Humanities 100 - Introduction to Humanities
Course Syllabus
Fall Quarter 2009

“Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students. What better books can there be than the book of humanity?” Cesar Chavez

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Text: Landmarks in Humanities, 2nd Edition by Gloria K. Fiero

Course Description:
The Humanities are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study literature, theatre, film, art, music, architecture, philosophy, and religion by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

Evaluation:
Serious students want to know how they will be evaluated.

1. Participation (10%). Dialogue and interaction is a critical learning tool. Everyone has an opinion and thoughts to offer. One of the most beautiful aspects of attending PCC is the diversity of the students. You can learn a lot from each other.

2. Three Short Answer Exams (60%)

Advise to prepare for a short answer test

- **Respond directly to the question or directive**
  Focus on keywords and ideas called for
  Eliminate those that do not directly address the information requested in the test item

- **Respond and write concise answers**
  Connect key facts into short sentences according to the test instructions

- **If you can think of several answers**
  Let the instructor know. The instructor may give you a clue to the correct answer he/she's looking for

- **A guess made with common sense**
  Could get you more test points than if you leave an answer blank

3. One Research Paper (30%)
• All students are required to write a 4 to 6 page research paper on a topic of their choosing. Since the course covers such a broad range of topics, there are 1,000s of topics that are appropriate. In order to select your topic, I ask each student to think about what most interests you. Is it a particular piece of music or art? Maybe engineering feats, architectural wonders, or military campaigns or weapon development fascinate you. Or, are you someone who is interested in people and their lives in relations to the time period they lived through. You decide. You simply need to choose a topic to explore. I would like each student to clear your topic with me by the third week of the quarter
  a. Please be on time and prepared.
  b. All work should be typed and double-spaced.
  c. Please use correct grammar and spelling (this means rereading your exams before turning them into me).
  d. Remember to turn projects in on time. If you do not turn something in on time, points will be deducted.

Course Outline, Readings, and Exam and Paper Due Date!

Introductions - Week One – September 24th
The first week will be an opportunity to understand the course syllabus and ask questions about the expectations, reading assignments, tests, and research paper. The class will participate in an activity designed to explore core human values.
Read Chapter One “Origins” by next Monday

The First Civilizations - Week Two – October 1st
We will explore the beginnings of human civilizations and examine how many of the technological advances of these original civilizations impacted human culture and values.
Read Chapter Two “Classicism” by next Monday

Ancient Greece and Literature and Philosophy – Week Three – October 8th
During the third week, students will engage in activities designed to explore the Greek world through its literature and theatre. In addition, students will explore the philosophical foundations established by the Greeks. The class will participate in group activities to explore the values and cultural standards influenced by ancient Greece. Students should read Chapter Three “Empire” by next Monday (October 12th).

The Roman Empire and its Impact on Western Government and Law – Week Four – October 15th
The fourth week of class will lead us into discussions about government, law, and power. Students will explore the power of the Roman empire and its influence on our government structure. At the end of class, the class will participate in an interactive game designed to test the knowledge gained the first four weeks. Read Chapter Four “Revelation” by next Monday and study for your first exam. The best way to study is to review your notes and some of the key topics located in your textbook.

First Exam and Monotheistic Religions – Week Five – October 22nd
**During the first hour of class, students will take an exam.** The exam will have 12 questions that are characterized as “short answer”. After the test, we will begin exploring the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith. This exploration will be conducted in small groups after a brief lecture. Please be prepared to engage by completing the reading assignment (Chapter 4). Read Chapter Five “The Rise of the West” and Six “Christendom” by next week.

*The Rise of the West and Religious Conflict – Week Six – October 29**th

This week students will be presented with a lecture that characterizes the nature of Christendom in Europe and the East and its conflicts with the Islam and Judaism. We will watch the film “Constantine’s Sword” and discuss the ideas of religious tolerance and bigotry. Read Chapter 7 “Renaissance” for next week.

*The Renaissance and the Importance of Beauty – Week Seven – November 5**th

During the seventh week, we will explore the world of art and the impact of the rebirth of classicism during Europe’s Renaissance. Students will have the opportunity to explore PCC’s art collection on a walking tour. The class will also participate in an activity designed to prepare them for the second test. For next week, read chapter 8 “Reform” and study for the second test.

*Reform and The High Price of Change – Week Eight – November 12**th

**During the first hour of class, students will take an exam.** The exam will have 12 questions that are characterized as “short answer”. Students will engage in activities designed to understand how writing, technological advances, literature and music can come together to change or reform a society. Read Chapter 9 “Encounters” for next week.

*Contact: Encounters Between Different Cultures – Week Nine – November 19**th

Cultures and values collided in the 15**th century when European adventurers encountered a new world. Interactive activities will help students understand the complexities of blending different cultures and the power dynamics that helped shaped the Americas. Read Chapter’s 10, 11 and 13th on the Baroque period, Enlightenment, and Materialism. You have three chapter’s to read this week because there is NO SCHOOL on Thanksgiving.

*Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL – Week Ten – November 26**th

We will discuss the many fresh ideas developed during the Enlightenment period.

*The Enlightenment and Materialism and the Need for Stuff – Week 11 – November 30**th

We will discuss the many fresh ideas developed during the Enlightenment period. During our final class, students will discover some of the roots of our consumer society. **Research projects are due today!**

*Final Short Answer Test – Week 12 – December 7**th
EXPECTATIONS:

- Please be on time and prepared.
- All work should be typed and double-spaced.
- Please use correct grammar and spelling (this means rereading your exams before turning them into me).
- Remember to turn projects in on time. If you do not turn something in on time, points will be deducted.
- Be on time to class and turn off your cell phone.
- Communicate with me if you are experiencing difficulties.

Contact Information for Instructor
Mandy Ellertson
503-614-7261
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Office Hour: Please arrange to meet with the instructor in Building Three in room 128 – my office is located just off of the Student Center where the TV and games are located.

If you have any special needs, please contact Mandy the first week of the course.

Please do not ask for extra work to make up for missing classes the end of the quarter. You need to make arrangements in advance for missing class and in class essays.

Where to Get Help!

If you are struggling, please take advantage of the following services:

- The Writing Center – Rock Creek Writing Center opens for business next week. Hours are Mondays-Thursdays 9-6, Fridays 9-12, and Saturdays 9-1. Tutors can provide feedback and guidance on all writing projects from across the curriculum. Building 2, Room 212
- Student Learning Center and Tutoring – Bldg 2, Room 212 or call x7414
- OSD Counselors – Bldg 9, Room 109 or call x7409
- Public Safety – call x4902 for assistance
- Library – Bldg 9 upstairs
- Student Services – Career and Academic Counseling – Go to Building nine
- Women’s Resource Center – This office offers help locating a variety of services. The WRC also houses the Rock Creek Canteen, a type of food pantry designed to help students struggling through rough patches. Students are allowed to access the “canteen” 3 times per quarter.