INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES
SYLLABUS

TERM & CRN: Fall 2018, CRN 21886, 22909, 22923 and 23347
INSTRUCTOR: Djordje Jovanovic
ATLAS EMAIL: djovanovic@mail.valenciacollege.edu (not to be used during the semester)
HUMANITIES DEPT. OFFICE: East campus, room 6-118, phone: 407.582.2036 or 407.582.2341
PREREQUISITE: There is no prerequisite for this course
CREDIT HOURS: 3.0 *

*This is not a Gordon Rule writing course and therefore will not satisfy the Gordon Rule requirements of the State Board of Education, Rule 6A-10.30.
1 - REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

The textbook for this course is "LANDMARKS IN HUMANITIES" by Gloria K. Fiero, 4th edition.

This textbook is required and must be purchased by each student for successful completion of the course. You are encouraged to buy the latest edition, but the 3rd edition is also acceptable. Both Valencia College and regular editions are good.

These are all valid editions' covers:

![Image of textbook covers]

2 - COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a basic introduction to humanities that focuses on central concepts, historical developments, and the fundamental nature of philosophy, architecture, music, religion, and art. Concepts from these disciplines will be integrated with contemporary American culture.

3 - COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are:

To explore the development of humanities and Western civilization.
To recognize the motives behind the exploration of the world and the creation of art.
To distinguish historical/cultural periods and movements, their characteristics, values, and the most important achievements.
To find their reflections in the contemporary world.
To recognize the correlation between philosophy, religion and various forms of art.
To identify the recurring ideas and motifs throughout the history.
To critically and open-mindedly analyze and interpret some of the most important works of arts, architecture, literature and music.

4 - WORKLOAD

The student workload in the course will consist of textbook reading, watching online media, reading additional texts, critical analysis of material and participation in online discussions, online quizzes, internet research, short assignments, and an optional fieldwork assignment.

There will be no comprehensive mid-term or final exam in the course.

5 - LEARNING APPROACH

The most important expectation I have from you is to use your intellect, think critically and creatively. Do not learn facts without understanding them or without putting them into a proper context.

Do not take for granted anything you read or hear. Think about it, question it, analyze it and try to understand. You need to form your own opinions about the things you study. Question your opinions too.

Set a goal for yourself, from the very beginning of this course, to learn and understand what drove man through history to create things the way he did, and to truly understand the historical periods of our civilization rather than merely learn facts about them.
6 - EXPECTATIONS

Students in an online course take full responsibility for their learning, because they have to manage it on their own. Since instructors and fellow students provide less support than in face-to-face courses, such self-directed learning requires full dedication and self-motivation.

Intro to Humanities is a highly comprehensive course, because it covers the whole history of the Western civilization. In order to pass such course, students need to possess high organizational skills and ability to work independently. Also, they need to be able to spend 10-15 hours each week on the class while coordinating their time with the daily deadlines.

Students must have a good grasp of Internet navigation, computer interaction and word processing skills.

Students need to follow all course policies described in the syllabus. The professor will not change or adjust any policies for individual students if they cannot keep up with the class.

Students who choose to remain in the class after reading this Syllabus will be held to the same standards as all other students in the course. This means that the rules stated in the Syllabus will be enforced to the letter and equally to everyone.

7 - ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – CANVAS

Online environment (or, officially, “LMS” - Learning Management System) for the delivery of all the course materials, submission of all assignments, and administration of all tests will be Valencia’s Canvas learning platform.

Students must have access to a computer, either at home or on campus, to successfully complete the course.

Canvas is accessed by going to “online.valenciacollege.edu” in an internet browser, and logging in with student’s Atlas username and password. On the first
day of the Fall semester, January 7th, 2019, at 12:01 AM, the link to the course will become available. The course will remain available until the last day of the semester, April 28th, 11:59 PM.

Since Canvas is used to deliver all instruction in this online course, the student is responsible to learn to use this delivery system. Links to most of the available resources are located in the sidebar of Canvas under Help menu item. Students are also encouraged to enroll and complete "Canvas 101" introductory course for the use of Canvas, accessible through Atlas system.

8 - CANVAS TECHNICAL ISSUES - TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF THE PROFESSOR

The professor is not responsible for any technical issues. These issues should be resolved with the help of the Canvas Support or the Academic Success Center.

If you encounter a Canvas technical issue that prevents you from submitting an assignment properly and on time it is your responsibility to notify me immediately about the issue by sending me a Canvas message with all the details. This must be done before the assignment deadline has passed. The last opportunity for you to notify me about your inability to submit the assignment/quiz is during the "stoppage time" (see section 16: Deadlines).

