

Unpublished Site

SYLLABUS

[Home](#)[CourseMap](#)[Announcements](#)[Syllabus](#)[Modules](#)[Assignments, Tests and Surveys](#)[Discussion and Private Messages](#)[Chat](#)[Resources](#)[Gradebook](#)[Activity Meter](#)[Site Setup](#)[Roster](#)

users present:

Alice Taylor

Instructor

Alice Taylor, PhD

- taylora@wlac.edu (but use Private Messages in the ETUDES website)
- Office: Fine Arts 308
- (310) 287-4201
- Office hour, Thursday, 11:30-12:30 PM

By far the best way to reach me is through the Private Message tool of the class.

Required Textbook

Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition, Volume I*

Assignments are keyed to the sixth edition, but a student willing to hunt around and use the index can use an earlier edition.

The same material is also available in a different format, as Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition*, Book 1 and Book 2.

You need **Book 1** and **Book 2**, OR *just* **Volume I**.

Our Synchronous Online Course

Humanities 30 meets online Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 to 11.

What this means is that I will be available online twice a week to help you succeed in Humanities 30. Otherwise, I have set the class up like my normal online classes, with things for you to do each week, on your own time.

Our first class sessions will be videoconferences. Using a free service of the California Community Colleges (CCCConfer), we will all be online together, looking at the same thing and able to hear each other, send messages, vote, raise hands, etc. The system is easy to use, and we'll have a little practice session ahead of time.

I've reserved a room in the library (HLRC 218) for the first three videoconferences, on September 3, 5 and 10. Students who are at West (or want to come just for this) can join me in person.

Course Format

Except for a few extra-credit museum workshops, all class activities take place **online** including the class meetings,

The course is divided into **Modules. Always start in Modules** for instructions and tips on how to do the rest of the work. Modules open before 8 AM every couple of Mondays. There are weekly assignments due every week, including open-book quizzes and written class discussions.

Everything except the Monday and Wednesday sessions and the museum workshops is asynchronous (meaning that students do not have to participate at set times.) Assignments are due at 9 PM on Sundays.

Course Content

In this course, we explore the cultures that Americans have traditionally looked to for the roots of our beliefs and values: Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Ancient Greeks, Hellenism and Rome, and the Middle Ages. We attempt to understand past cultures on the basis of their own art and literature, experienced as directly as possible.

Course Objectives

The faculty of West Los Angeles College has identified a set of college-wide Student Learning Outcomes--what we agree every student should learn at West. You can read all nine Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in the schedule of classes. Of course, different classes will each stress different outcomes, in somewhat different ways. Here is how I expect you to progress towards the SLOs in Humanities 30:

- Cultural Diversity: Read literary, theological, and philosophical works from various cultures, and weigh their values in discussions.
- Aesthetics: Engage with art, music, architecture and literature in developing your own opinions of the cultures included in the class.
- Critical Thinking: In online class discussions, and perhaps in an extra-credit museum workshop, support an opinion with evidence of your own observations of specific works of art, literature, music or architecture.

Course Student Learning Outcome: For Humanities 30 itself, the faculty have determined that a student who successfully finishes the course should be able to trace eras of Western development from ancient foundations to the Renaissance while surveying a wide variety of styles and periods to ascertain influences on our modern world cultures.

Special Needs and Disabilities

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.

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.

Assignments

The course is divided into Modules--always start there for instructions and tips on how to do the rest of the work.

Quizzes: There will be 18 untimed, open-book quizzes. Each will be available for at least 8 days. These will be multiple-choice, drawing on factual information in the textbook. This is the major reason you need our textbook (Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition*, vol I). You can treat the quizzes like guided reading, if you like—read with the test open in front of you, and answer the questions as you encounter the facts in our textbook. One reason there are so many quizzes is that I don't expect you to memorize all these facts—just to be aware of them and where they are in your textbook. (You can look them up any time you need them.)

Note that some multiple-choice questions will require you to pick **more than one** correct answer.

