Ohio Articulation Number (OAN)  
Course Submission Form  
2005-2006

College/University  The University of Akron

Course(s) Submitted (Title & Course #)  3400:210 Humanities in the Western Tradition I: Antiquity to the Renaissance for 4 qtr
Ohio Articulation Number  OAH009 & OAH041

Date  5-25-06

Name and title of individual submitting on behalf of the college/university
Name  Dr. David Louscher  Title  Dept. Chair, Political Science

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Akron, OH 44325-1904

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Credit Hours  4 qtr  
Lecture Hours  
Laboratory Hours  (if applicable)
Pre-Requisites(s) Course work (if applicable)  32 credits and completion of 3300:112.

Placement Score (if applicable)  
(Name of test)  
(Domain)  (Score)

Catalog/Course Description (Includes Course Title and Course #)
Prerequisites: 32 credits and completion of 3300:112. Introduction to the human condition in the past as manifested in the ideas, religions, visual arts and music of Western civilization from the ancient Greeks through the Renaissance. Cannot be used to meet major requirements in History.
Texts/Outside Readings/Ancillary Materials

Required Reading
- The Epic of Gilgamesh, trans N. K. Sandars
- Humanities in the Western Tradition, A Reader, ed. Graham, Levin, Bouchard [Hum]
- Discovering the Western Past, ed. Wiesner, Ruff, Wheeler [DWP]
- Sophocles, Antigone, trans. Richard Emil Braun
- Machiavelli, The Prince, trans. David Wootton

Art Package

Course Objectives and/or Plan of Work

“Humanities in the Western Tradition” is part of the General Education Program at the University of Akron. The “Humanities” are the arts, literature, religion, ethics, and theorizing about social organization and the human condition, all of the things that make us “human” rather than simply animals with tools.

This is a single, unified course of instruction, consisting of lectures, followed by small-group discussions. (Lecture and discussion are not separate courses!) The objective of the course is to convey the cultural background of modern western civilization. Lectures present the historical framework in which the required primary sources are to be read, discussed, and understood. Discussion sections are devoted to these readings (or, as appropriate, art images) and to the broader ideas presented in lecture. Essay exams will be an opportunity for students to demonstrate how well they have learned and synthesized the material from both lectures and discussions.

HWT meets the goals and objectives of the General Education Program in the following ways:

1) The capacity for critical, independent thought. In the lectures, HWT promotes the capacity for critical thought by asking students to analyze and synthesize a large amount of material about past civilizations and cultures in the western tradition. In the discussions, students are encouraged to learn to interpret this material within the context of primary readings and their own experience.

2) A personal sense of values, tempered by tolerance and a regard for the rights of others. While interpreting this material from the unique perspective of the western tradition, students are encouraged to understand and to develop respect and a tolerance for points of view that conflict with their personal sense of values.

3) The ability to use language effectively as a medium of both thought and expression. English Composition 111 and 112 are prerequisites for the course. Students entering HWT should have the ability to write in a clear and logical fashion. The writing of essay examinations in HWT will further develop these skills.

4) The analytical skills necessary to make sound qualitative and quantitative judgments. HWT is focused around themes (see page 1 of this syllabus), that have recurred throughout the western tradition. The lectures and discussions revolve around these themes. Students are encouraged and expected to be able to analyze
and synthesize a large range of material in light of these themes.

5) The ability to describe and explain differences in civilizations and cultures. The first semester of HWT introduces students to civilizations and cultures which came together to form the western tradition: the ancient Near East, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Medieval and Renaissance cultures. The second semester will focus on the further development of the humanities in the west. Students are expected, therefore, to explain the differences in a variety of civilizations and cultures.

6) An understanding of the conditions that affect them as individuals and as members of society. HWT teaches cultural literacy, so that students will recognize the legacies of the western tradition in everyday life--in the arts, in religion, in ethics, and in the social and political heritage of western democratic thought and practice.

7) The capacity to evaluate intellectual and artistic achievements. The course’s material includes the development of philosophy and religion, the influence of literature, and the achievements in the arts from the ancient Near East to the present. This wide scope promotes students’ abilities to appreciate intellectual and artistic achievements and their capacity to evaluate the intellectual and aesthetic life of the present in light of past achievements.

Description of Assessment and/or Evaluation of Student Learning

Requirements for the course, aside from attending all the classes and doing all the reading, include two mid-term exams and a final, comprehensive exam (essay exams). Each of the mid-term exams will count 20% of your grade and the final 30%. The other 30% of your grade will be based on your performance in discussion section. (At least a third of your discussion grade, which will be assigned by your discussion instructor, will be based on your attendance and participation in class discussion, and the rest on work such as papers, quizzes, written responses to study questions, cultural experiences, or similar requirements, as announced by the instructor.)

