

Syllabus
Humanities 030
The Beginnings of Civilization

Course: HUM 030, **Fall 2013**, 3 Units
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Introduction

Welcome to Humanities 31, The Beginnings of Civilization! This course is an exploration of some of the most profound cultural influences of Western Civilization. I hope that for many of you this course will be a study of wisdom and meaning and that you will find it not only interesting but also relevant to your life.

Required Materials

The Humanistic Tradition, Volume 1: Prehistory to the Early Modern World, sixth edition. Gloria K. Fiero, ISBN: 978-0-07-734627-0

WLAC Bookstore and Online bookstore link for international students:
<http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/westintl.htm>

How to Access Your Course

The course site, delivered through Etudes, will be accessible at 8:00 a.m. on the first day of classes. To login onto your course, please follow these instructions: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/logininfo.asp#howtologin>

Please give me a call or e-mail me if you have any problems!

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to come to a deeper understanding of how the humanities address the problems of meaning in human life and death. Involvement in the humanities means stretching and expanding one's capacity for thought, sensitivity, and creativity. It means searching for the answers to fundamental questions, such as What is the purpose of our existence? Why are we here? Can we find out? And if so, how? I hope these types of questions will engage you and help you to think more clearly and critically about your own beliefs and worldview.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand philosophical problems with more empathy -
- Increase multicultural awareness -
- Understand one's self better and clarify one's values -
- Think more critically -
- Write more clearly -
- Integrate one's understanding of other disciplines such as history, art, and poetry -
- Comprehend the essential concepts and insights of Western Civilization
- Compare and contrast the different historical developments of certain ideas, art, and literature.

Course Requirements and Expectations

This course requires active participation and a Final Project. All work is expected to be proofread, well written, and on time. I encourage students to complete your work on your word processor so that you can save a copy outside of Etudes-NG and so that you can proofread and spell check your work. By saving your work in an outside program you will not have to write

a new reflection if your posting gets lost in “cyberspace!” [The first task is to simply perform a couple of functions that show me you have learned to use this online system: Introduce yourself in the Student Lounge and send me a Private Message.](#)

A class online is necessarily different than a class where we are all together. I miss the regular contact with students, but I also realize that online courses have distinct advantages. I am available by phone and through messages. I would love to meet you if you are ever in the Monterey area where I teach at Monterey Peninsula College.

Online class sessions will consist of a lecture, text reading, and discussions. Lectures are in the Modules link and discussions will be held in the Discussion and Private Message link. The class really thrives on discussions and the feedback you give to one another.

Please be sure to log on often and always check for new announcements before you start in on your assignments. You can arrange under the preferences link in your My Workspace page to be notified of my announcements by e-mail. This is a good idea.

Grading Scale

Points Possible

Active participation 240

Final 100

Total 340

Grading Scale

Point Range Grade

340-306 A

305-271 B

270-236 C

235-201 D

200 - 0 F

Methods of Evaluation

Participation is required and will be included in the overall grade.

Participation requires three reflections on each topic (for example: 1A, 1B, 1C) posted in the Discussion and Private Message link and the same three reflections copy and pasted into the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link.

There is a specific forum in the Discussion and Private message link for each entry listed under the topic we are studying. You must focus one entry on the lecture and the other on the text readings. In other words you have to demonstrate to me that you have read both the lecture and the text (500 word minimum, but you are welcome to write as much as you would like). The first 250 words should be a summary. Think of this as an open book reading quiz. Demonstrate to me that you have read the required reading. This is objective; I should not receive any opinion here. The second 250 words should be a reflection. This is where you tell me what you think about the reading, what you found interesting and what you learned. This part is subjective; I should receive your opinion here.

Please do not write about philosophy in the text readings because I cover so much of that in the lectures. Instead focus on the other areas the text covers such as art, literature and music.

The third entry is a posting to at least two of your fellow students commenting on their thoughts. Each entry should be 250 words, for a 500 word total (minimum). You reply to them right there in the same Discussion and Private Message forum where you read their reflection (push reply) and then copy and paste the same replies in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link.

