Humanistic Tradition I
HUM2210-001
Class Room Building One (CL1), Room 122
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:30-10:20 AM
SPRING 2012
3.0 Credits

INSTRUCTOR
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I. OVERVIEW
You are embarking on an examination of the contributions of various peoples and
cultures to the global culture. This course focuses on the time from the first known
civilizations to the Renaissance. We examine the art, politics, religion, geography, and
historical considerations that have shaped our world in order to better understand our
place in that world. We will make frequent use of primary texts (in translation), may
watch some films, and you will engage in brief but frequent writing on these topics.

II. COURSE GOALS
As a student you should be able to do three main things in this course: understand, apply,
and evaluate the material as presented. Your first task includes being able to recall key
terms, figures, and works encountered as well as being able to explain the works in your
own words. Competence at understanding will allow you to apply your knowledge to new
works and figures we encounter. You should be able to distinguish between facts and
inferences and to understand what is an essential part of a work and what is part of the
context in which the work was produced. Finally, you should be able to mentally
restructure the material so as to make its meaning clearer and to evaluate the material in
light of the new structure.

III. COURSE POLICIES
Just as this syllabus is a promise from me to you concerning how I will grade and what
material we will cover, when you agree to take this course, you agree to conduct yourself
in a certain way. Some of these policies are administrative. They can be summarized
neatly: follow university regulations. Some of these policies deal with behavior. They can
be summarized neatly: be respectful. But just as not everyone knows how to apply the
university regulations to all specific cases, it is not always clear what it means to be
respectful. Thus, the following exposition is fairly lengthy.

1. The Gordon Rule
This course partially satisfies UCF’s General Education requirement in accordance with
State Rule 6A-10.30 (Gordon Rule). Students must earn at least a C- in this course in
order to have it count toward their Gordon Rule requirement. Since it is a writing course,
students must earn a C- average (cumulative) on all writing assignments for the course.
2. Classroom Comportment
Attend all classes. Arrive on time. If you arrive late, enter the classroom unobtrusively [I will tell a relevant story about a famous philosopher if you ask me]. Read all assignments before class lectures. Read them again after class lectures. Listen attentively. Take notes. Treat everyone in the classroom with respect. Feel free to ask questions and engage with other students in class. I want to hear what you have to say, so long as it reflects an effort to do so from an informed standpoint. Turn off your cell phone, pager, and other electronic devices before class begins. Texting, music players, computers, and other distracting devices are not permitted in the classroom unless you receive permission from me. Do not talk to others when someone else is speaking. Habitually disruptive students will be told to leave class. If you have been dismissed from class, no missed work can be made up for credit.

3. Email Communication
I will communicate with the class through email. You therefore have a responsibility to check your UCF email account regularly. It will not count as an excuse for missing an announcement that you did not check your email.

4. Academic Honor Code
Students are expected to abide by the relevant portions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities, as outlined on the UCF website and in the student handbook. Always expect the harshest penalties available. That way you will never be disappointed when you receive them. See the following: http://integrity.sdes.ucf.edu/students.php

5. Plagiarism Policy
If I discover that you have plagiarized any work for this course, in whole or in part, I will fail you for that assignment. You should expect to fail the course as well. You will never be required to do outside research for this course. I recommend that you do not, as any outside material generates concerns about plagiarism. If you plagiarize, then even if the syllabus says that you may drop a grade, you cannot drop the plagiarized grade. It follows you, as it is indicative of the sort of work you think (or at least thought) was acceptable.
   a. Don't pass off anyone else's material as your own.
   b. Don't look for outside sources.
   c. Don't work with other people on any writing assignment.
In order to familiarize yourself with these policies, visit the following site:
http://library.ucf.edu/Rosen/plagiarism.php

6. Americans with Disabilities Act
Students requiring academic accommodations for disabilities should: (1) register with and provide documentation to Student Disability Services, (2) bring a letter to me indicating the need for, and manner of, accommodation. This should be done during the first week of class.
For more information about services available to UCF students with disabilities, contact the UCF Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Building, 7F, Room 185 or see http://sds.sdes.ucf.edu/ (This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.)

7. Syllabus Revision Policy
This syllabus is only a guide and is subject to change with advance notice.

IV. GRADING
While many people will earn satisfactory grades, it is difficult to earn an A in this course. This is so because excellence is a habit and not a once-and-done achievement. Consistently excellent work is required for an A. It is, however, very easy to ensure that you receive a passing grade in this course. In fact, if you give your best effort, you will find it very difficult to fail. Giving one's best effort includes showing up to every class on time, paying attention during class, asking questions when you have one, volunteering to answer questions when you know the answer, taking notes, completing every portion of all assignments, and not violating the classroom and university policies.

Late Work: Scores on late work decline by one letter grade per day. Late work refers to both date and time of the assignment. If you do not show up to a class or are late for a class, your work is late.

Word Guidelines: Two worthwhile life skills are to be able to follow directions and to say what you mean clearly, in few words. Where word ranges are provided, you should meet the guidelines. Failure to do so will result in grade penalties. On your Reading Responses, your paper must be between 450 and 550 words. Papers falling outside that range will incur a penalty. Every fifty words (so, from 400-449 or from 551 to 600) will lower your score by five percentage points. Falsifying a word count will lower your grade by a full ten percentage points.

Extra Credit: There may be an extra credit assignment available. Successful completion of the assignment would add up to one point to your final grade.

