

STANFORD HUMANITIES CORE: SAMPLE FALL SCHEDULE FOR THE COLLABORATIVE CONVERSATIONS.

Week 1	Origins, History, Tradition	How might we make sense of the origins of the world, of society (its institutions) and of record-keeping? What is the connection between stories and histories? What is 'original' in the origins stories? What is the connection between a community origin story and its traditions?	Professor Shemtov on Flood Stories	Professor Parker on Hymn to Aten (Egyptian cosmogony)
Week 2	Origins, History, Tradition	What <i>is</i> history? What is a historian, what is his function?	Professor Krebs on Herodotus	Professor Egan on Sima Professor Egan and <i>The Grand Scribe's Records</i>
Week 3	Nature, ecology, civilization	What is the order of nature, and what is humanity's role therein?	Professor Egan on Laozi	Professor Shemtov on Gilgamesh
Week 4	Nature, ecology, civilization		Professor Krebs on Thucydides	Professor Parker on San texts (reconstructed)
Week 5	Self, community, society	Self and God versus Self and Society. Drama as a literary space that presents the voice of the community and the voices of individuals, and the tension between them.	Professor Krebs on Antigone	Professor Shemtov on Job

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		Do selves matter? How do larger collectivities come into being and how do they work? What kinds of identities (incl. gender) are involved?		
Week 6	Self, community, society	Asceticism and self-cultivation as a theme; moral exemplarity	Professor Parker on Buddhist asceticism	Professor Egan on Confucius
Week 7	Self, community, society	Love/intimacy/ femininity	Professor Fonrobert on the Song of Songs	Professor Parker on Ramayana
Week 8	Writing, media, memory	What difference does writing make? - in ancient societies historically and in our knowledge of them?	Professor Egan on Chinese Tales	Professor Fonrobert on Written and Oral Torah/ Law
Week 9	Writing, media, memory		Professor Krebs on Cicero	Professor Parker on African 'orature' (Sundiata)
Week 10	Ideas without borders	To what degree and by what means can we understand ancient societies? Who owns the past?	all	