I will evaluate the detailed circumstances listed in your message and, after reviewing your Canvas login times/actions log, decide if there is enough ground to allow you the completion of the assignment after the deadline.

Sending any notification after the deadline has passed, and definitely after the "stoppage time" (14 minutes after the deadline), will not be taken into account and the assignment will automatically be filed as "not submitted", earning 0 points.
9 - RESPONSIBILITIES

You need to keep track of all due dates/deadlines and complete all work on time. Every submission deadline is listed in the "Deadlines Calendar/Checklist" that students must print out and pin to the wall, as well as in the Canvas calendar and "Course Summary" (see section 16 - Deadlines). Therefore, there is absolutely no excuse for “not being aware of,” or “forgetting about” the submission date.

Online tools used to notify students of class-related issues and announcements are Canvas Inbox Messages and Course Announcements. Links to these tools are in the Canvas and Course sidebars.

You need to log into Canvas at least every 48 hours to remain up-to-date on communications from me and your fellow students. Failure to check messages and announcements does not excuse you from any notices that may be sent to you.

You need to visit Q&A discussion board at least once a week, and check for new posts.

10 - CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

The only mean of contacting me once the course begins is through Canvas messaging system. The link “Inbox” is in the Canvas sidebar.

Do not send any emails to my Atlas account. You will not get any reply to them. You can contact me on my Atlas email only before the semester starts and after it ends. Please be aware of the message rules from the following section in order to get a reply to your email.

Before turning to me with any issues, please try all other resources designed to assist you with most of the problems you might encounter in the course: Canvas Help Menu items, Q&A Board, Internet (you can instantly get an answer by “googling” it, instead of waiting for a reply from me or from your classmates).
11 - MESSAGES AND EMAILS: THE RULE OF ETIQUETTE

This semester, as a part of the course, you will practice the most simple way of writing formal emails/messages. Being at a college, you need to use these academic standards and professional etiquette not only when you write messages to me, but to any other professor as well.

Your Canvas messages must be formatted in the following way:

- Appropriate greeting, always addressing the recipient by the name (“Hi,” “Dear,” “Hello” or anything similar and respectful). “Hey” is NOT acceptable.
  - a single line space -

- Body of the message (respectful in tone, concise, to the point, proper grammar)
  - a single line space -

- Closing and signing your name

Here is an example:

  Hello professor Einstein,

  Can you please send me some Internet links for General Relativity? Thank you.

  Regards,
  John Dawson

Messages that do not follow these rules of etiquette and format will receive an automatic "Inadequate message" reply, requesting that you resend the message in the above explained format.

As soon as a valid message is received you will get a reply.
12 - BASIS OF EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a point system. Each discussion, assignment and quiz will be worth a certain number of points. Grade distribution at the end of the course will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.00 - 100.00% of points available</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.00 - 89.99%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.00 - 79.99%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.00 - 59.99%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.99% and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 - ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in an online class is based on a student’s completion of assignments, discussion board postings, and tests. Each missed submission counts as an absence.

Students who fail to complete six (6) assigned items (whether quizzes, discussion initial posts, discussion replies or assignments) will receive a warning via Canvas message, explaining that missing one more assignment will result in their withdrawal from the course.

Upon the seventh (7) missed assignment, the student will automatically be withdrawn from the course.

NOTE: The instructor does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.

For severe medical conditions that result in excessive absences, consult the Dean of Students concerning Valencia’s medical withdrawal policy.

Students are responsible for keeping their own record of the missed submissions in their copies of Deadlines Checklist.
International students, and students receiving financial aid, should be aware of how a “W” will affect their status. Please check the appropriate link below:

http://international.valenciacollege.edu/current-students/maintaining-visa-status/
http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory_progress.cfm

14 - WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

March 22nd at 11:59 PM is the deadline for withdrawing from a class. If you withdraw from a course prior to this date, you will automatically receive a “W” regardless of the grade you were earning at the time.

15 - STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The materials and assignments of this course will be published in sixteen weekly installments.

There will be no assignments scheduled for submission on holidays, during the Spring Break or on non-working days.

On Thursday of each week, the next week’s module will become accessible. The link to weeks’ modules is in the Course sidebar. Go over the list of coming tasks as soon as you can, so you can plan accordingly and start your reading assignments for the next week on time.

In most of the weeks, there will be reading and viewing assignments that cover selected chapters/cultural periods, a short (3-5 minute) quiz that checks if and how well you have done your reading and viewing assignments, an assignment that checks how well you have understood the material, and so called “Meditation” – a thorough analysis of a specific topic related to the week’s material. Some Meditations will require a submission of forum posts, hence creating intriguing online discussions. However, no two weeks will have the same set of assignments, so you need to thoroughly check the list of tasks for each week.

