

Dean's Weekly

Department of English and Philosophy

29 February 2012

Past Events

1. On the evening of 22 February, the Department of English and Philosophy, along with the Departments of Law and Social Sciences, hosted students and faculty from Bard College for a Joint Session of EP395 and the Bard Seminar on Just War. The topic was "Islam and the West." Presentations were made by Professor Mark Welton of the Department of Law, who spoke on important changes since the nineteenth century that amount to a reformation in Islamic thought, and by Professor Mairaj Syed from the Department of Religion at Bard, who described the Islamic juridical traditions of a just war that developed in the ninth and tenth centuries following the death of the Prophet. The evening began with an informal pizza dinner. In attendance were 22 faculty and students from Bard and 25 cadets and faculty from West Point.
2. On 24 February, COL Donna Brazil from the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership served as a guest lecturer for LTC Chris Mayer's EP373 (Topics in Ethics) class. During the first part of the course, students in EP373 focused on the philosophical concept of virtue; they are now beginning to consider social psychologists' criticism of this concept. COL Brazil, as director of the BS&L psychology program, provided an introduction to this criticism. She will teach EP373 students again on 1 March.



3. In pursuit of experiencing five operas during the course of the spring term, the CFAF Opera Forum traveled to White Plains, NY on Saturday, 25 February to see the Metropolitan Opera's production of Giuseppe Verdi's *Ernani* live in HD. Cadets Fink, Gibson, Hudgins, Scott, and Williams traveled with MAJ Alex Weis to experience what the *New York Times* described in its review headline as "One Fair Maiden, an Army of Suitors and That Old Foil, Honor."

