

VALENCIA COLLEGE

HUM 1020: Introduction to the Humanities—ONLINE **SPRING 2024**

“Learn everything; you will see afterwards that nothing is superfluous.”
-Hugh of St. Victor (12th-century)

Instructor: Dr. George Brooks

Email: gbrooks@valenciacollege.edu (or through CANVAS)

Office & Hours: East Campus: 1-115A (Tues & Thurs, 1-2 PM); ONLINE (daily except Saturdays)

Office Telephone: 407.582.2721

Course Description: (From Valencia catalog): *Basic introduction to humanities. Focuses on central concepts, historical development and fundamental nature of philosophy, architecture, music, religion and art. Concepts from such disciplines integrated with contemporary American culture. No prerequisites.*

This course is a general introduction to the Humanities. Students will become conversant with the major themes in the history of human ideas and human expression in the arts. The humanities are a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of human activity over the course of our history on this planet. History, music, philosophy, art, architecture, religion, literature, science, technology, mysticism, economics, and all aspects of cultural, intellectual and artistic life are subjects of the Humanities. It is the desire to “know thyself” that has always driven human beings to seek an understanding of all that transpires around us and inside us. This course provides a framework for your lifelong investigation into the Humanities.

Essential to the successful completion of this course: (1) committing time for careful reading of all assigned material and video viewing the week it is assigned (6-8 hours per week); (2) weekly “attendance” by signing in to the course in CANVAS, completing assignments, and participation in weekly discussion boards; (3) genuine effort on homework and writing assignments, and the desire to improve your ability at communicating through the written word. *Course does NOT fulfill “Gordon Rule” req.*

Technological Requirements: Students must have regular access to a computer (due to Covid-19, campus libraries are operating on limited capacity so you may not be able to access the ones there) and reliable access to the Internet. Students must also learn to use the CANVAS platform through which the class is administered. There are numerous resources at Valencia to help you gain these skills. It is your responsibility to seek out these resources and to be equipped and ready for an online course.

The Professor is not responsible for any technical issues: These issues should be resolved by consultation with the CANVAS Help Desk or the Academic Success Center. You will find a “help button” on the bottom of the left-hand column in Canvas. Do inform me of any issues immediately and provide a screen shot of the emails sent to and received by the IT technicians.

Required Text: *Landmarks in Humanities* by Gloria K. Fiero, 5th ed. (physical or e-book available)

[Note: Valencia has a custom edition of this text with a unique cover available in the bookstore for \$81 (a bit cheaper than the standard price) which they will mail directly to you. You may also choose to rent the book electronically. You may also purchase the book online—it will have a different cover, but the contents will be exactly the same. Be sure whichever way you acquire the text, that it is the current (5th) edition].

Grading: Students will be evaluated in the following manner

- Three unit-exams and two short essays which each count 10% for a total of: 50%
- Participation in weekly discussion boards: 20%
- Study questions, quizzes, and other small assignments: 30%

All work in the course will be evaluated according to the following scale:

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 60-79 D: 50-59 F: 0-49

Note the good news here!



Communication with Professor: Valencia faculty and staff communicate with students through Valencia Email and CANVAS. It is your responsibility to check your Valencia Email on a regular basis, and to check CANVAS for announcements each week of the semester. Failure to check your e-mail account or CANVAS Announcement page does not excuse you from acting upon any notices that have been sent.

Professional Etiquette: When emailing your professors, as in all other professional and academic settings, you should use professional etiquette. This means writing in complete and coherent sentences, spelling words in proper English, avoiding text-slang, and include a proper greeting and closing. Always include your course CRN in the subject line of your emails. As I teach this Introduction to Humanities course in face-to-face settings as well, indicate in your email that you are in the “ONLINE” course.

Attendance Policy: As there are no class meetings for this course, attendance is measured by your timely submission of homework, completion of exams, and participation in discussion boards. Any student who “disappears” from our digital community for over two weeks without contacting me, or fails to submit four consecutive assignments, will be dropped from the course.

START RIGHT & ‘No-Show’ Policy: All Valencia classes conform to the ‘Start Right’ policy which mandates that students attend the first week of classes to confirm their intent to complete the course for which they are registered. In an online course, this translates to completing the introductory assignments within the first week of class. Failure to complete these will result in the student being withdrawn as a “no-show” during the no-show reporting period.

Emergencies related to Covid-19 Pandemic or other illnesses: If you are unable to participate in the course due to illness, family emergency, etc., please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan to complete any missed assignments so that your learning can progress in your course. In the case of a prolonged online absence, please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan for the best course of action.

Exams: The three exams for this course will be taken through CANVAS. Exams are typically open for one week to allow students plenty of opportunity to make arrangements to take them. It is up to the student to learn the CANVAS system and to arrange to use a proper computer to take exams. You are strongly advised to use a proper desktop or laptop computer that you understand how to use before taking the exams. You are strongly advised NOT to take exams on your Smartphone or Tablet—one accidental swipe can abruptly close your exam and you WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETAKE IT. Do not wait until the last hour the exam is open to take it—any technical mishap could ruin your chances to earn a good grade. Be sure you have arranged your time properly: getting called into work at the last minute on the last day of the exam window *is not a valid excuse* to have missed it.

