

# Syllabus: Encountering the Humanities



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## Course Information

- Course Name: HUM2020
- Course ID & Section: HUM2020 - OW67
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2019
- 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Encountering Humanities is opening doors for interested students into the wonderful concourse of humanities. HUMANITIES as academic discipline intends 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. In other words, please bear in mind: There will be a lot of unanswered questions with a lot of room for interpretation. The academic discipline HUMANITIES helps one choose the right interpretation to the unanswered riddles the humans have lived out in the past.

As academic discipline, HUMANITIES attempt to figure out the present human predicaments by better understanding the past ones by 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 the 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century human in the Western/American context and thrive thereby towards a habitable world devoid of human generated danger

## Required Text

Jostein Garrder: Sophie's World - A Novel About the History of Philosophy; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, NY.

ISBN-13: 978-0-374-53071-6 (Paperback Edition and Translated by Paulette Moeller)

This book is available on Amazon and eBay. Students *must have a copy of the textbook*. If you have Amazon Audible subscription, this book is available as an Audio-book and can be listened

to. However, for citation purposes you need a paper copy. Therefore, Audible copy is only an added convenience for this course. Further readings from all sources are welcome!

## Grade Calculation and Student Accountability

Activities	Percentage
Twelve Write-ups (500 words minimum)	60%
Class Participation, Discussions, Syllabus Quiz, Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

Dates for Write-Up submission and deadlines etc. are given on Webcourses. All discussions and write-ups are due on Thursdays. 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 based on readings or videos posted on Webcourses.

There is no attendance exception (including finals) and one has to show up online right on specified time. HUM 2020 requires you to write 12 Write-Ups. Write-Ups 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. Write-Ups 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 Write-Ups either in Microsoft Word or in PDF format only. Rubrics for evaluation are also given below the prompts. Please make sure that at least 4 bibliographical entries are from the UCF Library Resources. You may use the online tool or go and search for your sources in the physical UCF library.

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

## Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

You can submit a written Write-Ups any time *until 23:59 PM, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019*. However, there will be a deadline for each essay, *which is not April 15<sup>th</sup>*. Exceptions are allowed with doctor's note or with proof for family emergencies or letter from a faculty confirming your attendance on a University sponsored event for a full grade. All late submissions attract 50% of what you score in the late submitted assignment without proper documentation. Said otherwise, late submission of Write-Ups without proper documentation of excuse (submission after deadline) will attract

50% penalty. A re-written essay cannot have more than 80% of its weightage. *There is no attendance exception for 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). Details on extra credit are posted right on the first day of the course. You will not qualify for the extra credit, if you have more than 5 missing deadlines in any manner.

## Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Percentage Brackets
Grade A	100-89.5%
Grade B	89.4-79.5%
Grade C	79.4-69.5%
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 essays, 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 got 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 our 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. Student Disability Accommodation does not mean that grades or deadlines or rules may be accommodated or compromised. I request you to please do not email to me saying that you are an A Student or a disabled student and therefore, you need change or rules or deadlines.

## 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 contacted 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.