

HUMS333a, Dead White Men  
Syllabus, Fall 2008

The bulk of this seminar will consist of beating the dead Directed Studies horse. A 250-word reading response is due each Tuesday at the start of class. Additionally,

students will write a 15-page paper, in which they will reiterate the opinion of some 19th-century Harvard

professor on some 1st-century Roman guy. Students seeking any degree of modern relevance should not enroll.

**Required Readings:**

God, *The Holy Bible*  
Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*  
Herodotus, *The Histories*

Anything Plato ever breathed on Virgil, *The Aeneid*  
Dante, *The Divine Comedy*  
And some other works whose literary merits have been certified by The Great Harold Bloom

**Grading Breakdown:**

**Term Paper:** 50%

**Ability to regurgitate the professor's opinions:** 25%

**Amount of time spent discussing a problem:** 25%

**Amount of time spent actually doing something about it:** You may apply to the Political Science Department for possible credit

Students who wish to study subjects with real-world application are advised to major in MCDB or join the Independent Party as we debate:



# The Spectrum

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Hear All Sides · Founded 1934

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Resolved:

## Flee the Ivory Tower

Wednesday 24th · 7:30 pm · Branford Common Room

### Monday

Is McCain too old, too conservative? Barack Obama too inexperienced, too leftist? Pretend that voting for Jed Bartlet is an option as you join the IP and watch **THE WEST WING** at **9:00 PM** in the **BRANFORD TV ROOM**.

### Tuesday

It's a duel of words, a contest of oratorical skill...it's the annual **FRESHMAN PRIZE DEBATE**. If you'd like to compete for money and glory by speaking on **RESOLVED: VOTE FOR OBAMA**, email [carmen.lee@yale.edu](mailto:carmen.lee@yale.edu). Good luck!

### Wednesday

Do you dream of your own little office in HGS, or is the "real world" calling your name post-graduation? Join the IP as we debate **RESOLVED: FLEE THE IVORY TOWER** at **7:30 PM** in the **BRANFORD COMMON ROOM**.

### Friday

Now that you're settled in, it's time to explore the deep, dark secrets of Yale. Join the IP for **LUNCH at 12:30 PM** in the legendary **MORY'S TEMPLE BAR**. If it's your first trip to Mory's, your first cup of **BAKER'S SOUP** is on us!

### Saturday

You've heard about the songs, you've heard about the big silver cups and the strange traditions. Now see for yourself what it's all about! Join the IP as we head to **MORY'S at 8:00 PM** for our first **TOASTING SESSION** of the year.

**Chairman :** Geoffrey "Akhil Amar" Shaw

**Vice Chairman :** Alex "Live White Man" Soble

**Chief Whip :** Meredith "PhD in Crustacean Studies" Morrison

**Secretary :** Naomi "future cranky old historian" Lisan

**Treasurer :** Sasha "economics" Burger

**SAAAC :** River "Directed Studies" Clegg

**Director of Development :** Alena "starving writer" Gribskov

**Lieutenant Colonel Whip:** Kate "psychobabble crap" McDermott

**Donald Kagan:** Carmen Lee, Rachel Bayefsky

**Last Week,** the Independent Party met in the Davenport Common Room to debate **RESOLVED: THE MODERN WORLD STILL NEEDS RELIGION.** **AVITAL** "daughter of two rabbis" **RUTENBERG-SCHOENBERG** argued that religion allows people to become engaged in something larger than themselves. **JOYCE** "moral nonetheless" **ARNOLD** argued that humanism can also produce solid moral foundations. **RIVER** "love is all you need" **CLEGG** argued that religion provides a necessary sense of unity and equality. **SAM** "Dawkins" **BAGG** argued that atheism, unlike religion, drives the search for scientific knowledge and meaning. **RAMON** "no can haz fascism" **GON-ZALEZ** argued that a dearth of religion would be filled in by an overly strong sense of nationalism. He was thanked for his **FINE MAIDEN SPEECH.** **SHAINA** "soulless debater" **WRIGHT** argued that freedom from religious values does not necessitate the loss of a moral compass. **SHELAGH** "meaning" **MAHBUBANI** argued that religion helps people find that "something" that many need. **DYLAN** "Voltaire" **MORRIS** argued for areligious theism. **NICK** "damn post-modernists" **MCBURNEY** argued that one can't talk about religion without faith. **REK** "anti-pope" **LECOUNTÉ** argued for the dawn of the age of secular reason. **GILLON** "not a number" **CRICHTON** argued that religion gives people an identity. He was thanked for his **FINE MAIDEN SPEECH.** **BEN** "Ann Coulter is wrong" **DAUS-HABERLE** argued that not everyone needs religion in order to have values. He was thanked for his **FINE MAIDEN SPEECH.** **NAOMI** "atheist in the affirmative" **LISAN** argued that religion gives rise to priceless art and music. **ARJUN** "grand scheme of things" **KAVI** argued that people don't need religion in order to have a purpose. He was thanked for his **FINE MAIDEN SPEECH.** **MICHAEL** "Mother Theresa" **GOCKSCH** argued that only religion can produce people as good as, for example, the saints. He was thanked for his **FINE MAIDEN SPEECH.** **DANILA** "born in the USSR" **KABOTYANSKI** argued that religion also gives rise to grave misdeeds. He was thanked for his **FINE MAIDEN SPEECH.** In a vote of **26 to 11 to 3,** the motion **PASSED** and members and guests adjourned to Yorkside for milkshakes, cheese fries and continued discussion.

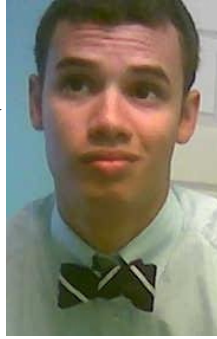
## IPster of the Week

**Name:** Joe Charlet, SY '10

**Title:** Sometime Secretary

**Major:** Political Science, Psychology

**Hometown:** Cape Hatteras, NC



**Hobbies:** surfing, rock climbing, general bro-ing out, having pull-up contests with his bros

**One politician he'd tap (and why):**

He was really turned on when he met Howard Dean...leftism is sexy.

**Fun Facts:**

- Joe has a scar from a shark bite
- He was a prefect (like Ron Weasley!) in high school
- He once accidentally made out with a TA

## Bojangles's Corner

After an academic "civil war" within Yale's small but renowned Crustacean Studies department, Bojangles has



threatened to sever his ties with the institution. Bojangles has made headlines for his unconventional view that advanced crustacean civilization began circa 500 BCE, rather than the generally accepted date of 600

BCE. He is scheduled for a press conference later tonight.