1. Quizzes (10% of final grade)
There will be a number of quizzes given at some point during the lecture period. If you leave early or arrive late, you may miss a quiz. Missed quizzes cannot be taken late, but if you have a university approved excuse, you will be able to do an alternative assignment in order to take the place of that missing quiz grade. Quizzes are brief and cover the reading that is due on that class day. I will count your ten best quiz grades.

3. Three Exams (60% of final grade, total)
There will be three exams for this course. The first two will consist entirely of multiple choice questions. These exams will be held during your regularly scheduled class time. Your final exam will be held at the appointed time. It will include both multiple choice questions and two lengthy essays (one to two pages). Study guides and review sessions will be available prior to the exams. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade.
4. Reading Response Papers (30% of final grade)
A Reading Response (RR) is a measure of your ability to accomplish the three main course goals and to present your findings in writing. In an RR you will choose one work from the relevant reading. A work includes a snippet of text (Primary Readings), a statue, a painting, a speech, a building, a song, in short, anything that appears in the text as a creation. You will then do three things.

First, you will identify the work. Tell me what it is, who made it, when it was made, where it can be found in your text, and tell me what it means.
Second, come up with an interesting context piece, a work from contemporary culture (1980s to present). Tell me about your context piece and why it is an interesting context.
Third, reinterpret your original piece in light of your context piece (examples will be posted online).

a. Format your paper appropriately. That means: 12-point legible font (Times New Roman and Arial are excellent), double-spaced (except for your heading, which is single-spaced and includes your name, the assignment title (e.g., Assignment 1), the course number and title, and an accurate word count.
b. Do not plagiarize.
c. Do not use any outside sources to evaluate the work from the book. You will have to use an outside source to find your contemporary work. Do not use an outside source to develop the meaning of the contemporary work. That should be your original work.
d. Do your own work.
e. Observe the word count guidelines: 500 words.

There will be a total of four opportunities to write an RR during the course of the semester. Your three highest grades will count for a total of 30% of your course grade.

5. Your Grade
Your grade will be determined according to university regulations (no rounding up):

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V. COURSE MATERIALS

VI: COURSE MATERIALS COVERED

*Part I: The First Civilization and the Classical Legacy*
January 9 Introduction, Interpretation (1-15—skim this material)

The First Civilizations
January 11th Mesopotamia: Polytheists, 16-29
PR: 1.1
January 13th Mesopotamia: Hebrews, 29-38
January 16th Mesopotamia: Empires of the Iron Age, 39-43
January 18th Africa: Egyptians, 44-60
January 20th Africa: Egyptians, no new reading
January 23rd India and China, 63-71
January 25th Greece: Heroic Age, 76-84
PR: 4.1
January 27th Greece: Golden Age, 85-89
PR: 4.2
January 30th Greece: Individual and Community, 90-99
PR: 4.3

The Classical Period
February 1st The Speculative Leap: Plato, 100-108
PR: 4.5, 4.6
February 3rd The Speculative Leap: Aristotle, 108-112
PR: 4.7
February 6th The Classical Style: Art, 113-127
February 8th The Classical Style: Poetry, 127-136
PR: 5.2, 5.3
February 10th Rome: 137-143
PR: 6.1
February 13th Rome: Literature, 143-152
PR: 6.3, 6.5, 6.7 (Carpe Diem!), 6.8b
February 15th Roman Art, 153-165
February 17th China: 166-173
PR: 7.1

FIRST EXAM: FEBRUARY 20TH

Part II: Medieval Europe and the World Beyond
February 22nd Christianity and Buddhism: Christianity, 183-192
PR: 8.1, 8.3
February 24th Christianity and Buddhism; Buddhism, 192-197
PR: 8.4a, 8.4b
February 27th Symbolism and the Arts, 198-208
PR: 9.1, 9.3, 9.4
February 29th Symbolism and the Arts, 208-216
March 2nd Symbolism and the Arts: Buddhism, 216-225
March 5th Spring Break
March 7th Spring Break
March 9th Spring Break
March 12th The Islamic World, 226-235
PR: 10.1 (Chapter 76)
March 14th The Islamic World, 235-248
March 16th  PR: 10.2 (Romance of Antar)
          Patterns of Medieval Life, 249-258
          PR: 11.1

March 19th  PR: 11.1
          Patterns of Medieval Life: Early Medieval Culture and more, 258-265
          PR: 11.2

March 21st  PR: 11.3
          Patterns of Medieval Life: Continued, 266-275

March 23rd  PR: 12.2
          Christianity and the Medieval Mind, 276-292

March 26th  PR: 12.6
          Christianity and the Medieval Mind, 292-298

SECOND EXAM: MARCH 28TH

March 30th  Medieval Art, 299-317

April 2nd   Medieval Art, 318-325

April 4th   India, 326-332
          PR: 14.2

April 6th   China and Japan, 333-354

Part III: The European Renaissance, the Reformation, and Global Encounter

April 9th   Fourteenth-Century Transition, 357-369
          PR: 15.1, 15.4

April 11th  Fourteenth-Century Transition, 369-375

April 13th  Classical Humanism, 376-389
          PR: 16.2, 16.3, 16.5

April 16th  Classical Humanism, 390-397
          PR: 16.6, 16.7

April 18th  Renaissance Artists, 398-415

April 20th  Renaissance Artists, 416-435

April 23rd  Review Day

FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH AT 7:00 AM.