Textbook reading assignments are accompanied by Study Questions that are crucial for preparing for the quizzes.
You can try to use the end of the previous week and the weekend for reading and viewing online material, so that you can proceed with the quizzes, assignments and discussion board work during the following week. However, it remains completely up to you to organize your week’s work schedule in the best way to meet all the deadlines.

16 - DEADLINES

It is your responsibility to keep track of all deadlines and be aware of what is due each week. You must print out the Deadlines Calendar (or a bulleted Checklist, choose the one more convenient for you) sent to you with the Welcome email, and use it to keep track of all coming deadlines and of your missed submissions.

You can also find the submission deadlines for all quizzes, assignments, initial forum posts and forum replies in Canvas: in the calendar, the “Course Summary” within the “Syllabus”, as well as next to the link to each individual task module.

All submissions are due by 11:45 PM on their due dates.

Assignments/quizzes not submitted on time will receive zero points and will be counted as an absence. Please refer to section 13 of the Syllabus - “Attendance policy”.

It is your responsibility to go over the Deadlines Calendar/Checklist before the beginning of the semester and get familiar with it.

MEDITATIONS REPLIES:

Regardless of the fact that the replies are graded together with the initial post for a single Meditation grade, posting these replies by Saturday deadline is considered a separate submission and will earn you an absence if you miss it, even though you have submitted the initial post on time.

In some of its tools, such as Calendar, Canvas will initially state only the due dates of the Mediation initial posts. When the initial post deadline is reached, the forum will be closed (please refer to the Meditations Guidelines). After the absences have been processed and forum reopened for replies, Canvas will display the second deadline, the one for replies. You always must to be aware of both deadlines, as listed in the Deadlines Checklist.
STOPPAGE TIME:

The basic rule is that late work will not be accepted. Still, because there are sometimes unexpected circumstances I will allow 14 minutes of "stoppage time" (in soccer terms).

This means that I may conditionally accept a post that is no more than 14 minutes late. So, after reviewing your reasons for late submission, I may accept it or not at my discretion, and submission of several such late posts may cause deduction of points at the end of semester. Once again, posts submitted between 11:45 PM and 11:59 PM are officially late, so no student has any right to complain if the post submitted during the stoppage time is not accepted by the professor or if Canvas did not process it timely.

Be aware: after the stoppage time, starting at 11:59:00 PM, Canvas system will not accept any submission.

If you have any issues with your submission, you need to notify me about them, no later than the stoppage time. I will not accept or consider any submission-related notification sent to me after 11:59 PM.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- It is not enough to start a quiz or writing of a discussion post on time. You must click on submit before the exact time of the deadline at 11:45 PM.

- This is an online course and a post submitted 1 second past the deadline is recorded as late by Canvas system, not by the professor.

- There is a possibility of occasional technical issues with Canvas, such as temporary outages of the server or internet connection. It is up to you to account for these possibilities and complete your assignments timely, ahead of the given deadlines.

If you wait for the last minute to submit an assignment or take a quiz, you are doing that at your own risk. Do not contact me with requests to accept or excuse your attempts to post just a few seconds or minutes late, since I do not approve of students waiting for the last minute to submit their assignments, and I do not intend to encourage such practices. More importantly I will not make any exceptions to the rules that are explicitly explained in the Syllabus and apply equally to all the students.
17 - QUIZZES AND STUDY QUESTIONS

Quizzes will typically contain between 8 and 16 questions, with each question being worth 1 point. They will be 3 to 5 minutes long.

Failure to take a quiz will result in zero (0) points for the quiz and one (1) absence.

All quizzes must be completed once they are opened. You will not be allowed to open a quiz, read the questions or save partial work, and return later to finish it.

In order for a quiz to be considered as submitted on time, it is not enough to start it before the deadline, it must be submitted before the exact time of its deadline. After the end of the stoppage time at 11:59 PM (see section 16: Deadlines), Canvas will not allow students to start the quiz.

If it happens that the server or Canvas has an error while you are taking a quiz you need to notify me about the issue immediately. Please consult section 8 of the Syllabus. Plan accordingly and try not to take quizzes on the last day before the deadline, and especially in the last hours of the due day, except at your own risk.

PLEASE NOTE:

The quizzes are very short and you have to use Study Questions to prepare for them, following the instructions that you will find in the first week’s module. Almost all the questions in the quizzes are based directly on information that study questions are focused on. The correct answers are easy to find in the textbook since the questions use exact phrases from the textbook. I recommend printing out the study questions and writing short, direct answers below them as you read the assigned parts of the textbook.
18 - MANDATORY FINAL QUIZ

The final week’s quiz is officially your final test, and unlike any quiz before, you must take it in order to earn your final letter grade based on your score in the course.

