VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Introduction to Humanities - Online
HUM 1020 - 14987

Instructor: Professor Sheila Levi-Aland

Web page: http://webct6.valenciacc.edu/

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Office & Office Hours: Tuesdays from 4:30pm to 5:15pm in the Adjunct Faculty Office Room 126 or by appointment

"Education is the transmission of civilization."
~Ariel & Will Durant ~

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class is a basic introduction to humanities. It focuses on the central concepts, historical development and fundamental nature of philosophy, architecture, music, religion and art. Concepts from such disciplines will be integrated with contemporary American culture.
Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

This is not a Gordon Rule course. However, it *is* designed to prepare students for meeting the Gordon Rule requirements and therefore will require students to express their thoughts in coherent written form. Grammar, spelling, professionalism, etc will be a part of each written assignment grade, though the standard for an intro class is not as high as in a Gordon Rule class.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND CORE COMPETENCIES

My goal with this course is for students to have a basic understanding of major events in the culture of humanity through exploration of various time periods, cultures, and concepts. Students should have knowledge of key events that have shaped the course of human development and be able to discuss them intelligently with others. The goal is not to cram information for a test, but for each student to find a part of the humanities that they enjoy discussing and learning about, so that they have a niche to take other classes.

This course seeks to reinforce the following Valencia Student Competencies:

- **Think** clearly, critically and creatively by analyzing, synthesizing, integrating and evaluating symbolic works and truth claims.
  "A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices."
  ~ William James ~
- Reflect on your own and others' **values** from individual, cultural and global perspectives.
- **Communicate** by reading, listening, writing and speaking effectively.
- **Act** purposefully, reflectively and responsibly by implementing effective problem solving and decision making strategies.

The work of this course—reading, writing, discussion, group work, and other learning activities—is designed to help you develop your mastery of these core competencies. Because of what you learn in this course, you should be better able to: engage in intelligent and informed dialogue about issues of culture and value in your life; seek experiences that enhance the pleasure and meaning that you find in your life; seek truth with commitment, open-mindedness, and critical tolerance for the beliefs of others and yourself.

TEXTBOOKS

- Gloria K. Fiero's *Landmarks in Humanities*, ISBN – 0-07-299550-5
- Assorted handouts

REQUIREMENTS

- Access to a computer with an internet connection. Consistent access to WebCT for all online components.
- See the **Style Sheet** for written requirements.
- Use Internet Resources wisely – see the *Special Note On Internet Research*.
- **Intellectual honesty** – Students are required to submit their own work. You may quote the writings of others to *illustrate* your own ideas so long as you provide citation information/attribution. You may NOT reproduce material from the Internet and or any other source and submit it as your own. Students whose work is suspected of plagiarism will have that work returned to them so they can properly cite their sources. If the work is a confirmed case of plagiarism, the assignment will be returned for no credit. See *Special Note on Plagiarizing & Academic Dishonesty.*
- **All written work & tests will be submitted through WebCT6**. You will complete a practice submission and practice quiz during the first week in the course to make sure everyone understands how to do this. Your Welcome Module has more information and handouts.
- **Late work** – Assignments need to be submitted at the time specified on the individual assignments. For every day that an assignment is late, it drops a letter grade. Each assignment has a cut off date of 6 days, except in the case of extreme emergencies (such as hospitalization, death in the family, with appropriate documentation) no assignment will be accepted after the 6th day. *Assignments will not be accepted after the final day of class (December 9th).* You have the course schedule from the beginning of the semester with all your assignments on it. Please **do not wait** until the last minute to try to turn something in. Computer problems are not an excuse for late work. *See the Special Note on Computers.*
- *"Do or do not, there is no try." ~ Yoda, Empire Strikes Back ~*

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Your success in the class depends on your participation and interaction with this course through WebCT. This course is based on class discussion, participation, and interaction. I expect you to login to WebCT at least **once** a week to participate in discussions, check assignments, take quizzes and work with fellow students.

While this course is an online course, there is still about **4 hours of work** that needs to be completed each week. The beauty of an online course is that you can complete it at 3 o'clock in the morning in your pajamas if you like, but there is still work to be done (readings in your text, online course modules, assignments, quizzes, discussion, group work, etc). You will have the opportunity to work about 3 sections ahead, but that will be it. I want everyone to feel like this is a journey with others, not just a solitary trip. We (me included) will learn so much from everyone else through the discussion boards and assignments, it is vital that you participate.

Please remember to keep your comments respectful, clean and acceptable, as if you were in a traditional face to face classroom. See the Reminders Sheet.

