

West Hills College
Humanities 1—Introduction to Western Culture

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Office Hours: by appointment (usually restricted to Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays, before class)

Spring, 2009
T/TH 4:00-7:00 pm

Syllabus

Required Text/Resources:

Adventures in the Human Spirit 5th edition by Philip E. Bishop
BlackBoard site at www.westhillscollge.com

Recommended Texts:

The Writer's Reference by Diana Hacker 5th or 6th edition.
A Manual for Writers by Kate Turabian-recommended for Social Science and Journalism majors.

Course Description:

Humanities 1 is a survey course dealing with the development of religion, art, literature, drama, music, architecture, philosophy, and “cultural achievements” of the western tradition, with special emphasis upon their historical context (AA, CSU, UC)

Recommended Preparation:

Successful completion of English 1A or the equivalent

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

- A. Argue a point of view, position, or perspective regarding an issue in the Humanities, about which reasonable, informed people disagree.
- B. Articulate the relationship between Humanities and life.
- C. Integrate the artistic, philosophical, religious, literary, and historical elements of the period studied.
- D. Show sensitivity to different perspectives and cultures
- E. Interpret the meaning of a work of the arts, religion literature or philosophy.
- F. Participate in a cultural experience related to the course: an exhibition, a museum, a performance, etc
- G. Trace the development of a style across a cultural era or eras

Make ups and late work: Make up exams will be allowed upon arrangement ONLY in the case of a legitimate emergency and within one week of your return to class.

Late research papers will NOT be accepted for any reason.

Attendance: Attendance is required to successfully complete any college course. Therefore, you need to attend each class meeting and stay for the entire period. Students with excessive absences (more than two weeks) may be dropped from the class unless he or she has consulted with me first.

Academic Honesty: Students should be aware that it is against West Hills Community College Academic Honesty policy to give or receive answers from another student on a quiz or a test, unless it is specified by the instructor that it is allowed. It is also against West Hills Community College Academic Honesty policy to plagiarize the work of a professional or scholarly author or the work of another student. Plagiarism is copying word for word or paraphrasing information without giving proper recognition to the originator of the idea or information. This includes, but may not be limited to, all internet sources, books, periodicals, research papers, theses and dissertations, published or unpublished. Please be aware that plagiarism and cheating are very serious issues, and can result in the receipt of an F for the class and even dismissal from the college.

Emergencies: Regarding fog, storm deliveries, and other unexpected events, communication with the instructor is critical. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances that may keep you from class, please let me know so that I may assist you in completing the course if that is your intention.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and are working through the DSPS office, please inform me so that I may be able to accommodate your special needs.

Student Athletes and club participants If you are a student athlete or student organization participant and you will be away at a game or campus function on the due date for a research paper, you must submit the paper early to receive credit. If you will be away for an exam, the exam must be made up either before the exam is given to the class, or within one week of your return to class.

Course Assignments and Grading:

- 1) **Mid-Term Examinations:** There will be two mid-term exams consisting of two parts. The first section is a take-home essay. You will be given the prompts for that portion of the exam on a Thursday evening, and the exam will be due at the beginning of the class, the following Tuesday. The exam will continue, at the beginning of the Tuesday class, with the in-class portion of the exam, which includes a section of multiple choice or fill-in questions and several identifications. During the identification portion of the exam, an image will be displayed and you will be given time to write down everything you know about that particular piece. You should at least know the name of the artist/author/creator of the work, the title, the country/region of origin, the period or movement it represents, the work's medium, why or how it was created, etc.
- 2) **Research Paper:** Each student will complete one research paper.
- 3) **Observation or Event Paper:** Each student will complete one report of an event he or she attended that relates to the material covered in this course.
- 4) **Quizzes:** There may be several unannounced quizzes covering the reading material for the course. These quizzes will be administered at the beginning of a class and will focus on the reading assigned for that class session. These can add up, quickly, and might be a very important part of your grade.
- 5) **Final:** There will be a multiple-choice final given during finals week. This exam will follow the same format as the mid-terms, except there will be no take-home essay component. The

entire exam will be given in-class, and may consist of some combination of multiple-choice, fill-in, short-answer and identification questions.

- 6) **Participation:** Each student will be required to participate in class discussions and small group activities. Class participation (and attendance) is a significant part of your grade.

Grading Scale: 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D

Exams 1, 2, & Final	300
Papers	200
Participation	<u>100</u>
Total Points	600

Reading and Exam Schedule: Please complete readings before you come to class

Week 1: March 17 & 19

Tuesday: Chapter 1: The Humanities: An Introduction to the Adventure
Thursday: Chapter 2: The Ancient World

Week 2: March 24 & 26

Tuesday: Chapter 3: Ancient Greece: The Classical Spirit
Thursday: Chapter 4: Ancient Rome: The Spirit of Empire
Exam 1 Questions Available

Week 3: March 31 & April 2

Tuesday: Chapter 5: The Spirit of Monotheism: Judaism, Christianity, Islam
Exam 1 Due
Thursday: Chapter 6: The Early Middle Ages: The Feudal Spirit

Week 4: April 7 & 9 - NO CLASS

Week 5: April 14 & 16

Tuesday: Chapter 7: The Late Middle Ages: The Gothic Awakening
Approval of Research Topic by this date
Thursday: Chapter 8: The Renaissance Spirit in Italy

Week 6: April 21 & 23

Tuesday: Chapter 9: Reformation and Late Renaissance
Thursday: Chapter 10: The Spirit of Baroque
Approval of Observation or Event by this date
Exam 2 Questions Available

Week 7: April 28 & 31

Tuesday: Chapter 11: The Spirit of Enlightenment
Exam 2 Due
Thursday: Chapter 12: Revolution and Romanticism

Week 8: May 5 & 7

Tuesday: Chapter 13: The Industrial Age: The Spirit of Materialism
Thursday: Chapter 14: The Spirit of Modernism
Research Paper Due

Week 9: May 12 & 14

Tuesday: Chapter 15: The Contemporary Spirit
Thursday: Review for Final

Finals Week: May 19

Observation/Event Paper Due

FINAL

RESEARCH PAPER: All research papers must be turned in no later than **5:00 pm on Thursday, May 7th** through “Turnitin” on the Blackboard site as a Microsoft Word Document or in Rich Text Format. Students may submit their papers multiple times to check themselves for plagiarism until the due date and time.

