

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for HUMN 11

CULTURE AND THE ARTS I: ANCIENT WORLD TO THE RENAISSANCE

Effective: Fall 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

HUMN 11 — CULTURE AND THE ARTS I: ANCIENT WORLD TO THE RENAISSANCE — 3.00 units

A survey of the artistic and intellectual accomplishments of human cultures from the Ancient to Early Renaissance Eras. Emphasis is on the study of ancient to medieval painting, sculpture, architecture, music, literature, theater, religion, and philosophy from both Western and non-Western cultures.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Humanities

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Expected Outside of Class Hours:	108.00
Total Hours:	162.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- Analyze works of art from distinct disciplines (visual arts, literature, music, and theater) using the appropriate formal terminology and concepts
- Identify and correctly order major historical periods as contexts for important artistic and cultural movements
- Analyze and explain the connections between historical, economic, political, and religious factors and the arts that emerged in response to them
- Evaluate the significance of major artistic and philosophical contributions as they relate to historical developments
- Compare and contrast the impact of important Western and non-Western cultural and artistic developments on the global humanities
- Discuss in written and oral form key cultural and artistic concepts developed in Western and non-Western cultures from the ancient world to the Renaissance
- Compare thematic similarities found in a broad range of artistic media from the periods covered in the course

V. CONTENT:

- Introduction
 - What are the Humanities and how do we approach them?
 - Introduction to the study of visual art, music, and literature. Terminology and concepts used in evaluating the arts.
 - Overview of major historical periods and world regions that will be explored in the course.
 - Overview of the Classical (Greco-Roman) and Anti-Classical (Judeo-Christian), as well as the Western and non-Western, cultural inheritances of the West.
- Early Human Civilizations
 - Must include at least one of the following topics:
 - Arts of Mesopotamia
 - Arts of Egypt
 - Arts of the Eastern Mediterranean
- Early Greece and the Homeric Age
 - Homer and Epic Poetry
- Classical Greece and Hellenism
 - Theater, Philosophy, and Visual Arts
- The Roman Empire and Legacy
 - Poetry, Visual Arts, and Architecture
- Early Cultures of South Asia, China, and Japan
 - Must include at least one of the following topics:
 - The Arts of Hinduism and Buddhism
 - The Arts of Confucianism and Taoism
 - The Arts of Major Dynasties

- d. Classical Chinese Visual Arts
 - e. The Arts of Early Japan
- G. The Biblical Tradition
 - 1. Judaism
 - a. Hebrew Bible
 - 2. Christianity
 - a. Gospels, Frescoes, Sculpture, and Architecture
- H. Byzantium
 - 1. Decline of Rome and Rise of Byzantine Culture
- I. Islam
 - 1. The Qur'an, Calligraphy, and Architecture
- J. Early Medieval Culture and Charlemagne
 - 1. Must include at least one of the following topics:
 - a. Monasticism (Male and Female Experience)
 - b. Gregorian Chant
 - c. Morality Plays
 - d. Epic Poetry
 - e. Illuminated Manuscripts
 - f. Romanesque Architecture
- K. High Middle Ages
 - 1. Must include at least one of the following topics:
 - a. European Synthesis
 - b. Paris
 - c. Gothic Architecture
 - d. Rise of Universities
 - e. Aquinas and Assisi
 - f. Dante's *Divine Comedy*
- L. Transitions in the Fourteenth Century
 - 1. Must include at least one of the following topics:
 - a. Disease and Violence
 - b. Literature: Petrarch, Chaucer, Christine de Pisan
 - c. Visual Arts in Italy and in Northern Europe
 - d. Late Gothic Architecture
 - e. Music
- M. Early Renaissance: Italy
 - 1. Must include at least one of the following topics:
 - a. Florence and the Medici Era
 - b. Renaissance Humanism
 - c. Machiavelli and Erasmus
 - d. Music

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- B. **Classroom Activity** -
- C. **Discussion** -
- D. **Student Presentations** -
- E. **Lecture** -
- F. **Projects** -
- G. **Research** -
- H. **Field Trips** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Take notes on and be prepared to discuss readings from the textbook and selections from primary sources.
- B. Write short essay responses to questions that critically examine the course material.
- C. Watch videos during/outside of class, take notes, reflect and comment on the videos.
- D. Visit a local art museum exhibit or an event that relates to the course (from a list of options provided by the instructor), then reflect and comment on the experience as it relates to the course.
- E. Research and then develop a final project (with written and creative/artistic components) that explores connections between two of the units studied during the semester.
- F. Prepare short class presentations with other students on specific topics explored in the readings.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Research Projects
- 4. Oral Presentation
- 5. Projects
- 6. Field Trips
- 7. Group Projects
- 8. Class Participation
- 9. Class Work
- 10. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Three or more tests or quizzes that examine course material and concepts.
- 2. One research project on an aspect of the course material; can be combined with a final creative project for the course.
- 3. One oral presentation on a specific aspect of the course material; may involve minimal research and can be combined with a final creative project for the course.
- 4. One or more field trips with or without instructor and classmates to one art museum and/or event that directly relates to the course material.
- 5. Frequent participation in class that may involve small group work and projects, class discussion, and/or short readings and written work.
- 6. Weekly homework that includes reading, taking notes, writing/reflecting on course material, and/or preparing for a larger presentation, essay, or final project.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Cunningham, Lawrence, John Reich, and Lois Fichner-Rathus. *Culture and Values: A Survey of the Humanities, Volume 1*. 9th ed.,

- Wadsworth Cengage, 2018.
2. Sayre, Henry. *The Humanities: Culture, Continuity, and Change, Volume 1*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2015.
 3. Benton, Janetta , and Robert DiYanni. *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities, Volume 1*. 4th ed., Pearson, 2011.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: