

**SYLLABUS FOR HUMANITIES-31 (Online)**  
**CIVILIZATION FROM 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TO THE PRESENT**

**West Los Angeles College, Fall 2013**

Section 8087 and 7720: from 9/30/2013 to 12/15/2013 (10 weeks)

**Instructor:** Dr. Ali Parsa

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

**Contacting me:** PLEASE: ONLY contact me through the website's "private messages," to prevent confusion. DO NOT email. I will not answer.

**Course Description, Goals, and Objectives:**

This course is a survey of the cultural aspects of Western civilization, within its historical context, from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present. 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.

**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. **Ethics:** Practice and demonstrate standards of personal and professional integrity, honesty and fairness; apply ethical principles in submission of all college work
- E. **Interdisciplinary Awareness:** Cultivate relationship to other disciplines
- F. **Creativity:** Develop individual creative process and practice creative routine
- G. **Self-Awareness and Growth:** Learn self-assessment for personal fulfillment and growth

**Required Text:**

Gloria Fiero, *The Humanistic Tradition: Volume II*, (of the 2 volume series--not the 6 volume series, ISBN: 978-0-07-734623-2)

McGraw-Hill 2011 (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)

**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 the exams (15 x 10 weeks)..... 150 points**

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

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR THE COURSE..... 180 points**

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 50 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. Participation points are given at the end of the semester based on your overall performance. There is No make-up exam since you have 3 ½ days to choose your convenient time. 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.

## ***Lecture Outline & Reading Assignments***

### Week-One

- **Sep. 30** Introduction/ Review of the Past/ Crises of Late Middle Ages/  
Art and Music of the Late Middle Ages/

Italian Renaissance/ Northern Renaissance/ Art and Music of Renaissance/

Read: Only readings are from the website "Modules"

**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

### Week-Two

- **Oct. 7** Protestant Reformation/ Calvinism/ English Reformation/ Anabaptists/  
Read: From Web "Modules." Also, Chapter 19: pp. 1-19

Catholic Reformation/ Mannerism/ Baroque Style/

Read: From Web "Modules." Also, Chapter 20: pp. 37-40; pp. 42-59

**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

### Week-Three

- **Oct. 17** Baroque Architecture/ Aristocratic Style in France/  
Read: From Web "Modules." Also, Chapter 21: pp. 60-70

Baroque in Protestant North/ Arts and Music/

Read: From Web "Modules." Also, Chapter 22: pp. 97-99; pp.106-111

**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

#### Week-Four

- **Oct. 21** Scientific Revolution/ New World View/ Philosophy during Scientific/ Revolution/ Impact of the Scientific Revolution on Art  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 23: pp. 112-131

Social Contract Theory/ John Locke and Thomas Hobbes/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 24: pp. 134-138  
**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

#### Week-Five

- **Oct. 28** 18<sup>th</sup> Century European Enlightenment/ *Philosophes* and Their Views/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 24: pp. 138-142

18<sup>th</sup> Century Art, Music, and Society/ Rococo Style and Neo-classicism/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 26: pp. 175-205  
**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

#### Week-Six

- **Nov. 4** Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century French Revolution/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 25: pp. 171-174

Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Napoleon/ Romanticism/ Hegel/ Art and Music/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 28: pp. 237-239  
Chapter 27: pp. 210-211; Chapter 29: pp. 258-265; pp. 267-272  
**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

#### Week-Seven

- **Nov. 11** Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century Industrial Revolution/ Leadership of Britain/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 25: p. 153

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century Industrial Society’s Problems and Responses/  
Utopian Socialism/ Marxism/ Nationalism/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 30: pp. 283-288  
**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

#### Week of Nov. 19: **Thanksgiving Break (No Work!)**

#### Week-Eight

- **Nov. 18** Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century 2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Revolution/ New Optimism & Confidence/  
Colonialism and Imperialism/ New Faith in Science/ August Comte’s Positivism/  
Darwin and Social Darwinism/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 27: pp. 211-212

Realism/ Dickens and Tolstoy/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 31: pp. 289-295  
**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

Week-Nine

- **Dec. 2** Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century/ Age of Anxiety/ New Physics/  
Relativity and Quantum Physics: Impact on Social Science/ Freud/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 32: pp. 354-55; Chapter 33: pp. 381-84  
  
Existential Philosophy/ Nietzsche and Kierkegaard/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 31: pp. 320-321;  
Chapter 35: p. 429  
**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday**

Week-Ten

- **Dec. 9** Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century/ Age of Anxiety/ New Physics/  
Relativity and Quantum Physics: Impact on Art/ Modern Art/  
Impact on Modern Art/ Impressionism/ Cubism/ Abstract Painting/  
Read: From Web “Modules.” Also, Chapter 31: pp. 324-328 & 342-348  
Chapter 32: pp. 358-360; pp. 368-372  
**50-minutes quiz can be taken from Thursday to Sunday (No Final!)**