

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

HUM 22 - Greco-Roman Cultures

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is an introduction to the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome, through the study of original sources of the ancient world in history, art, philosophy, poetry, music, and drama. The course emphasizes the influence of Greek and Roman art, law, philosophy, politics, literature, and science on the modern world. Specific works of key thinkers who contributed to the shaping of classical civilization will be compared in order to trace the evolution of ideas.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the broad geographical, religious, aesthetic, social, cultural, economic, intellectual, political and other forces that helped to shape the development of Western Civilization from 1700 B.C.E to 470 A.C.E.
- B. Explain the similarities, differences, and interrelationships between specific civilizations of the ancient world.
- C. Analyze and compare specific works of key thinkers who contributed to the shaping of classical civilization, and trace the influence of their ideas over time and across place.
- D. Find, evaluate, and interpret primary and secondary source materials, and from them formulate and communicate defensible interpretations of Greco-Roman cultures and their influence on the modern world.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction to the Humanities	2.00
2. Foundations of Early Greece	3.00
3. Homer and the Iliad	4.00
4. Greek Culture: Social, Religious and Political Aspects	5.00
5. Greek Drama and Art	4.00
6. Greek Historians	3.00
7. Introduction to Greek Philosophy	4.00
8. Plato	3.00
9. Aristotle	2.00
10. Foundations of Early Rome	3.00
11. Roman Culture: Social, Religious and Political Aspects	4.00
12. Introduction to Roman Philosophy	3.00
13. Epicureanism and Stoicism	3.00
14. Roman Art and Architecture	4.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Collaborative Group Work
- C. Class Activities
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Discussion
- F. Multimedia Presentations
- G. It is expected that a major part of the homework time will be spent in the reading and study of primary documents, secondary sources, course readers, textbooks, literature.

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Oral Presentation
- C. Projects
- D. Journal
- E. Written Assignments
- F. Class Discussion
- G. A minimum of 1500 written words is required.

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*. Come to class prepared to discuss how this work reflects the beliefs of Stoicism as discussed during lecture.
 - 2. Read Homer's *Iliad*. Be prepared to address questions showing how this primary source reflects the notions of manhood in Greek Culture, specifically: Arete, Kleos, Hubris.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Using Sophocles's *Oedipus the King* as your source, write a three-page essay in which you respond to the following: What is the historical context of the period being discussed? What is the storyline? Who is the author? What is the author's bias and how is it revealed? Who is the intended audience? What type of document is it? What does this reveal about the Greek culture?
 - 2. After watching the movie *300*, write a two-page essay that explores how Frank Miller's depiction of events compares to those events as described by Herodotus in *Histories* and *The Battle of Thermopylae*. Provide details, examples, and direct quotes from both *300* and Herodotus to illustrate your thinking.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Compare the city-states of Athens and Sparta using the worksheet provided. Consider population, political organization, social structure, lifestyle and values, food, education, gender roles, cultural achievements and legacy. Your main resources for Sparta will be these primary sources: Xenophon, *The Laws and Customs of the Spartans* and Herodotus, *Histories*. You should search the Internet for credible information on Athens, as well as to complete your study of Sparta. In class, each student will choose a city-state to defend as the premier city-state.
 - 2. Drawing on credible secondary sources, write a magazine-style article on your assigned Roman Emperor. The first page will be the title page of your magazine, and the back page will be your bibliography. Include advertisements that are appropriate to the time period. You will be writing this for your fellow Roman Citizens. Your emperor can be dead, and

you can address that, or you can discuss a particular event in his life. You are the reporter; you can spin this however you think appropriate to the period and the type of magazine you are writing (think Newsweek, Time Magazine, Rolling Stone Magazine, People Magazine, National Enquirer, etc.). Be prepared to present your work in class, highlighting the significance of the Emperor and the time in which he lived.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Gochberg, D. S. Classics of Western Thought Series: The Ancient World. 4th Edition. Cengage, 1988.
- B. Greer, T. & Lewis, G. A Brief History of the Western World. 9th Edition. Cengage Learning, 2005.
- C. Perry, M. Sources of the Western Tradition, Volume I: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment. 9th Edition. Cengage Learning, 2014.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Literature, instructor packets.

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