

**Humanities 30, The Beginnings of Civilization (3 units, UC : CSU)**  
**West Los Angeles College**  
**Syllabus for Fall Semester, 2013**  
**Instructor: Suzanne Adelman** (adelmas@wlaac.edu)

**Course Information:**

Section 1252: MW 9:35-11AM

Classroom: GC 320

Office Hours: 8:45-9:35 AM

**Required Text:**

The Humanistic Tradition, Volume I, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition: Prehistory to the Early Modern World, by Gloria K. Fiero, 2011.

**Course Description:**

This course is a cultural survey of Western Civilization tracing its development from the earliest of known times to the Renaissance.

**Student Learning Outcome:**

This course is designed to:

1. Develop interdisciplinary connections and cultural comparisons of various disciplines: art, architecture, literature, music, history, religion and philosophy.
2. Be aware of how the arts are connected within cultural and historical contexts.
3. Student achievement of these SLOs will be evaluated by various oral and written quizzes, tests, assignments, and projects.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to:

1. See the relationships between arts of different cultures.
2. See the links between the cultural past and the present and what these reveal about human life.
3. Stimulate critical thinking with class discussion and various coursework assignments.

**Attendance:** Regular and prompt attendance is expected and required. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from the class. A student who is absent more hours than the number of hours the class meets per week will be dropped from class.

## College Regulations:

No smoking in the classroom. Only those enrolled in the class may attend the class. WLAC Standards of Student Conduct, as stated in the Schedule of Classes, will be enforced.

## Grades:

Co- Pilots: As co-pilot, you will to present on a topic of interest related to the time period and culture we are covering, examples of this include: music, food, art, sports, war, politics, theater, technology, social customs, belief systems, architecture. Another option is to assist with the summary of the readings and/or provide additional information on the topic covered. The sources of research for your presentation are open to what you find available and helpful. We will have approximately three co-pilots a week.

Three short written reports. These will be approximately 1-2 page papers (500 words) reflecting your analysis on a topic(s) we are covering in the reading. These papers will only be based on the textbook reading. Papers based on outside sources will not be accepted. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate your **analysis** of the required reading for class, not your ability to cut & paste information from outside sources.

Grading Rubrics for the written papers:

Criteria	Unsatisfactory	Needs Work	Adequate	Good	Excellent
Assignment Fulfillment: Does the composition fulfill the required criteria, subject matter and length? Is it typed?					
Organization: Does the writer develop the thesis statement/topic sentence? Does the writer focus on the topic of the composition? Does every sentence in the composition support the thesis statement/topic sentence? Is the composition organized in a logical order?					
Development/Support: Are the connections between ideas fully explained? Is the composition fully developed with SPECIFIC reasons, examples, details, evidence, and/or explanations from the text or the writer's observations and experience that support the thesis statement/topic sentence? Closing: Does the writer provide a final thought to wrap up his/her composition in a way that makes sense?					
Sentence Craft: Is the writing fluent, clear, and easy to understand? Does the writer join sentences to show relationships between ideas? (Reading aloud helps sentence flow.)					
Proofreading: Does the writer avoid making errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling?	More than 6 errors	6 or fewer errors	5 or fewer errors	3 or fewer errors	2 or fewer errors

Quizzes will only include the historical period covered in the weeks prior to the quiz.

### Final Exam

#### **Computation of your final grade:**

Class participation and attendance= 15%

Co-pilot = 20%

3 short written reports 30%

2 quizzes 20%

Final Exam 15%

The grade of C is considered to be satisfactory; the grade B is very good or above average; the grade of A is outstanding and achieved by a consistently high level of performance.

#### **\* Course Schedule:**

##### Week 1: Aug. 26

*Introduction to course and overview of class objectives and goals. Review course syllabus.*

Assignment: Read Prehistory, pages 1-15.

##### Week 2: Sept. 4

*Discussion: Prehistory and Birth of Civilization Introduction, pages 1- 15.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 1, Mesopotamia: Rulers and the Social Order, pages 17-31, 38-43.

##### Week 3: Sept. 9

*Discussion: Chapter 1, Mesopotamia: Rulers and the Social Order pages 17-31, 38-43.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 2, Africa: Gods, Rulers and the Social Order, pages 44-60 (on Egypt).

##### Week 4: Sept. 16

*Discussion: Chapter 2 on Egypt: Africa: Gods, Rulers and the Social Order, pages 44-60.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 4, The Classical legacy, Greece: Humanism and the Speculative Leap, pages 76-112.

##### Week 5: Sept 23

*Discussion: Chapter 4, The Classical legacy, Greece: Humanism and the Speculative Leap - pages 76-112.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 5, The Classical Style, pages 113-136.

##### Week 6: Sept. 30

*Discussion: Chapter 5, The Classical Style, pages 113-136.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 6, Rome: The Rise to Empire, pages 137-165.

Week 7: Oct. 7

*Discussion: Chapter 6, Rome: The Rise to Empire, pages 137-165.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 9, Language of Faith, Symbolism and the Arts, pages 199-202, 204-216.

Week 8: Oct. 14

*Discussion: Chapter 9, Language of Faith, Symbolism and the Arts, pages 199-202, 204-216.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 10, The Islamic World: Religion and Culture, pages 226-230, 232-238, 240, 243-248.

Week 9: Oct. 21

*Discussion: Chapter 10, The Islamic World: Religion and Culture, pages 226-230, 232-238, 240, 243-248.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 11, Patterns of Medieval Life, pages 250-260, 262-268, 271-275.