Once you post your assignments in the public Discussion and Private Message link, you need to go the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link and copy and paste the SAME assignment again. I admit this seems unusual, but I have found it the simplest way for me to read, leave comments and post your grades. (I cannot post your grades publicly in the Discussion and Private Message link). You post in the Discussion and Private Message link for the benefit of the whole class and you copy and paste the same assignments in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link for my benefit and your privacy.

****IMPORTANT:** Without posting in BOTH areas, you will not receive credit for that assignment. Please check your grades once a week so that there are no surprises at the end of the quarter!

Please go to the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link for the detailed directions on each assignment as well as the Final. This syllabus is only meant as an overview and most questions are answered by reading the

detailed instructions in the Assignments link. You can look at any assignment, just do not push "Finished" until you actually submit an assignment. That way you can back in whenever you need to. I am including a brief overview of the Final here:

The Final Exam consists of a field project so you will need to make arrangements in advance. I encourage you to do this early in the quarter and then you won't have to worry about it when all of your other finals are due. The Final Exam will be a 2000 word reflective essay on a visit you make to a cultural event different from any previous experience that you have had. The idea is to have a completely new experience in a way that broadens your views and opens your mind! Please see Final in the Assignments link for detailed information and suggestions.

Please note: You cannot turn in half a Final Project for half credit. Just as you would fail a written exam if you walked out of it only half way through, so an incomplete project will be failed.

Grading Policy

I respond to each assignment, so once you see your grade posted you should read what I wrote, especially if you are not happy with your grade you will find an explanation. Just scroll down to see my comments. **I don't explain 9's because they are still A's.** Anything less than a 9 I explain in the comments unless it is simply a matter of being late, which is self-explanatory (see late work policy below). I try to save 10's for when I feel I have received a student's very best work, as there is no grade higher. This is a judgment call I make. But it does help to write more than the minimum and make mention of the major themes in the lecture or text. It is always a good idea to make sure it is completely proofread.

Points for participation is a significant part of your grade. So, for example, if you want to contradict something in the lecture and/or text, please do so intelligently (meaning you will need to support your viewpoint!). I don't want a summary of what you read. I want a reflection on what you read. There is a difference. A summary is objective and a reflection is subjective. You tell me what the reading or lecture meant to you.

You will be graded down if you simply tell me what is in the readings. I already know what is in the readings! I want to know what you think about

the readings. The important part is that you also have to convince me that you have actually read the material. This means your reflection needs to be focused on the material covered.

I encourage you to ask each other questions and engage in dialogues. The main rule is to be respectful of those with different opinions!

I do not offer extra credit and you cannot decide you need an "A" late in the quarter. You have to decide on the first day of class!

System Requirements and Following Directions

I will grade down assignments that demonstrate that you are not following the directions, such as when you fail to address a peer by name in your peer responses or your work is not formatted correctly. I do want to place the emphasis on the content of your work, but it is nevertheless expected that you will learn to use etudes correctly and set up your computer according to the system requirements: etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad0865

Alternative Learning Policy

We know now that many people learn in ways that are not always recognized in our school system. I don't want this class to fall into that unhappy statistic. If you have a suggestion about how you can best master this material that will require at least as much effort as the standard requirements, then I am open to discussing this with you. However, I want to know right away. I want us to come up with a contract in the first two weeks of the semester, so please make an appointment with me right away!

Instructor Response Policy

I am looking forward to getting to know you all in the "Discussion and Private Messages" link. Please feel free to call me during the school week between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Pacific Time (US), 831-402-7374.

Rather than use my e-mail, I want to communicate through this Etudes-NG program. It is simpler to answer questions within this program. However, if you don't get a response within 24 hours on weekdays then please go

ahead and e-mail me or call. If you contact me over the weekend I will return your message by Monday evening.