However, it will not be different than any other short quiz during the semester. It will be based only on the last week’s material.

If you do not take the last week’s quiz by the deadline you will receive a final grade of "D" regardless of the percentage that you have in the course. The only exception is if you have less than 50% score in the course, in which case you will earn an "F".

19 - FIRST DAY INTRODUCTION - ACCEPTANCE OF COURSE POLICIES

During the first day of the course, Monday, January 7th, 2019, after reading the Syllabus in detail, students have to make an “Introduce Yourself” post on the discussion board in order to present themselves to their classmates and the instructor. They also need to reply to three of their classmates' introductory posts.

By submitting the introductory post, students officially acknowledge their acceptance of the terms of the course, stated in the Syllabus. Only submission of the initial introductory post is needed as the acknowledgment of the terms.

The link to the introductory forum is in the “WEEK 1” module of the Canvas.

The introductory assignment will be awarded 10 points if it is fully completed (introductory post and 3 replies submitted by the first-day deadline). No points will be awarded if any of the conditions is not fulfilled (the task will not be graded).
Students who do not submit the initial post by the January 7th deadline will still have to make a late submission of the initial introductory post by Tuesday, January 15th, 11:45 PM, to acknowledge their acceptance to take the course. They will not need to submit any replies. Late submission of the introductory post will not be counted as an absence.

Students are not allowed to submit “Meditation One” posts or any other course work before they submit “Introduce Yourself” post and acknowledge the rules of the course.

If the “Introduce yourself” post has not been submitted by 11:45 PM, on January 15th, the student will be dropped from the course for declining the Course Policies. This will be recorded as a “No Show” drop from the course.

20 - Q&A BOARD

Q&A board is the main resource for all course-related questions and your feedback. Any question can be posted – relating to school work, material, assignments, Canvas, curriculum, course in general, etc. Still, especially when it comes to technical aspects of the course and Canvas-related questions, please try to find the answers using Canvas Help Menu items, Student Resources (contacting Valencia’s help desk) and Canvas 101 course, before posting questions on Q&A board.

In Q&A board you can help each other and freely answer your classmates’ inquiries in the best way you can, creating useful forum discussions. If you have better answers than those already posted by other students, you should add your replies and opinions as in any online forum.

To give you a chance to discuss course-related issues, I will not answer first (unless in the case of a question that only I am able to answer), and I will wait to reply only when there is no answer for a longer period of time or the posted answer is not correct and has not been corrected by students.

There is absolutely no grading of the answers - this is simply an online tool designed to help you. I reserve the right to reward noticeable participation and effort in the Q&A board at my discretion. Students can and should also use Q&A board as a tool for submitting their feedback, suggestions, opinions and any other concerns about the course. I will highly appreciate any feedback you give me since I use it to improve my course.

You can access the Q&A board from the Modules list.
DISCUSSION BOARDS FOR MEDITATIONS

One of the most important learning tools in this online course, are weekly Meditations. They require students to thoroughly and critically analyze assigned material and form their opinions on the subject matter as a way to answer specific questions about it.

Six of these Meditations are submitted for grading through discussion board forums where students exchange their opinions in online discussions, deepening their understanding of the course material.

After students submit their initial post answering specific question, the discussion is created in the form of other students' replies. These discussions bring various arguments and counter-arguments that show multiple views on the same topic and produce better understanding of the subject matter.

When writing a post, initial one or replies to other students’ posts, students need to follow the Meditations Guidelines and answer the questions assigned by the professor. This will necessarily require some additional research on the Internet or in the literature. Students need to give unambiguous well-formed opinions backed up by solid arguments and present them in a clear manner.

The replies are just as important part of discussions as the initial posts. While students learn through the effort to answer the initial post question, when they read other students’ posts and write their replies, they realize their errors, and learn more from other students’ various opinions. Replies that can be summarized as “I agree” or “I disagree,” without presenting supporting arguments will not be accepted.

All initial posts must contain a minimum of five complete sentences. They must be posted by their deadline, on Thursday of the given week. Anyone who does not post their initial post by this deadline will automatically receive a zero for that week’s Meditation, and it will be counted an absence. In such case, no late posts or replies will be accepted or graded. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Students who have submitted the initial post need to respond to at least three other students’ posts, following specific requirements explained in that week’s instructions. Those replies must each contain a minimum of three complete sentences that directly discuss the assigned topic. They must be posted by the
assigned deadline on Saturday of the given week. Submitting no reply by the replies deadline results in an absence and the Meditation receives partial credit based on the quality of the initial post.