"If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to sleep with a mosquito."
~ Anita Roddick ~

COURSE COMPONENTS:

QUIZZES (30% each):

There are 13 quizzes (one per module/section) based on unit modules, activities, and readings. Each quiz will consist of some multiple choice, true/false, matching, and art/music identifications. Your quizzes will be taken using WebCT. You have the opportunity to complete practice quiz so you are familiar with the process. Since your quizzes are online they are open notes, however, they are timed so you do have to study for them.

12 of the 13 quizzes count. Your lowest quiz score is dropped. Quizzes are not cumulative.

*There will be NO make up quizzes. Your quizzes are available online for at least **1 week**. If you do not take it in the time allotted I will not reset the test except in extreme emergencies (for example, death in the family during exam availability, hospitalization during exam availability, hurricane during exam availability. Proper documentation must be received by the professor.). *

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."
~ Ferris Bueller, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" ~

DISCUSSION BOARD POST QUESTIONS (DBPQs) (15% total)

There are **fourteen (14)** discussion board post questions in this course. You only need to complete **twelve (12)** of them, so you can skip **two (2)** questions if you would like to. These are guided questions based on articles or course readings that will provide the bulk of our "classroom" discussion. You will need to write a thoughtful response to the question. Feel free to include outside references for your answer (outside of your text and the module/section reading) but be sure to cite. Each DBPQ will tell you what I am grading you on.

The powerful play goes on -- and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?
~Anonymous ~

PROJECTS (32% total)

As this is not a Gordon Rule class, there are a variety of projects that will be done throughout the class to allow you to critically think about topics in a way other than traditional paper writing.

∞ *Origin Project* – This project will allow you to research information about your family name (not history, just name). The origins of where names come from, the meaning of your name, etc. The goal of this project is to get you more familiar with a variety

of search engines and tools available on the Internet. For more information see the <u>Origin Project Handout</u>.

∞ *Internet Scavenger Hunts* – These are a fun opportunity to explore the Internet and humanities. There are fabulous prizes for the winners. See the <u>Internet Scavenger Hunt Handout</u> for more information.

∞ *Website Review* – Each student gets to choose a time period from the list (first come, first serve) and provides **4** websites about that period to give everyone further references on that topic. You will also fill out the <u>Website Review Form</u> (see it for more details). Wikipedia is not a valid website to use for this project.

∞ *Virtual Museum* – Using the same time period as the *website review*, each student will pick one element of that period (artist, architect, musician, philosopher, political movement, scientific invention, etc) to create their own virtual museum. This can be a document, a PowerPoint Presentation, Flash or other web based presentation. See the <u>Virtual Museum Handout</u> and <u>Virtual Museum Grade Sheet</u> for more information. I also provide samples of other projects on my faculty website – http://faculty.valenciacc.edu/slevi

∞ *Module readings* - These are my lectures for the course. They form the basis of the class. They will cover in depth a concept that this course highlights. When I ask you to complete a module, I am asking you to thoroughly read it (just as you would if it was a lecture – take notes, print it out, whatever study method works well for you). Utilize all the links provided in the modules (they are not just for my benefit, but will enhance your learning experience). Your quizzes will contain information from these modules.

"Invention is 93% perspiration, 6% inspiration, 3% electricity and 2% Butter scotch ripple."
~ Willy Wonka, "Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory" ~

GROUP PROJECT (8%)

A group project in an online class? Yes, it can be done and it can be lots of fun! This project is a way to integrate your understanding of humanities with knowledge you gain from discussing concepts with your peers. There is both a group and an individual grade. See the <u>Group Project Handout</u> for more information and specific due dates.

Teamwork is working together — even when apart.
~ Anonymous ~

PARTICIPATION (5%)

As stated earlier, your participation is an essential element to this class. This portion of your grade will include the frequency and completeness of your posts, class work, and module (section) completion.

"The world is run by those who show up."
~Anonymous ~

OTHER (10%)

All other assignments including mini quizzes, student homepages (see the <u>Student Homepage Handout</u>), assorted projects, etc are encompassed in this heading.

GRADING
Final grades will be calculated on a scale of 0-100%, as follows:
100% – 90%= A
89%-80%= B
79%-70%= C
69%-60%= D
59% and below = F

You can check your grade at any point during the semester at http://www.mygradebook.com . The login information will be mailed to your Atlas account. I will grade & post those grades (on WebCT6 and mygradebook.com) 1 week after the date they are due, unless otherwise noted. Please give me that one week; I will need to have the time to grade your projects and discussions.

WEBCT & ATLAS POLICY
In order to minimize the risk of computer-virus transfers, I prefer to communicate with students via the student's Atlas or WebCT6 account.

