**HUM1050: Introduction to Humanities**

**Short Writing Assignment Prompts**

**Spring 2016**

**Instructions:**

You will choose **three** of the following prompts to complete short writing assignments following the criteria below.

Please note: I will not accept any assignments after their due date so make sure you plan your schedule accordingly.

**Format:**

Your response must follow the format listed below:

**Topic Sentence**: Give a direct and precise answer to the question. State clearly your position on the question so there is no doubt in the reader’s mind where you stand.

**Definition**: Explain how you are using the main terms included in the topic sentence.

**Context:** Explain where the example to be used comes from and the circumstances surrounding its relevance.

**Example(s)** Cite a specific example or two.

**Interpretation**: In the case of a quotation taken from the text, interpret it fully. In the case of a painting, describe it completely.

**Relationship:** Explain the relationship between the example and the position you

have taken on the subject.

**Length:** These papers should be approximately 250 words.

\*\* An example of a short writing assignment can be found on Blackboard \*\*

\*\* All work should be from the textbook and class materials, not outside sources. Should you choose to use other sources, please refer to the “Understanding Plagiarism” and “How to Cite” links on Blackboard to learn how to properly cite outside sources. \*\*

**Topics:**

1) Socrates was known for using a type of reasoning known as the **inductive method**. Define what this means. Then give an example from contemporary times of how this method could be used.

Due: January 28

2) Define **jus**. Why was this concept so important to the Romans? How did they incorporate this concept into their Empire?

Due: February 11

3) During the Renaissance, many scholars proposed the study of **humanism**. Define what humanism is as well as why people thought that it was important to study. Name two of the key humanists during this period and briefly explain their contributions.

Due: February 25

4) The attempt to portray the natural world realistically was a leading characteristic of Renaissance visual art. One technique that artists used for achieving realism was **linear perspective**. Define/explain this term, and tell how this technique helps Leonardo da Vinci to achieve realism in the “Last Supper.”

Due: March 3

5) “Las Meninas” is often referred to a **conceit**. Define what this means. What techniques does Diego Velázquez use in this picture, which makes it a conceit? What stands out to you the most in this picture?

Due: March 24

6) In *Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting the Reason and Seeking for Truth in the Sciences* (on Blackboard), René Descartes advocated for **deductive reasoning**. Define this concept then pick a quote from *Method* that you believe best shows an argument for deductive reasoning and explain why.

Due: April 7

7) The idea of “**social contract**” was put forth by political theorists during the Enlightenment. Define/explain this concept. Then, relate this concept to John Locke’s “Second Treatise on Government” (on Blackboard) by first, introducing a quote from the work that you feel is most illustrative of the concept then explaining HOW the quote helps to illustrate the social contract idea.

Due: April 12

8) In *Walden* (on Blackboard), Henry David Thoreau shows how the transcendentalism movement transformed his life. Identify some of the key characteristics of **transcendentalism** and explain how they are shown in this excerpt. Identify a quote that you feel best demonstrates how Thoreau was influenced.

Due: April 19