Late Work Policy

I do not grade down assignments that are late for the first week of the course as people are adding the class and getting used to the system. However, after the first week all assignments are expected to be on time. The program will automatically mark it as late if you submit even one minute past the due time. As the due time is not until 11:00 P.M. (way past when most classes are done for the day), I will hold you to that time. Each day it is late I will mark it down ten percent (usually one point, except for the final which is 10 points) from the grade it would have earned had it been on time.

After five days I will no longer accept submissions and you will receive a zero. If you have an exceptional reason why you cannot turn in an assignment on time, I expect you to communicate with me before the assignment is due (not afterward) to get approval and make alternative arrangements. This is much the same as calling in sick for work. You just don't disappear, but you call in and let people know you can't be there. I expect the same courtesy in this class. I will send out an announcement before I activate the late work policy.

Drop Policy

If you choose to drop a course, it is your responsibility to do so. Please see the Academic Calendar for official dates:

<http://www.wlac.edu/scheduleofclass/schedulecalendar.html>

Last day to drop class without a "W": 9-6-13

Last day to drop class and get a full refund: 9-6-13

Last day to drop class with a "W": 11-15-13

Special Needs and Disabled Students Policy

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a Private Message. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the Disabled Students

Programs & Services (DSP&S) Office in providing them. The DSP&S Office provides special assistance in areas including: registration assistance specialized tutoring, academic and career guidance counseling, instructor liaison, special instruction and testing assistance. You can contact the Director of the DSP&S Office, Adrienne Foster, at fosteraa@wlac.edu describing the accommodations that are necessary.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education and WLAC; therefore, acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize or falsify will not be tolerated in this course. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and you can read about it here: <http://www.plagiarism.org>

Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to disciplinary action.

Class Sessions and Schedule

You will find specific due dates and times on the Assignments, Tests, and Surveys page. Please check these dates!

The first two weeks: Please go through the first two modules, looking around and getting to know this online delivery system, Etudes-NG. This will save you a great deal of time. Please introduce yourself in the Student Lounge and also send me a Private Message checking in to avoid being dropped.

Assignment 1: Read both my first lecture in the "Modules" link and also our text *The Humanistic Tradition*, Introduction and chapters 1 and 2. **Your first assignment is due Monday, September 9th.**

Assignment 2: Read Lecture 2 in the "Modules" link and read in our text *The Humanistic Tradition*, chapters 3, 4 and 5.

Assignment 3: Read Lecture 3 in the "Modules" link and read in our text *The Humanistic Tradition*, chapters 6, 7 and 8.

Assignment 4: Read Lecture 4 in the "Modules" link and read in our text *The Humanistic Tradition*, chapters 9, 10 and 11.

Assignment 5: Read Lecture 5 in the "Modules" link and read in our text The Humanistic Tradition, chapters 12 and 13.

Assignment 6: Read Lecture 6 in the "Modules" link and read in our text The Humanistic Tradition, chapters 14 and 15.

Assignment 7: Read Lecture 7 in the "Modules" link and read in our text The Humanistic Tradition, chapters 16 and 17.

Assignment 8: Read Lecture 8 in the "Modules" link and read in our text The Humanistic Tradition, pages chapters 18 and 19.

Final Essay due on Monday, December 9th

Online Student Resources

Online Student Helpdesk: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/helpdesk>

Course Login: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/logininfo.asp#howtologin>

Technical Requirements: <https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa>

ETUDES FAQ: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/etudesfaq.asp>

WLAC Online Homepage: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/104.asp>

WLAC Online Counseling: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/178.asp>

WLAC Online Tutoring: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/116.asp>

WLAC Library: <http://www.wlac.edu/library/international.html>

WLAC Bookstore:

<http://store450.collegestoreonline.com/http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/westintl.htm>

Netiquette: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Strategies for Online Learners: <http://www.uidaho.edu/eo/dist8.html>

Be a Successful Online Student:

<http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp>

Tips for Online Success:

<http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/tips.asp>