I check my email once a day during the week (normally before 8pm in the evening), and once a day on the weekend. I will respond as promptly as possible to your email. I check my Atlas and WebCT6 email at the same time please send an email to only one of the two, not to both. If you send a message to my Atlas account, please include the course name and section in your subject line (I get a lot of spam and cannot guarantee that your email will not be deleted if the subject is not clearly from a student).

If you are experiencing technical difficulties (anything from a document not loading properly to issues logging in) with WebCT6 please contact the help desk at webcthelp@valenciacc.edu or by calling (407) 582-5600 (available 24/7). If you are having difficulties with Atlas, please contact (407) 582-5590. **I can ONLY help with content not with technical issues.**

*Please regularly check your atlas account for excessive absence notices, grade warnings, instructor emails, etc. *

* Please check WebCT6 at least **twice** a week to make sure you are up to date on all course information. Remember, this is a required part of your grade.*

"I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."
~Albert Einstein. ~

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT COMPUTERS
Even though computers and word-processing software are marvelous time and energy-saving devices, they can and do cause problems with the production of your documents. Please be aware that a broken or ill-functioning computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce or submit your assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for a document that is submitted late. I advise you to save all your documents to both a CD, or a flash drive and your hard drive. I highly recommend that you submit

items earlier than the deadline, waiting until the last minute and having a technical problem will not excuse you from a test, quiz, project, or paper.

SPECIAL NOTE ON PLAGIARIZING:
All plagiarized homework assignments or essays, whether intentional or unintentional, will receive a "0". You are responsible for making sure that your work is not plagiarized. Oversight on your part will not be accepted as an excuse for plagiarism. All students need to complete the plagiarism test that is available at the following website. You can retake the test until you pass with a perfect score. Once you pass the plagiarism test, you will be allowed to print out a certificate stating that you passed the test. You need to print, sign, and turn this certificate in to the professor.
http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html

This is due by October 25th at 8:30pm. You can turn it in earlier at any point in the semester. You need to send me the certificate (scan it and email it or copy and paste and email, whatever works for you).

SPECIAL NOTE ON INTERNET RESEARCH:
Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable. Many sites contain research and information of high quality. However, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet. There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the free Internet for their research needs. For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, use of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs.
See the following tutorial for more information:
http://faculty.valencia.cc.fl.us/infolit/evaluation/default.htm

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CLASS
My goal is for every student registered for this course to finish successfully. If you find that you cannot meet the challenges of the course, for whatever reasons, it is important for you to formally withdraw from the course. To receive a W, you must withdraw before the withdrawal deadline. Students who withdraw after the deadline will be assigned a WP (withdrawn passing) or WF (withdrawn failing). To receive a WP, the student must have satisfactorily completed all assignments due as of the last date of attendance and have an overall average of 60% or higher. Students who simply stop attending class and fail to withdraw may receive a grade of WF (withdrawn failing).

Withdrawal Date: November 2nd, 2007

STUDENT CONDUCT
Valencia Community College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (Policy Number: 6Hx28:10-16)

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia Community College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording, or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged.

Students shall take special notice that the assignment of course grades is the responsibility of the students' individual professor. When the professor has reason to believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, and before sanctions are imposed, the student shall be given informal notice and an opportunity to be heard by the professor. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be liable to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor which may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; a reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course. At the option of the professor, the campus provost may be furnished with written notification of the occurrence and the action taken. If such written notice is given, a copy shall be provided to the student.

Students guilty of engaging in a gross or flagrant act of academic dishonesty or repeated instances of academic dishonesty shall also be subject to administrative and / or disciplinary penalties which may include warning, probation, suspension and / or expulsion from the College.

The student may appeal action taken by the professor under the provisions of either Policy 6Hx28:10-13 or 6Hx28:10-15 as determined by the nature of the action taken.

NOTE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (Winter Park Campus, Room 203, 407/ 582-6887).

No Show Status

Class attendance is required beginning the first week of the term by the taking of the practice quiz, response to the Welcome Post, and submitting the practice submission, as well as your first logging in to WebCT6. If you do not attend class during the first week, you may be withdrawn from the class as a "no show". In this event you will be billed for the class and a "W" will appear on your transcript for the course.

*We ask that you follow college policy relating to children on campus. Please make arrangements for childcare outside of classrooms or labs. *

NOTE: This syllabus and outline may be altered, at the professor's discretion, during the course of the semester. Students are responsible for informing themselves of changes announced in class. Only one copy of this syllabus will be handed out to each student – an additional copy will be available online. If you lose it, the information is still your responsibility, make sure you get another copy.