Master Syllabi and Working Syllabi (if both are used)

**Humanities in the Western Tradition I**

3400-210-110
Spring 2006
WF 9:55-10:45

Dr. Bouchard (x 7325, CBouchard@UAkron.edu, A&S 216E)

This course provides an introduction to the thought and culture of western society from ancient times through the Renaissance (roughly 2000 BC to 1500 AD). As well as providing a historical background to the great traditions of western culture, the course is designed to help teach students to read carefully and critically and to write thoughtfully and clearly. Each week’s work consists of two hours of lecture, two hours of discussion, and approximately 60 pages of primary source reading.
The lectures are organized around three major themes that have engaged thinkers for thousands of years, and which have been approached through a variety of methods, including political treatises, literature, and the arts:

- The Role of Religion in Society (including spirituality, morality, and death)
- Gender and Gender Relations (including male-female roles and sexuality)
- The Individual in Society (including the ways that society may be organized and governed)

**Required Reading** (available at bookstore)
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Sophocles, Antigone, trans. Richard Emil Braun
Machiavelli, The Prince, trans. David Wootton
Art Package

**Student Guide** (available at DocuZip in Student Center, file #94)

**Resources** (available at the library)
Roy Matthews and F. Dewitt Platt, The Western Humanities, 3rd ed. (on reserve)
Dictionary of the Middle Ages, ed. Joseph Strayer (in Reference)
Encyclopedia of the Renaissance, ed. Paul Grendler (in Reference)

**Goals and Objectives**

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Lectures and Readings

Week 1 (January 18-20)
Read: Epic of Gilgamesh, pp. 61-119.

Week 2 (January 25-27)
The Greek ideal - Homer, Athens
Read: Hum, pp. 21-63; DWP, pp. 20-42.

Week 3 (February 1-3)
Greek art and Greek culture
Read: Sophocles, Antigone, pp. 20-71.
Week 4 (February 8-10)
Plato and Aristotle
Read: Hum, pp. 65-87.
NOTE: First mid-term exam this week, in discussion section

Week 5 (February 15-17)
Hellenism. The Roman Republic
Read: Hum, pp. 89-125; DWP, pp. 66-91.

Week 6 (February 22-24)
The Roman Empire. Politics and law.
Read: DWP, pp. 43-61, 120-143.

Week 7 (March 1-3)
Hellenistic and Roman art. Judaism.
Read: Hum, pp. 127-186.

Week 8 (March 8-10)

Week 9 (March 15-17)
Read: Hum, pp. 249-308.

Week 10 (March 22-24)
Christian, Byzantine, and Islamic Art. Transitions from antiquity to the Middle Ages.
NOTE: Second mid-term exam this week, in discussion section

SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (April 5-7)
Medieval secular culture. The evolution of the medieval church.
Read: Hum, pp. 321-366; DWP, pp. 149-168.

Week 12 (April 12-14)
Medieval religion, society, and ideas. Romanesque and Gothic art.
Read: DWP, pp. 172-193; Hum, pp. 315-320.

Week 13 (April 19-21)
Thirteenth- and fourteenth-century thought. Introduction to the Renaissance.
Read: Hum, pp. 367-404.

Week 14 (April 26-28)
Renaissance thought, culture, and art.
Read: DWP, pp. 247-266 [note: start Machiavelli].

Week 15 (May 3-5)
Renaissance Florence. Conclusions.

NOTE: All drops must be processed by the end of Week 12 (April 14).

Special Notes

One of the unique aspects of this course is the admixture of visual art with the written word. One of your required purchases is the Art Package, which gives all students small copies of some of the significant art-work to which you will be introduced in class; this Package will facilitate discussion of the images. Several lectures will also be devoted to artwork during the semester. To review the images shown in lecture, which works better from an on-campus computer than off-campus, you may go to http://webct.uakron.edu. (There is also a link from Zipline.) Once in “WebCT,” you will be asked to login. Use the same UA ID and password you normally use to get e-mail or access the web from a UA account. Click on the link for “Humanities 210,” then you will be given a menu of art images available. Try to log on within the first week of class, to find any problems before you reach crisis mode.

Students whose names do not appear on the University’s official class list by the fourth week of class will not be permitted to participate, i.e., attend class, take exams, or receive credit. Attendance at both lectures and discussions is mandatory, and students may be dropped from the course for flagrant inattendance. Students who must unavoidably miss a class (such as for serious illness) are still responsible for the material covered in it and for the readings.

Requirements for the course, aside from attending all the classes and doing all the reading, include two mid-term exams and a final, comprehensive exam (essay exams). Each of the mid-term exams will count 20% of your grade and the final 30%. The other 30% of your grade will be based on your performance in discussion section. (At least a third of your discussion grade, which will be assigned by your discussion instructor, will be based on your attendance and participation in class discussion, and the rest on work such as papers, quizzes, written responses to study questions, cultural experiences, or similar requirements, as announced by the instructor.)

Make-up exams will be given only at the discretion of the discussion leader and only if serious circumstances require the student to miss the originally-scheduled exam. In fairness to all students, even if make-up exams are given, they will be more difficult and graded more sharply than the regularly-scheduled exams.

Dishonest or disruptive conduct will not be tolerated either in lecture or in discussion class. Any instances of academic dishonesty or disruption will be vigorously pursued according to The University of Akron Student Code of Conduct. This includes plagiarism or instances of cheating during an exam.

Additional Documentation

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