Each Quiz will be worth 30 points.

Discussions: There will be two or three topics to respond to in each module. By the end of the semester you will pick out the three best postings you have made and I will base your discussion grade on them, as well as on the regularity of your postings throughout the semester. **All together, discussions are worth 150 points.**

Homework: There will be one short note-taking assignment that I don't want you to post to the whole class. You will submit it in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys area. **It will be worth 10 points.**

Methods of Evaluation

Each Quiz will be worth 30 points:

- true/false questions, 2 points
- multiple choice with one correct answer, 3 points
- questions in which you must select **more than one** correct answer, 5 points

Participating in a discussion gains you 2 points. In addition, you will pick out the three best postings you have made during the term and I will base your discussion grade on them, with a maximum of 38 points per posting. There is a Discussion Grading Rubric in Resources.

I will give 10 extra-credit points for each outstanding discussion posting—postings that use specific observations to open up new ways of seeing.

Grading Scale

- **A** more than **630** points
- **B** more than **560** points
- **C** more than **490** points
- **D** more than **420** points
- **F** **420** or fewer points

Extra Credit

Outstanding Discussion Postings: Each discussion topic is open-ended and requires that you write about what you see and think. I will point out the occasional posting that uses specific observations to open up new ways of understanding. Each such posting is worth 10 points.

Getty Villa *The Persians*: On Wednesday afternoon September 17, the Getty has offered us free tickets to this year's Greek tragedy, Aeschylus' *The Persians*. Going and answering a few questions designed to show that you did so will be worth 50 points. Students who cannot come on the free date can [buy tickets](#) for other performances of the play, but they are \$45, and frequently sell out.

Museum Workshops: Three times during the semester there will be workshops at local museums. Fully participating in these two-hour group activities will be worth 50 points each.

Close Reading Projects: Twice during the semester I will set up groups to work together online on specific texts. This activity will be worth up to 50 points, depending on the quality of your group's work and your group's evaluation of your participation.

Instructor Response Policy

During the term, expect me to respond to Private Messages or emails within 24 hours.

I check phone messages regularly, but cannot return calls outside of Los Angeles County from my office. (It's much better to contact me through Private Messages in ETUDES.)

Etudes scores the quizzes as you submit them and shows your scores. The answers are available after the quizzes close late Sunday.

The participation points for discussions should appear within a day after the discussion closes.

I score all other work within a week of submission.

Important Notes

Don't cheat. The only cheating I've encountered online is **plagiarism**--the presentation of someone else's words or ideas in such a way that a casual reader would think they were yours. This includes copying passages out of Fiero (or any other book, or the web) as responses to the Discussions.

I *don't* ask you to do research for Discussions. If you *do* do research, it is your responsibility to keep track of and properly acknowledge your sources. Try the quiz at [Indiana University](#) to see if you know how to cite sources.

- The penalty for plagiarizing in a Discussion posting is the subtraction of 10 points.
- You can't really cheat on the quizzes—they are untimed and open book. You are welcome to work together on them. (This may not be true in other online classes!)

There are real deadlines for each activity. **Computer problems will not result in an extension.** Figure out now where you are going to access a computer if yours fails. Check out the local Kinko's (expensive), libraries (limited hours), your friends, family, and work.

- Each quiz is available for at least 8 days. Once the deadline has passed, you cannot take the quiz. If you let me know **before** you have to miss an entire week, I can make special arrangements.
- You can only participate in the discussions in the week they are announced. After that, they close--you can still read them, but you can't post to them.
- The extra-credit museum visits will be scheduled for specific hours on various Saturdays and Sundays. I cannot set them up for other dates or to be done independently of the group. That's why they are extra-credit.

I can open work **early** for student who have personal or work time conflicts. This means that you need to tell me **before** your work is due, not afterwards. For other emergencies, student should do extra-credit assignments to make up for lost points.

I have read the syllabus, and I accept its terms.

Yes