Week 10: Oct. 28

*Discussion: Chapter 11, Patterns of Medieval Life, pages 250-260, 262-268, 271-275.*

Assignment: Read: Chapter 12, Christianity and the Medieval Mind, pages 277, bottom of 285 (w/Dante's Inferno) - 298.

Week 11: Nov. 4

*Discussion: Chapter 12, Christianity and the Medieval Mind, pages 277, the bottom of 285 (w/Dante's Inferno) - 298.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 13, The Medieval Synthesis in the Arts, pages 299-325.

Week 12: Nov. 11

*Discussion: Chapter 13, The Medieval Synthesis in the Arts, pages 299-325.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 15, The Age of the Renaissance – Adversity and Challenge: The Fourteen-Century Transition pages 357- 375.

Week 13: Nov. 18

*Discussion: Chapter 15, The Age of the Renaissance – Adversity and Challenge: The Fourteen-Century Transition pages 357- 375.*

Assignment: Read Chapter 16, Classical Humanism in the Age of the Renaissance, pages 377-380, 382-383, 386-387, 390-397. Chapter 17 Renaissance artists: Disciples of Nature, Masters of Invention, pages 399-435.

Week 14: Nov. 25

*Discussion: Chapter 16, Classical Humanism in the Age of the Renaissance, pages 377-380, 382-383, 386-387, 390-397. Chapter 17 Renaissance artists: Disciples of Nature, Masters of Invention, pages 399-435.*

Week 15: Dec. 2

Review Exam

Week 16: Dec. 9

Final Exam

\* The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus, if needed. Students will be informed of any changes.

### **Pre-history**

Paleolithic: 2million – 10,000 BC

Mesolithic: 10,000 – 8,000 BC

Neolithic: 8,000 – 2,000 BC

### **Mesopotamia**

Sumerian Period: 3,500 – 2,350 BC

Akkadian: 2,350 – 2,150 BC

Neo-Sumerian: 2,150 – 1,900 BC

Babylonian: 1,900 – 1,600 BC

Kassite: 1,600 – 1,150 BC

Assyrian: 1,150 – 612 BC

Persians defeated the Assyrian tribe: 612 – 529 BC

### **Ancient Egyptian**

Old Kingdom: 2,700 – 2,250 BC

Middle Kingdom: 1,990 – 1,790 BC

New Kingdom: 1,570 – 1,180 BC

After the New Kingdom, Egypt returned to the Old Kingdom style for a brief period where it's power declined and finally was defeated by the Persians.

### **Aegean World (or Pre-Greek Civilization)**

Cycladic Period: 3,000 – 2,000 BC

Minoan Period: 2,000 – 1,400 BC

Mycenaean Period: 1,400 – 1,100 BC

### **Classical Greece**

Dark Age: 1,100 – 1,000 BC: Collapse of Mycenaean Empire

Heroic (or Geometric) Period: 1,000 – 750 BC

Orientalizing Period: 750 – 600 BC

Archaic Period: 600 – 480 BC

Hellenic Period: 480 – 323 BC

Hellenistic Period: 323 – 146 BC

The Greeks defeated the Persians.

The Romans later defeated the Greeks.

### **The Roman Legacy**

The Etruscans (Pre-Rome): 753-509 BC

Roman Republic: 509 BC – 14 AD

Roman Empire 14 – 476 AD Architecture & Sculpture

Rise of Christianity

Death of Marcus Aurelius in 180 AD led to decline of Rome.

## **Byzantium**

Emperor Constantine established the new Roman capital on Byzantium (or Constantinople, 330 AD)

Justinian reigned as Eastern Roman Empire in Constantinople, 527-565 AD

Muhammad: 570–632 AD. The rise of the Islamic Religion

Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 AD

(The fall of the Byzantine Empire.)

## **Medieval Culture**

Middle Ages: approximately 500-1400

Sacred and Secular Music

Painting – influenced by Byzantium

Literature – Dante's Divine Comedy

Romanesque Cathedrals: 1100-1150

Gothic Cathedrals: 1150-1300

## **Early Renaissance**

Fabrizio (1385-1427) and Masaccio (1410-1428)

Duccio

Giotto

Lorenzetti

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**Contract with Humanities 30**

1. On Attendance:

This is a three-unit course. Your attendance is crucial. If you are absent three or more times, you may be dropped from the course, or receive a letter grade lower than your earned grade.

2. Textbook:

You are required to have a copy of the textbook in order to keep up with the reading assignments

3. On turning in papers:

Papers are required to be turned in on the date they are due. Please plan and prepare for papers in advance. Late papers will receive a lower grade. Any papers not turned in will result in a failing grade.

4. On tests:

It's of utmost importance to take quizzes on the day they are given. In the event that either is missed, they must be made up the following week. You are required to take your final exam when it is given on the last day of class, as this cannot be made up. Failure to show up and take the final exam will result in a 0, which will be totaled into your final grade.

4. On dropping:

If you drop the class by non-attendance, you will receive a letter grade of "F".

5. On cheating or plagiarism:

These actions will not be tolerated and will result in a letter grade of "F". Please cite your information sources and use quotation marks if taking a quote directly from a text/the textbook.

## **Contract with Humanities 30**

I have read and understood these policies

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mention:

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, and observance of religious holidays.

Special needs or circumstances:

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