It is very important not to stop a discussion in progress only because the requirement of submission is fulfilled. If there is a challenging opinion, one should always give his or her further response. Students are highly encouraged to share open-minded thoughts, “out-of-the-box” ideas, creative, intriguing and insightful posts.

Posts will be graded for their content, accuracy, thoughtfulness, validity of arguments, formed opinions, clarity of expression, grammar and adherence to the instructions and formal requirements of the post.

All post must be thoroughly edited before submission. If a post contains numerous spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors, no points will be given for that week’s Meditation.

Forum work for Meditations will be worth 26 points. This is an overall grade for the initial post and the replies. Only the first week’s Meditation will be worth 20 points.

Students will be able to see professor’s comments or the breakdown of each earned Meditation grade (in a rubric that lists the basic components of the post), next to each Meditation grade in the Grades section of Canvas.

Detailed discussion guidelines and grading criteria are described in the “Meditations Guidelines” module. These Guidelines have also been sent to all students via email and students must have a printed copy of them. Students need to read these guidelines carefully before writing their first week’s forum posts and consult them when working on any later Meditation.

22 - CITING SOURCES

Any time you borrow information from any of the course materials to use them in Meditation posts or any formal paragraph responses, you must give proper credit in the form of in-text or parenthetical notes.

This includes information found not only in the course textbook, but also in materials that the instructor posts online or that you find on your own on the Internet, in print or any other media. Failure to properly cite sources will result in an automatic zero for the assignment and could be regarded as plagiarism.
23 - ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cheating and plagiarism (taking ideas, writing, etc., from another and passing them off as one’s own), are morally and academically indefensible. You will receive zero points for any assignment showing signs of plagiarism, and may receive a failing grade for the course.

While open discussion and exchange of opinions and insights between students are some of the most important parts of this course, when it comes to individual assignments, initial Meditation posts and quizzes, in order to maintain Academic honesty, it is absolutely forbidden to share answers with other students.

24 - SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

This is an online course. Browsing internet is the first step you are expected to take in finding any clarification, even before posting a question on the Q&A board.

Any time you read/hear about something from your course material, and you are not sure about its meaning, or you do not have certain background information that would help you understand the material, you can “google” it to find what you are missing.

Be aware that the validity of information found on the Internet varies greatly. Trust only information found on academic and specialized websites that cite the author and the sources. Sources like Wikipedia, or forums and blogs, that anyone can post and that are not properly reviewed for validity, cannot be used or cited in your academic work. They can only be used as a source of links to more reliable websites or for instant clarification.
25 - VALENCIA PHOTO ID

Every student must have a new Valencia photo ID. This enables you to check out library books or to use any of the facilities in the library such as the Testing Center. If you don't have one, you need to get a new photo ID card in the Security Office on the second floor of building 5 on East Campus.

26 - STUDENTS REGISTERED WITH OSD

Any student registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities needs to scan their OSD paperwork and send it to me by the beginning of the semester (or as soon as the course starts).

27 - PRINTING A COPY OF THREE DOCUMENTS

You must print out a copy of the following three documents by the beginning of the semester and keep them in your reach:

- COURSE SYLLABUS
- MEDITATIONS GUIDELINES
- DEADLINES CALENDAR (or CHECKLIST)

Deadlines Calendar/Checklist must be pinned to your wall in a visible place, so you can keep track of all the submissions.
28 - COURSE TOPICS SCHEDULE

- WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION, PREHISTORIC ART, EARLY CIVILIZATIONS
- WEEK 2: ANCIENT GREEK PERIODS, CLASSICISM, ARCHITECTURE
- WEEK 3: ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY
- WEEK 4: ANCIENT GREEK ART
- WEEK 5: ANCIENT GREEK TRAGEDY, OEDIPUS THE KING
- WEEK 6: ANCIENT ROME
- WEEK 7: MIDDLE AGES & EARLY RENAISSANCE
- WEEK 8: HIGH RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE AND PAINTING
- WEEK 9: HIGH RENAISSANCE PAINTING AND SCULPTURE
- WEEK 10: SPRING BREAK
- WEEK 11: SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION
- WEEK 12: BAROQUE, DESCARTES' DISCOURSE ON THE METHOD
- WEEK 13: ENLIGHTENMENT, CLASSICAL MUSIC
- WEEK 14: ROMANTICISM
- WEEK 15: FIN DE SIÈCLE, KAFKA'S METAMORPHOSIS
- WEEK 16: MODERNISM