Choosing a topic: All students may choose the topics for their research papers based upon his or her individual interest but within the parameters set below. This will allow students to gain more in depth knowledge on a topic not covered thoroughly in our class. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of your topic, feel free to check with me.

Sources: Students must have at least four sources for their paper, including at least one primary source document A primary source is a source that was written by a contemporary, or person living during the time period. I have many primary source documents linked for you under Primary Sources on our Blackboard site. In addition, the textbook and accompanying website have some primary sources, as does the college library. Many universities and museums also have their documents and displays (yes, you may use visuals as sources) posted on the internet. The college library contains a wealth of books, including many E-Books, as well as several data bases on a variety of topics. Students may also use documentaries, such as those found on PBS or the History Channel. The college library has a variety of documentaries that can be checked out by students for 24 hours (or a weekend). When using television documentaries, keep in mind that not all information may be entirely accurate, as they are also after ratings and will sometimes use “sensationalized” history! Students should also keep in mind that discoveries are constantly being made, and so the newspaper or academic magazines can also serve as excellent sources. I expect students to use legitimate, academic sources for their research papers. Students should NOT use general encyclopedias, especially Wikipedia, but subject specific encyclopedias are OK. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Requirements: At least one Primary source article must be used as a source for the paper. Students are free to use more than one article to create the paper he/she is looking for. The Primary Source documents can be found on our class Blackboard site. **Historical significance** should be the most important part of the paper. A biography that tells about a person’s life, or a paper that gives graphic details about a battle, is still not doing the whole job if it does not discuss why the person or battle was important to the society at the time, and/or history in general.

OBSERVATION/EVENT PAPER

For this paper, you will attend an event that relates to the course topic, and exploring the experience by reflecting on and communicating the course’s effect on your personal views of the arts, philosophy and religion, and by explaining that relationship in an essay, or course journal. This means that you need to attend some sort of cultural event and write your impressions, and relate it to readings, our in-class discussions and lectures. You must have the event approved – see the course schedule for the last date to have this topic approved. You must keep your topic

focused on Western Culture – do not go to the de Young to write about Chinese Jade! Your *event* could be any of the following:

- Ballet
- the opera
- A play
- A movie of a play or piece of literature (be careful here, get approval),
- some sporting event (you will need direction as to how to approach this topic),
- A religious service (could be a wedding, funeral or other service) other than your own (protestants, may attend synagogue, mosque, or a Catholic mass, but not another protestant service)
- An art museum or gallery
- A poetry or literary “reading”
- An outside lecture on architecture or other related topics

Grade Breakdown:

50%: Paper is historically accurate, historically relevant, thoroughly written, well organized, and documented with appropriate primary and secondary sources.

30%: Sources used for the paper are legitimate, scholarly sources. Sources are cited according to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS), also known as Turabian Style. The guide to this citation style can be found in *The Writer’s Reference* by Diana Hacker, or *A Manual for Writers* by Kate Turabian, both are available in the bookstore, library, or on the Blackboard site under Papers/Exams.

20%: Paper is well-written, without spelling, grammar, punctuation or typographical errors. A clearly written thesis statement, introductory and concluding paragraphs, and well-written body are required. Font should be no larger than 12 points, with standard margins.

Paper Format

- All papers (including the take-home exams) will be word processed/typed on standard, white, 8½ x 11 inch paper
- Use 12 point Times New Roman or Garamond typefaces, only
- Double-space the body of all papers
- Use exactly one-inch margins on all sides
- Your name, the date, your instructor’s name, and the title of the class should appear (single-spaced) on the upper left or right corner of the first page
- Papers must include page numbers on every page except the first page
- You may include your last name with the page number on subsequent pages
- Citations may be in-line, or in footnote style (use Chicago or Turabian format)
- All works must include a “Works Cited” page
- Do not place your papers in any sort of folder
- Do not include a cover page
- Staple multiple pages together
- Any variation from this standard will result in a reduction of your grade.

Name
Course
Date

Centered Title

As you can see, the header block should be kept very simple and small. Always single space your identifying information, at the top (either corner). The rest of the paper should be double-spaced, with the first line of each paragraph indented. Do not insert blank lines between paragraphs. Do not include any fancy formatting. The first paragraph should include a well thought out thesis statement. In the case of the weekly papers, this paragraph should clearly state the main point contained within the reading and identify the selection (author, title, etc.).

Subsequent paragraphs should include arguments that support your initial thesis statement. Remember, paragraphs have to include more than one sentence.

There are several points you need to include in most papers. Any analysis you provide should not be just an opinion, you need to support your ideas with other sources, facts or other supporting material.

Your last paragraph should restate your thesis and summarize your proofs and arguments in a clear and well thought out fashion. It is often best to write the body of the paper first, followed by the conclusion. Once those are done, you can paraphrase the conclusion for a solid introduction, knowing what you wrote in the rest of the paper.