

Dean's Weekly
17 November 2010
English and Philosophy

Past Events

1. Actors from the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival conducted acting workshops with cadets in EP367 (Drama) and EN102 (Literature) on 8 and 9 November 2010 in Robinson Auditorium. Through various physical exercises, cadets learned some ways of embodying character and meaning onstage through gesture, expression, and movement. Cadets in EN102 are preparing to perform short scenes from William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on 15 and 16 November 2010, and the HVSF workshops helped them better understand the important relationship between text and action.



2. Professor Elizabeth D. Samet delivered a Veterans Day address at Claremont McKenna College's Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum in Claremont, California. The audience consisted of students and faculty from the Claremont Colleges; the school's ROTC cadets and command were also in attendance. The Athenaeum hosts a broad range of speakers from academia, industry, and public life as illustrated by its program:

http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/mmca/cur_fall_10.php

3. Professor Edwin Curley, a renowned specialist on the thought of the 17th-century philosopher Baruch Spinoza, gave the opening lecture on Friday, 12 November 2010 at the annual two-day Modern Philosophy Conference at New York University. The title of his paper was "The Metaphysics of Spinoza." Spinoza's has been the semester in Dr. section of EP433



Modality in masterpiece, *Ethics*, principal text this Robert Tully's (Senior Seminar).

*CDTs Nicholas Allen and Steven Henao-Escobar, Prof. Edwin Curley,
CDTs Christopher Aguirre, Rachel Goshi, and Jared Davison.*

4. The Opera Forum's first trip of AY 2010-2011 was a great success. Cadets were able to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art on 13 November 2010 and then explore other cultural venues around Manhattan before meeting for dinner and the opera, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Most of the cadets had not previously seen an opera, and they responded most positively to this extraordinary production. Another trip is planned for Spring 2011.

5. On 16 and 17 November, Professor Brian Orend and Dr. David Rodin visited West Point for the PY201 course-wide lecture and to participate in the Philosophy Forum series. Professor Orend is the Director of International Studies and a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Waterloo in Canada. He is also the author of the PY201 Course Text "The Morality of War." Dr. David Rodin is a Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for the Ethics and Law of Armed Conflict and is also a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs in New York.

The PY201 course-wide lecture, actually a kind of debate, focused on the moral equality of combatants. The moral status of combatants is a central issue in Just War Theory and a point of serious contention between the traditional view and the emerging view. The argument is concerned with justifying the killing of persons in war. According to the traditional view, combatants on both just and unjust sides hold an equal right to kill each other. According to the emergent view, only combatants on the just side hold a right to kill. Professor Orend and Dr. Rodin gave their positions on this issue and then fielded cadet questions. Mr. Joel Rosenthal, head of the Carnegie Council, was also present for the lecture.

On the evening of 16 November, Professor Orend and Dr. Rodin met in the Haig Room with the cadets from the Philosophy Forum. There they led a discussion of the moral issues surrounding the controversial Wikileaks video "Collateral Murder," the ethics of killing in war, and the moral issues surrounding transparency in combat operations.

On 17 November, both Professor Orend and Dr. Rodin participated in a number of PY201 classes in which they contributed to the discussion of Just War Theory topics.



Professor Orend and Dr. Rodin discuss the moral equality of combatants at the PY201 course-wide lecture.



Professor Orend answering a follow-up question after the PY201 lecture.



Dr. Rodin discusses Just War Theory with cadets enrolled in PY201.

Future Event(s)

Mr. Ben Corbett, author of *This Is Cuba: An Outlaw Culture Survives*, will speak to the approximately 500 cadets enrolled in EN302 (Advanced Composition) during Dean's Hour on Monday, 22 November 2010. The lecture will take place in Robinson Auditorium. Mr. Corbett will discuss contemporary Cuba and update his audience on key events that have affected the Cuban people since his book was published in 2002.