

**Updated Syllabus September 24, 2008**  
**Barnard College**  
**FYS BC 1618: First-Year Seminar “Reacting to the Past”**  
**Fall Semester, 2008**

[Flora S. Davidson](mailto:fdavidson@barnard.edu)

[fdavidson@barnard.edu](mailto:fdavidson@barnard.edu)

Office phone 212 854-6181

Office: 416 B Lehman Hall

Office hours: M 1:15-2:15 pm

Classroom: M/W 2:40-3:55, 405 Barnard Hall

W 4:15-5:30 pm

And by appointment.

You should plan to contact/meet with me at other times as well.

## INTRODUCTION

“Reacting to the Past” seeks to introduce students to major ideas and texts. It uses a “role playing” format to replicate the historical context in which these ideas acquired significance. Please read the introduction to Reacting to the Past on the website: <http://www.barnard.edu/reacting/>. Click first on the “Curriculum” tab at the top and then scroll down to read “The Basic Concept”, “Requirements and Grading” and “Playing the Game.” To read about the three games we will play this semester, these introductions are accessible by the right hand tabs. The games are: Athens in 403 B.C., Confucianism, 1587, and Greenwich Village, 1913.

## READINGS

Please purchase the following texts available at Book Culture on 112<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway & Amsterdam.

1. Mark Carnes & Josiah Ober, The Threshold of Democracy: Athens in 403 B.C., 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Pearson Longman publishers.
2. Mark Carnes & Daniel K. Gardner, Confucianism and the Succession Crisis of the Wanli Emperor, Pearson Longman publishers.
3. Plato, Republic (Penguin)
4. Confucius, Analects (Penguin)
5. Ray Huang, 1587: A Year of No Significance: The Ming Dynasty in Decline, Yale University Press.

Information on obtaining the game materials for the third game (**Greenwich Village, 1913**) will be distributed shortly. *Note: Do not buy materials for The Trial of Anne Hutchinson which is the third game in the other two sections of Reacting.*

The First-Year English Program has adopted Rules for Writers by Diana Hacker as the writing manual for Barnard College. You should purchase the book now and keep it for next semester—and for consultation throughout your undergraduate years.

### **Important Note on Class Schedule:**

**Check the dates below carefully. You will note that I have rescheduled four Wednesday classes and one Monday class that overlap with the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot, the day before Thanksgiving and the Election break. The rescheduled classes will meet instead on Fridays, from 11-12:15 in 405 Barnard Hall. You should avoid scheduling a science lab or other class**

during this alternate Friday time. Regular Classes WILL be held on the afternoon before a Jewish holiday begins in the evening.

To summarize:

Class will NOT meet on Wednesdays, October 1, 15, 22, November 26 and Monday, November 3. Rescheduled classes meet on the following Fridays, from 11 -12:15 in 405 Barnard Hall: Fridays, September 19, 26, October 17, November 7 and November 14.

Please note this on your calendar NOW. The rescheduled sessions are absolutely mandatory. No exceptions.

## SCHEDULE

### Game I: “Welcome to Athens! The Year is 403 B.C. E.”

- Wed, Sept 3 Class 1: Introduction to Reacting to the Past and to the Athens Game
- Mon, Sept 8 Class 2: Game set-up; discussion of Plato’s Republic (Books I-III pp 1-111)  
Distribution of roles and lottery for offices
- Wed, Sept 10 Class 3: Discussion of Plato’s Republic (Books IV-V pp.112-156). Faction meetings and preparations for game.
- Mon, Sept 15 Class 4: Public Session 1 (A.P. #1 presides)
- Wed, Sept 17 Class 5: Public Session 2 (A.P. #2 presides)
- Fri, Sept 19** Class 6: Public Session 3 (A.P. #3 presides)
- Mon, Sept 22 Class 7: Public Session 4 (A.P. #4 presides)
- Wed, Sept 24 Class 8: Public Session 5 (A.P. #5 presides)
- Fri, Sept 26** Class 9: Public Session 6 (A.P. #6 presides)
- Mon, Sept 29 Class 10: Post Mortem Session of Athens Game;  
Introduction to China Game – Read Gamebook pp. 1-26.
- Wed, Oct 1 No Class – Rosh Hashanah

### Game II: Welcome to China! The Year is 1587 C.E.

- Mon, Oct 6 Class 1: Discussion of historical context of the China game  
Readings: **Reread** Gamebook pp 1- 26; *Analects*, Books I-IX.
- Wed, Oct 8 Class 2: Discussion of the Analects; Distribution of roles  
Readings: Gamebook Appendix B pp. 42-66; *Analects*, Books X-XX.
- Mon, Oct 13 Class 3: Interviews with Wanli and the First Grand Secretary  
Readings: **Reread** Gamebook, pp 1-26 & Read pp 27-30; R. Huang, *1587* pp 1-74.
- Wed, Oct 15 No Class – Sukkot

**Friday, Oct 17** Class 4: First Audience with Wanli: 1<sup>st</sup> Memorials  
Readings: Gamebook Appendix A pp.31- 41; R. Huang, 1587, pp. 75-188.

Mon, Oct 20 Class 5: Second Audience with Wanli: 1<sup>st</sup> Memorials (cont'd)

Wed, Oct 22 No Class – Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Mon, Oct 27 Class 6: Third Audience: Wanli and First Grand Secretary Response

Wed, Oct 29 Classes 7 & 8 combined: 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorials

Mon, Nov 3 No class – Election Day Holiday

Wed, Nov 5 Class 9: Post Mortem session for China game;  
Introduction to Greenwich Village 1913. Read Gamebook pp. 1-29.

**Game 3: “Welcome to Greenwich Village! The year is 1913.**  
(See reading assignments in Gamebook for each session).

**Friday, Nov 7** Class 1 (Prep Session A): Women’s Rights and Suffrage

Mon, Nov 10 Class 2 (Prep Session B): Labor and Labor Movements

Wed, Nov 12 Class 3 (Prep Session C): The Spirit of the New

**Friday, Nov 14** Class 4 (Game Session 1) The Suffrage Cause

Mon, Nov 17 Class 5 (Game Session 2) Labor has its Day

Wed, Nov 19 Class 6 (Game Session 3) The Feminist Mass Meeting

Mon, Nov 24 Class 7 (Game Session 4) Mable Dodge’s Evening

Wed, Nov 26 No class – Thanksgiving break travel day

Mon, Dec 1 Class 8 (Game Session 5) Thus Speak The Masses and The Vote

Wed, Dec 3 Class 9 (Code and Post-Mortem) 1917- Facing the Future

Mon, Dec 8 Reacting Post Mortem and Class Party