

SYLLABUS FOR HUMANITIES-30 (Online)
THE BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION
West Los Angeles College, Spring 2015
Section 8070: from 2/9/2014 to 6/5/2014 (16 weeks)

Instructor: Dr. Ali Parsa

Office hours: By appointment (Either in WLAC or my Brentwood office)

Contacting me: **Best to do it through the website's "private messages."** I get it faster.

Required Text:

Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition: Volume I*, (of the 2 volume series--not the 6 volume series, **ISBN: 978-0-07-734627-0**)

McGraw-Hill 2011 (6th Edition). Get older edition (5th) for cheaper price, if you want!

IMPORTANT NOTES:

The text reading assignment covers only a portion of the material you need to know for the tests. Website materials (on the Modules) are essential and participation in the "Weekly Discussions" is also very important for doing well on the exams.

GRADING & EXAMS:

10 multiple choice questions are given on every week's test.. 10 points

1 Essay question is given on every week's test..... 5 points

Total possible points on each week's exam 15 points

Total possible points for 15 exams (15 x 15* weeks).... 225 points

Participation in weekly discussions (total for the course)..... 30 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR THE COURSE 255 points

*The lowest of the 16 exams will be dropped.

Each "**Weekly Exam**" is opened for you on **Thursday at 6:00 a.m.** You must take it before Sunday 5:00 p.m. (so you can finish by 6:00). However, as soon as you open the test, the clock begins ticking. You have total of 40 minutes to finish both parts (10 multiple choices + one essay). Don't wait till the last day if possible. You need to be well prepared before the exam. The essay questions will be given ahead of time (look at the end of each Module). You can work on them and write them before the exam. You can even copy-and-paste them on the exam, BUT they should be in your own words, and about 150 words. Go to "**Weekly Discussion**" online and participate every week at least once and write around 50 words comments. **They open at 8:00 a.m. on Mondays** and close at 11:59 on Sundays. They are worth 30 points total, which is given at the end of the semester based on your overall performance. You should participate in at least 15 out of 16 weeks. There is No make-up exam since you have 3 ½ days to choose your convenient time. Your lowest grade on exams (or the one you decide not to take) will be dropped. Use reliable Internet connection. Interruption during the exam will end your exam and you cannot take it again. (Better use more reliable connection at home than one in a coffee shop!). Please remember, each student gets a different set of questions.

Course Description: This course is a survey of the cultural aspects of Western civilization, within its historical context, from the beginning throughout the Middle Ages. It explores the arts, architecture, literature, philosophy, and religion of the past in an integrated way. It focuses on the interrelationship among these human creative activities.

Course Goals, Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes:

In Accordance with WLAC Institutional and the Division “Student Learning Outcomes” the following goals and objectives are pursued through this course.

- A. **Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
- B. **Communication:** Effectively communicate thought in a clear, well-organized manner to persuade, inform, and convey ideas in academic, work, family and community settings.
- C. **Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.
- D. **Cultural Diversity:** Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.
- E. **Ethics:** Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.
- F. **Interdisciplinary Awareness:** Cultivate relationship to other disciplines
- G. **Creativity:** Develop individual creative process and practice creative routine
- H. **Self-Awareness and Growth:** Learn self-assessment for personal fulfillment and growth

Lecture Outline & Reading Assignments

WEEK-1

- **Feb. 9** Introduction/ Prehistoric Time/ Paleolithic & Neolithic Ages/
Read: INTRODUCTION CHAPTER from your book
Participate in (weekly discussion-1 online)

WEEK-2

- **Feb. 16** Birth of Civilization: Mesopotamia
Read: CHAPTER-1 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-2 online)

WEEK-3

- **Feb. 23** Egyptian Civilization/ Judaism/ Video on Egypt/ Discussion/
Read: CHAPTER-2 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-3 online)

WEEK-4

- **Mar. 2** Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations/ Archaic Greece
Read: CHAPTER-4 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-4 online)

WEEK-5

- **Mar. 9** Classic (Golden) Greek Age
Read: CHAPTER-5 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-5 online)

WEEK-6

- **Mar. 16** Rome: From Republic to An Empire
Read: CHAPTER-6 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-6 online)

WEEK-7

- **Mar. 23** Christianity and Romans/
Read: CHAPTER-8 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-7 online)

WEEK-8

- **Mar. 30** Christianity Art (continued)
Read: CHAPTER-9 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-8 online)

-----**April 4th through 11th NO WORK** (Spring Recess)-----

Weekly Participation Online Could Be Skipped As Your Optional

WEEK-9

- **Apr. 13** Islam, Islamic Civilization and Arts/
Read: CHAPTER-10 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-9 online)

WEEK-10

- **Apr. 20** Early Middle Ages/ Germanic People and Arts/
Read: CHAPTER-11 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
Participate in (weekly discussion-10 online)

WEEK-11

- **Apr. 27** Germanic People and Christian Medieval Arts/
Read: CHAPTER-12 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
(weekly discussion-11 online)

WEEK-12

- **May 4** High Middle Ages and Gothic Art and Architecture/
Read: CHAPTER-13 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
(weekly discussion-12 online)

WEEK-13

- **May 11** Late Middle Ages/ Crises, and Arts in Transition/
Read: CHAPTER-15 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
(weekly discussion-13 online)

WEEK-14

- **May 18** Renaissance Humanism/ Early Renaissance Art in Italy/
Read: CHAPTER-16 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
(weekly discussion-14 online)

WEEK-15

- **May 25** High Renaissance and Its Artists/ Renaissance/
Read: CHAPTER-17 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
(weekly discussion-15 online)

WEEK-16

- **June 1** Protestant Reformation and the Arts/
CHAPTER-19 from your book and see the Modules on the class website
(weekly discussion-16 online)