

Coming Spring Semester, 2017

HIST380 -- Reacting to the Past “Struggles in the Ancient World”

M/W/F -- 10:00am - 10:50am -- 3 credits



“Reacting to the Past” is a rotating topics course that uses role-playing to immerse students into particular moments of social, political, and intellectual debate and change. Students run these games and assume various roles in debates. In addition, students engage primary sources from the events and use them to defend their arguments, with the purpose of succeeding over others in difficult and complicated scenarios. The outcomes do not have to follow the actual historic events -- students are free to “alter” history, using the original sources to support their positions. This course will satisfy the Liberal Studies requirement for Human Expression (effective with the 2015-2016 KWU Academic Catalog requirements). Prerequisite: ENGL120 or HIST105 or HIST106 or HIST220 or HIST221 or equivalent.

This section of “Reacting to the Past,” entitled, “Struggles in the Ancient World,” explores the history of political and social conflict in Ancient Greece and Rome. In “The Threshold of Democracy,” students find themselves in the Athenian Assembly just after the Peloponnesian War. Here they must decide what type of government Athens will have -- a democracy or an oligarchy -- and also what to do with Socrates. In “Beware the Ides of March,” students are members of the Roman Senate. Here they engage in the struggle for power in the immediate period after the assassination of Julius Caesar. In the final game, “Constantine and the Council of Nicaea: Defining Orthodoxy and Heresy in Early Christianity, 325 CE,” students will participate as bishops in a council called by the emperor to address doctrinal issues during the early centuries of the Church.

For more information please contact Dr. Mike Russell -- dr.mike@kwu.edu or KWU ext. 1330