Discussion Boards: As this class is online, and thus lacking something essential to learning—intelligent discourse with others—we will do our best to substitute this vital aspect with weekly discussion boards on a topic I will select. You are required to read or watch the assigned material, and then make a thoughtful response in a post written in complete sentences and expressing a complete and coherent thought: such a thing is called a “paragraph” and it requires mental focus to compose. In addition, you must respond to at least two other posts in a few sentences in which you agree or disagree with the idea and *explain why* (with civility, of course...one can disagree without being nasty) or perhaps expand upon what was said. Discussion questions are posted on Sunday: you have until Thursday at midnight to make your initial post, then you have until noon the following Sunday to make your responses to classmates.

The following is the rubric that will be used to grade your Discussion Responses:

Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Incomplete
Mastery of the subject matter and concepts.	3 points Displays an excellent understanding of the course materials and the underlying concept being discussed. Uses course materials and other information to support important points.	2 points Displays some understanding of the course materials and the underlying concept being discussed. Limited use of course materials and other information to support points.	0 points Displays little understanding of the course materials and the underlying concept being discussed. Use of course materials and other information to support points is incoherent or missing entirely.
Evidence of strong critical thinking skills provided through analysis, synthesis, and/or evaluation.	3 points Evidence of strong Critical Thinking by the presentation of an original analysis, synthesis of concepts, and/or relevant insights.	2 points Expresses an opinion, but that opinion has not been developed sufficiently to present a solid analysis.	1 point Little evidence of Critical Thinking. Facts are presented with little or no effort made to analyze the concepts. But you get a point for trying.
The writing submitted is clear, edited, articulate, and free of major grammatical errors.	2 points Written responses are free of grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. The style of writing facilitates communication.	1 point Few spelling or grammatical errors are noted, but the post is still relatively easy to understand.	0 points Written responses contain several errors. The style of writing does not facilitate communication.
Reponses posted to classmates' posts are thoughtful, engaging, and enrich the discussion.	2 points Responses to classmates' postings are thoughtful and enrich the learning community.	1 point Responses to classmates' postings are valid, but brief and not enriching.	0 points Does not present 2 responses to classmates' posts and/or responses to classmates' postings are brief and do not contribute to the discussion.

Other Assignments (study questions, quizzes): There are two kinds of assignments that fall under this final category: 1. Study questions, in which you are expected to consult the reading and find the answers—these are guidance for focused reading of texts or the watching of a video so you know “what to look for”; 2. Quizzes with questions designed to assess if you know how to apply an idea or relate concepts to examples. Rather than factual trivia (which can be Googled), they will be questions to gauge how effectively you are thinking about the material. Most work is due by noon on the Sunday after which it was assigned, but there are occasional exceptions—due dates are posted on assignments.

Copyrighted Material: All materials provided online are copyrighted and made available for educational purposes only. Students may not reproduce copyrighted material without permission from the appropriate publisher or author.

Academic honesty: Each student is expected to be in complete compliance with the college policy on academic honesty as set forth in the college catalog and the student handbook. Cheating on an exam or any degree of plagiarism is zealously punished.

Virtual Support Services and Resources:

Valencia College is concerned about our students and community members during the COVID-19 situation. Here are some of the top resources to get you started and connected to some great tips, tricks, and tools!

- **Virtual Answer Center:** You can now connect with an Answer Center advisor virtually through Zoom! In our virtual Answer Center, student services advisors are available to assist you with questions about admissions, financial aid, assessment, transcripts, residency and more. Visit: <https://valenciacollege.edu/students/answer-center/> to learn more and get started.

- **Academic Advising:** Have questions about your courses? Advisors are available virtually by email (advising@valenciacollege.edu) or through live chat at <https://valenciacollege.edu/about/support/atlas-advising-chat-setup.php>.

- **Valencia's Virtual Tutoring Service:** In response to COVID-19, Valencia's tutoring services have moved online and are now being offered for accounting & economics, computer programming, math, EAP and foreign languages, science, and writing. To get started, please visit: <https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/c.php?g=1014597&p=7348794> and self-enroll in the tutoring courses in Canvas. This is where you will access the links to live tutoring (via Zoom), as well as the schedule of tutors, times, and services.

- **Valencia Counselors:** Our Valencia Counselors are here for guidance and support. Please visit https://valenciacc.ut1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_40fCWDqhRBjrNrv to set up a non-emergency appointment. Please note that it may take up to 24 hours for a counselor to contact you. If you are experiencing a mental health emergency please contact BayCare (800) 878-5470 or call 9-1-1.

- **Laptop Request:** Valencia College has a limited number of laptops available on a first come, first serve basis for student use during this time. Please visit www.valenciacollege.edu/laptop to submit a request. Note: This link will direct you to Atlas to complete the request form. For questions, please email laptops@valenciacollege.edu or call Enrollment Services at 407-582-1507.

