

West Los Angeles College

Humanities 30 (Section 8213)

The Beginnings of Civilization

2/04/13 - 6/03/13

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For questions about Humanities 30, students should send a "Private Message" within the Etudes class site for the duration of this class.

OVERVIEW:

This survey class covers the cultural heritage of Western civilization, from the beginnings of early communication through Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, to the Middle Ages with the roots of Christianity, and on to the early Renaissance. The class presents a history of culture with emphasis on artistic, literary, philosophical, technological, musical and religious traditions.

History has been compared to an onion, with the 21st Century as the outer layer and each century of history resting on the next layer. The layers are peeled away until you get to the very last piece: the beginning of civilization. When it comes to the humanities, the spider web is an apt analogy. The start of cultural history is at the center, with the ever-crossing threads of the web expanding outward. A large part of humanistic history involves intermingling and overlapping. As decades and centuries pass, the more this "weaving" occurs and, for good and bad, the more the parallels come into view. ••One of the more exciting aspects of studying the humanities is observing how the events and the thinkers from thousands of years ago informs what we do

and how we think today.□□□

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

The Humanistic Tradition, Volume I: Prehistory to the Early Modern World, Sixth Edition

Fiero, Gloria K.

McGraw Hill•0-07-734627-0

□□

COURSE FORMAT:□□

This section of Humanities 30 takes place online, using the ETUDES course management system: [www.myetudes.org](http://www.myetudes.org).□□

This course is divided into Modules - start there for instructions on how to proceed through the class.□□□

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME:

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.

GOALS OF THE CLASS:□□

To help students develop a new and expanded appreciation of the cultural history of Western Civilization.□□

To show that much of what happens today is connected to the periods that we are studying.□□

To facilitate a participant's writing, analyzing, speaking and research skills.□□

To introduce students to a variety of artistic, literary, technological, religious and political achievements.□□

To demonstrate that cultural history and political history are, often, not two separate entities.

WLAC INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

**Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.

**Communication:** Effectively communicate thought in a clear, well-organized manner to persuade, inform, and convey ideas in academic, work, family and community settings.

**Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify, analyze, and solve problems that are quantitative in nature.

**Self-awareness/Interpersonal Skills:** Apply self-assessment and reflection strategies to interpersonal, work, community, career, and educational pathways.

**Civic Responsibility:** Apply the principles of civility to situations in the contexts of work, family, community and the global world.

**Technical Competence:** Utilize the appropriate technology effectively for informational, academic, personal, and professional needs. Use competent technique in a musical performance

**Cultural Diversity:** Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.

**Ethics:** Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES:□□

A.) Class Discussions□

- B.) Short answer assignments
- C.) Longer answer essays
- D.) Multiple choice tests

GRADING SCALE:

- 1,000 or more points A
- 900 - 999 points B
- 800 - 899 points C
- 700 - 799 points D
- 699 or fewer points F

(See Components of the Class for more detailed information)

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

If, by February 8, you don't log into the Etudes site for Humanities 30 and send a Private Message (within the Etudes site) to Lloyd Noonan indicating that you have read the syllabus and are still interested in the site, you will be dropped from the class.

If you do not participate by completing at least one of the Period One assignments by February 19, you will be dropped from the class.

If you do not participate in two consecutive discussion periods, you will be dropped from the class unless you send me a Private Message within Etudes.

While the class is designed so that everyone - if circumstances present themselves - can skip some assignments and still do very well, if you skip more than four consecutive assignments, you will be dropped from the class, unless you send me a Private Message within Etudes.

If you do not skip assignments, it is possible to finish the class prior to the end-of-class on June 3, as there are many opportunities to work ahead. □□□

STATEMENT OF STUDENT CONDUCT:□□

It is expected that students will participate in class discussions periods in a courteous and thoughtful manner.

It is a student's responsibility to be aware of assignment and discussion deadlines.

Computer problems, power failures and internet connection difficulties are not an excuse for missed assignments. Students should make certain they have back-up for these areas.□□

A lack of access to the textbook is not an excuse for missed assignments.□□

Deadlines are not extended for assignments. Instead, the class offers significant additional points and extra credit opportunities that are available to every student. Again, if students don't miss assignments and are able to work ahead, students may be able to complete the class before the eight weeks. (See Attendance Requirement.)

CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM IS NOT TOLERATED. Examples of cheating or plagiarism include representing the words, ideas or work of another as one's own in any academic exercise (plagiarism), including the use of commercial term paper companies.□□

Plagiarized assignments - including plagiarized discussions - will be given a score of zero.

Please communicate with the instructor through the Private Message function within Etudes rather than the instructor's El Camino College email address.

#### KNOWING WHAT IS DUE WHEN/ NAVIGATING THROUGH THE CLASS:

After the syllabus, the Modules are an excellent way to start exploring our Humanities One class. They contain valuable information and links to assist you with the class.

In addition, the new Course Map feature is another excellent way to view what needs to be accomplished.

At least once a week, you will get an email Announcement - reminding you what upcoming assignments are due and when they are due. These Announcements can also be found within Etudes class.

Our Etudes homepage also lists upcoming assignments and deadlines.

