece, and much more!

Great Texts in Christian Spirituality (GTX 3331)

Inspiring works of Christian spirituality come to life—and bring new life to us—in this wonderfully wrought course. Between the sites we visit and the texts we read, we will learn much about the origins of Christian spirituality and its lessons for us in our here and now. We will read from the Apostolic and Cappadocian Fathers, early Christian lives and epistles, with some medieval and modern spirituality as well.

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.

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 issues that arose in his churches, and what legacy Paul left. We will do this all in the context of Greece and Turkey (Turkiye) visiting sites where Paul planted churches and learning about the context in which Paul's ministry took place.