

Syllabus Humanistic Traditions I Section 0W67

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Course Information

- Course Name: Humanistic Tradition I
- Course ID & Section: HUM 2210-0W65
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2017
- Location: Online

Course Description

Bienvenue!

“That’s one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind”; said Neil Armstrong after stepping on to the moon from the Eagle on July 20, 1969. (Barbree, Jay; Neil Armstrong: A Life of Flight, 1st Ed., St. Martin’s Press, New York, 2014. p 263) Right from its humble beginnings, humanity attempted several small steps, which resulted in giant leaps over time. Keeping a comprehensive track of all these steps and leaps, both physical and beyond, demands studies, which shall be more than recorded history. There lies the scope of the academic discipline HUMANITIES!

This is a *three-credit hour* interdisciplinary course on arts and sciences stemming from diverse cultural and historical contexts. Humanities also attempt to cognize contributions from various human traditions to the world civilization. It begins from prehistoric and ancient civilizations, moves on to Medieval Europe and the Renaissance, and reaches the World Beyond. Art, literature, music, philosophy, religion and architecture are the main avenues here to focus on. The student is advised to always refer back to primary sources (translated from original languages mostly) if at hand, for instance, like ‘African Creation Myths’ or the ‘Code of Hammurabi’.

HUMANISTIC TRADITION I is opening doors for interested students into the wonderful concourse of humanities. Humanities as academic discipline intend to know more on the past human predicaments by employing analytical, critical, and/or speculative tools. These tools come handy, when the student of humanities has little to no empirical data available at hand; unlike it is the case with natural sciences. Hence, humanities prefer qualitative approach to a quantitative one.

As academic discipline, Humanities attempt to figure out the present human predicaments by better understanding the past ones employing the tool of critical thinking and analysis. Therefore, it draws from geology, paleontology, anthropology, archeology, ethnography, history, cultural studies, mythology, religion, art, architecture, philosophy, literature, painting, music, and, dance etc. to name a few. In short, Humanities attempt to systematically analyze the small steps the human race has made over time and thereby comprehensively understand the giant leaps it has made over the ages. This in turn helps Humanities to effectively predict the trajectory the future human generations are about to take. Study of Humanities helps one to discover and rediscover meaning and purpose of one's own life through broadening of knowledge horizons of the world one lives in. On the other hand, one can learn to be non-judgmental about the world around by appreciating its beauty and goodness. Knowledge in humanities will, of course, make very good humans.

Course Objectives

1. To cultivate a commendable idea on distinguishable periods of human development from prehistoric times to Renaissance in a socio-historic, religious, and cultural setting
2. To appreciate various art forms, architecture, literature, religious as well as philosophic texts through nurture of critical thinking
3. To develop a critical understanding on the effects of art forms, architecture, literature, religious as well as philosophic texts on the 21st Century human in the Western/American context and thrive thereby towards a habitable world devoid of human generated danger

Required Text

Fiero, Gloria K.; The Humanistic Tradition 7th Ed. Volume I; McGraw-Hill;

ISBN: 97811259360664 (Sixth Edition is also acceptable.)

This book is available at the UCF Book Store. Students must have a copy of the textbook. Further readings from all sources are welcome!

Grade Calculation and Student Accountability

| Activities | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Twelve Quizzes | 60% |
| Four Write-ups (250 words minimum) | 30% |
| Class Participation, Discussions | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

Dates for Quizzes, details on essay submission and deadlines etc. are given on Webcourses. *All quizzes are due on Thursdays, except for March 13th and April 20th.* All discussions and write-ups are due on Mondays. You need to respond to the opinion of your peers in discussions within 48 hours of the due date for your post. I will make detailed announcements on these at appropriate times.

Class participation includes timely submission of assignments as well as wholeheartedly taking part in discussions as well as discussions based on readings or videos posted on Webcourses.

There is no attendance exception for quizzes and examinations (including finals) and one has to show up online right on specified time.

HUM I is a ‘Gordon Rule’ course. Therefore, one has to write four essays. Essays shall be neatly typed in the MLA format. You may use either Times New Roman or Bookman. Name of the student with NID shall be on all pages in the header. Page numbers shall be in the footer. Student shall upload the essays to Webcourses before deadline. All essays will pass through ‘Turnitin’ before evaluation. Any essay with a ‘Turnitin’ score of 15% or more will not be evaluated. Essay prompts give detailed notes on what all one has to fulfill for an ‘A Grade’ essay. Before submission, one shall check, whether one has everything in place. Please make it sure that you upload essays either in *Microsoft Word* or in *PDF format only*. Rubrics for evaluation are also given below the prompts.

Grades are awarded for punctual online submission of required materials before deadlines. Prompts and deadlines for essays are available in Webcourses.

Quizzes: All quizzes are online. Dates are given in Webcourses. Details of the written final exam are given with the lesson plan is to be found on Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus in Webcourses. One shall know that there is no retake or adjustment of date for the final exam. (A previously booked air-ticket or anything similar, for instance, is not a valid reason to change the final exam.)

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Essay submissions after deadline will attract 50% penalty and generally, no submission will be possible after seven days from the deadline. A re-written essay cannot have more than 80% of its weightage.

There is no attendance exception for quizzes and examinations (including finals) and one has to show up online right on specified time.

Extra Credit will be a maximum of 2 points for qualifying students to beef one grade up (Eg. If you have 87.5 points after finals and with 2 more points you can reach 89.5, the lower limit of A Grade). Towards the end of the semester, needy and again, qualifying students can contact me for details on extra credit. You will qualify for the extra credit, only if your attendance is more than 80%.

Evaluation and Grading

| <i>Letter Grade</i> | <i>Percentage Brackets</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Grade A</i> | <i>100-89.5%</i> |
| <i>Grade B</i> | <i>89.4-79.5%</i> |
| <i>Grade C</i> | <i>79.4-69.5%</i> |

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Grade D | 69.4-59.5% |
| Grade F | 59.4% or below |

Attendance Policy

In an online course, there is no attendance taken like in f2f mode. Therefore, your timely submission of assignments, write ups, quizzes, and discussion posts will be counted in lieu of attendance. A broken computer or failed browser are equivalent to old lame excuses like my breakfast tea is spilled over my homework. Therefore, I encourage you to post your works two days before the deadline to be on the safest side.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could

be required assignments, you *need not* make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.