#### SEMESTER SCHEDULE OF TOPICS: □□

Period One: Civilization/Egypt (2/04/13 - 2/19/13) □

Period Two: Mesopotamia (2/18/13 - 3/04/13) □

Period Three: Greece (3/04/13 to 3/18/13) □

Period Four: Rome (3/18/13 - 4/08/13) □

Period Five: Roots of Christianity/The Early Middle Ages (4/08/13 - 4/22/13) □

Period Six: The High Middle Ages (4/22/13 - 5/06/13) □

Period Seven: Roots of the Renaissance (5/06/13 - 5/20/13) □

Period Eight: Connecting the Dots (5/20/13 - 6/03/13)

COMPONENTS OF CLASS:□□□

### Class Discussions□□

The class is divided into eight discussion sections -- each period runs approximately two weeks. Students are expected to participate in class discussions in every period of the semester class.□□

There are a minimum of twelve discussion topics for each discussion period. For each period, students should participate and engage in LEAST FIVE DISCUSSIONS and do so in TWO DIFFERENT WAYS.□□

For each of the five discussions in which a student participates, there should be TWO SEPARATE POSTINGS: an original posting and, within those same five discussions, a separate response posting, commenting on the ideas/views of another student. Response should be thoughtful and add to the discussions and must go beyond "I agree with Mary" or "Bob is wrong." □□

THAT'S TEN SEPARATE POSTING PER PERIOD.

If you are the only person responding to a particular discussion, that student will get the full ten points for that discussion.●● UP TO 50 POINTS PER DISCUSSION PERIOD FOR A TOTAL OF UP TO 450 POINTS FOR THE EIGHT DISCUSSION SECTIONS.

### Reaction Essays

●Students are asked to write two reactions essays during the course of the class.□□

Reaction essays are just that: a student's expanded reaction to a discussion session, textbooks reading, module/section links or multimedia presentations.□□

There is no research component required for this paper. (Although, if you choose, there can be.) It is not a formal piece. Still, it should be thoughtful and well-planned.□□

That reaction can take many forms. These can include:□□

1.) Taking a particular position on a class discuss where there was a divergence of opinion.□□

2.) Discussing how a particular point made you think of something in a new way or reminded you of a contemporary issue or literary work.□□

3.) Write about the way an issue connected you to some other aspect of your life.□□□

In these essays - a minimum of 250, maximum of 400 words - a student states his/her opinion, backs up that opinion and concludes the essay. (If a student selects to expand on a discussion posting, the word count should be in addition to the original discussion posting.)□□

These two essays, opening the first day, can be submitted at any time prior to the deadline. Reaction Essay #1 is due no later than April 22. Reaction Essay #2 is due no later than May 20.□□

STUDENTS CAN EARN UP TO 50 POINTS PER REACTION ESSAY FOR A TOTAL OF UP TO 100 POINTS.

### Ten Humanities Questions□□

Over the semester, you will be asked to answer 10 specific short answer questions - one or two questions per section in the first seven sections -- often based on your assessment of readings, sections within modules and multimedia presentations.□□

THESE TEN QUESTIONS ARE WORTH UP TO 20 POINTS EACH FOR A TOTAL OF UP TO 200 POINTS. □□

These Ten Humanities Questions are available from the first day of class.

### Multiple Choice Tests□□

There will be eight multiple choice tests during the

semester. Multiple-choice tests are due each period. The questions will be drawn from the required textbook and information found within the modules and links within the modules.□□

EACH OF THE REGULAR MULTIPLE-CHOICE TESTS CONTAINS 25 QUESTIONS. THERE WILL BE 200 MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS IN ALL FOR A TOTAL OF UP TO 200 POINTS.

Midpoint and Endpoint Essay Assignments••There are four essays: Two due at the midpoint of the class (April 8) and two due during the last week of class (June 3).□□

The essay questions due at the midpoint are available on the first day of class. The endpoint essay questions due during the last week of class are available April 9.□□

For the essays, students can draw from the text, sections within modules, links and multimedia presentations within sections and a student's own research component.□□

Students will have a variety of questions to select from for the essays.□□

STUDENTS CAN RECEIVE UP TO 75 POINTS PER ESSAY FOR A POSSIBLE MAXIMUM 300 POINTS FOR THE FOUR ESSAYS.□□

Each 75 point essay is based on the following scale:□□

Writing at least 5-7 clear paragraphs -- up to 25 points□□

Accuracy -- up to 15 points□□

Specifics/Giving Examples -- up to 15 points□□

Your own analysis - up to 15 points□□

Turning in the essay - 5 points

As these essays have a high point value, students should start work on Midpoint Essays soon after the class begins and start work on the Endpoint Essays soon after April 9.

### Three Degrees of Humanities 30

On April 9, students will be presented with at least thirty individuals, works or achievements that have been/will be examined during the class. Students will be asked to select five from those thirty. For each of those five, students are asked to write a few sentences, connecting that individual, work or achievement to two others individual, work or achievement.

Specific directions and examples will be available in a section within the modules on April 9.

THESE ASSIGNMENTS ARE WORTH UP TO 30 POINTS PER ASSIGNMENT FOR A POSSIBLE TOTAL 150 POINTS.

### Introduce Yourself to the Class

If you introduce yourself to the class by February 19 - it's under introductions in the Discussion area - you will be awarded 50 points.

### Extra Credit

On April 22, an extra credit, one hundred point multiple choice test consisting of one hundred questions worth one point per question will open.

In addition, on April 22 four extra credit short answer questions will open. They will be worth up to twenty points each.