- **Food/Housing Insecurity:** Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect his or her performance in the course, is urged to meet with a Counselor in the Advising Center for information about resources that may be available from the college or community. Students who find themselves on campus and in need of something to eat should go to **Pooky's Pantry** located in the left wing of bldg. 4 (the library) where they can access up to six items of food per day with a valid Valencia ID card.

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The OSD determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The East Campus Office is located in Building 5, Room 216.

The instructor reserves the right to amend or alter the course calendar at any time during the semester. It is the student's responsibility to stay updated on changes announced through CANVAS.

HUM 1020: Introduction to the Humanities

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit I: Early civilizations and the Classical World

Week 1

1. Acquire the course text and familiarize yourself with CANVAS (tutorials are available)
2. Introduce yourself to the class with the first Discussion Board prompt
3. Discussion Board 1 (one thoughtful post, and at least two responses to the posts of others)
4. Read excerpt from *Popol Vuh* and do reading guide questions (submitted)
5. Video: *Science and Mysticism of the Number 7*

Week 2

1. Discussion Board 2 [Follow up on DB 1] (do after I upload commentary Sunday)
2. Watch video lecture on *Popol Vuh* and supplement/correct reading notes
3. Read chapter 1 of the course text (pp. xiii-30) and complete study questions (not turned in)
4. Read "Nature Philosophy" (CANVAS upload) and do reading guide questions (submitted)
5. Video lecture on Nature Philosophy (supplement reading guide notes)

Week 3

1. Video Lectures: *Pythagoras, Vi Hart on Pythagoras*
2. Start chapter 2 in the Fiero text (pp. 32-46) and start reading guide
3. Video Lecture: *Lost Civilizations: The Aegean*
4. Logical Fallacy Exercise I (with quiz to be submitted through CANVAS)
5. Discussion Board 3: Bad Arguments

Week 4

1. Video: *Lost Civilizations: Athens*
2. Socrates of Athens: *Apologia* (complete reading guide, take quiz)
3. Video: "The Trial of Socrates"
4. Finish chapter 2 in the Fiero text (pp. 46-67) and finish reading guide (take quiz)
5. Discussion Board 4: Why was Socrates Killed, Really?

Week 5

1. Logical Fallacy Exercise II (Quiz in CANVAS)
2. Discussion Board 5: More Bad Arguments
3. Plato & Philosophical "Idealism" (reading): *Allegory of the Cave* & Video Lectures (two parts)

Week 6

1. Read ch. 3 in Fiero text
2. Video: *Lost Civilizations: Rome*
3. Discussion Board 6: Modern Art Distortions

Week 7

REVIEW MATERIALS FOR UNIT I AND TAKE FIRST EXAM POSTED ONLINE

1. Discussion Board 7: Our Greco-Roman Inheritance

Week 8

Unit II: faith & Reason—the Formation of the Western World

1. Read ch. 4 and ch. 6 in the Fiero text and complete study guide
2. Watch supplemental videos posted to CANVAS
3. Discussion Board 8: Common Religious Ground?

Week 9-10

1. Read ch. 7 in Fiero and complete study guide (see next reading to finish last questions)
2. Read *The Italian Renaissance* and *Leonardo da Vinci* packet uploaded to CANVAS
3. Renaissance Art video guide (see embedded hyperlinks to get to the videos)
4. Logical Fallacy Exercise III (Quiz in CANVAS)
5. *This week is heavy on reading and viewing, so no discussion board until next week*

Week 11

1. Read ch. 11 in Fiero and complete study guide
2. Sneaky Rhetorical Tricks (Quiz in CANVAS)
3. Discussion Board 10: The Renaissance Man, or Woman, Today?

Week 12

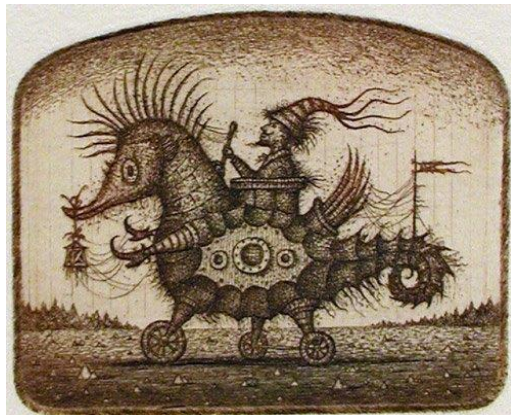
TAKE UNIT TWO EXAM AND WRITE ESSAY ON LEONARDO DA VINCI

Weeks 13 - 15

Unit III: The Creation of Modern Western Civilization

1. Arts & Ideas Study Guide I (Fiero, ch. 12, supplemental videos)
2. Arts & Ideas Study Guide II (Fiero, ch. 13, supplemental videos)
3. Arts & Ideas Study Guide III (Fiero, ch. 14, supplemental videos)
4. Final Discussion Board [#11]: Art of Our Time

TAKE FINAL EXAM: (OPEN DURING FINAL EXAM WEEK)



I hope you enjoyed the adventure!