HUM2234 (CRN 11814)

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Course Description & Outcomes

What is this course about?

You may be asking yourself, "What is this course all about?" Like the title indicates, it is a humanities course that explores ideas, art, literature, history, music, architecture, and philosophy during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The course is interdisciplinary, which means that we will study different subjects (different disciplines) during the semester. As you can imagine, studying many different things during a period that spans two hundred years can be overwhelming. But don't worry. This is a 2000-level course designed to give you a broad overview of the major ideas that helped shape those two hundred years. We will be discussing interesting topics like the Age of Enlightenment, the Scientific Revolution, the French Revolution,  the Romantic movement, the various early modern art movements, and much more. This is a Gordon Rule course, which means there are some reading and writing involved, but my aim is to give you a fun, enriching, and thought-provoking course!

That was my quick description fo the course, but for the record, here is Valencia College's official "catalog description" of the course:

Catalog description:

"Integrated examination of dominant ideas in Western culture expressed in art, literature, music, philosophy, and religion. Covers the contexts and periods of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, emphasizing the emergence of rationalism, the Enlightenment, modern science, the Romantic rebellion, and more. Students must demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement."

Major learning outcomes:

* Analyze and interpret works of art, literature, religion, philosophy, and other primary source texts in their historical contexts.
* Understand the factors and forces that shaped the Enlightenment and Romanticism.
* Evaluate the lasting historical significance of the Enlightenment and Romantic eras.
* Appreciate diverse achievements and traditions of global civilizations.
* Demonstrate college-level writing

Major Topics/ Concepts/ Skills/ Issues

* The Romantic approach to nature
* The foundations for Enlightenment thinking
* Romantic Heroism in literature
* Major contributions of the philosophes
* The Napoleonic Empire
* The satirists
* Transcendentalism and American Landscape Painting
* Shifts in eighteenth-century painting styles
* Romantic music
* Slavery and freedom
* Realism at mid-century
* The revolutionary spirit in France and America
* Developments in nineteenth-century thought
* Foundation for modernism
* The birth of modern feminism
* The birth of classical music
* The shift to romanticism

# Course Structure & Navigation

## Navigating this course

You will have a new module due every week, usually on Tuesday evenings by 11:59 pm EST.

Click on "Modules" in the sidebar to see all the modules.

You should view all pages in a module in order. At the end of each module, you will find a section called "Graded Assignments." Please ensure that you view all pages in a module before completing all graded assignments. You must complete the graded assignments before their due dates.

All modules for the entire course are open on the first day of class. I invite you to work at your own pace. However, please don't get too far ahead until you get a sense of how I grade.

Also, please be advised that I will grade assignments after their due date. So, if you work ahead, I will not grade those assignments until after they are due for everyone.

Please ensure you understand the late work policy found in Course Policies & Expectations.

# Course Policies & Expectations

## Keeping up with the work

All modules are unlocked on the first day of class so you can work at your own pace. You will have a different module to complete each week. Some modules are longer than others, with videos and lengthy/difficult readings, so it is important that you stay on top of your work. Do not procrastinate or wait until the last day to start working on assignments.

## Due dates

Modules are due every Tuesday evening by 11:59 pm EST.

## Checking in & Course Announcements

Important announcements are communicated via Canvas. You are expected to "check-in" on the course at least once every 48 hours during the workweek.

## Reading the Instructions and Announcements

About 75% of the emails I receive from students ask questions that have been previously answered in announcements or in the assignment instructions. Please read all instructions and announcements carefully.

## Late work

I do accept late assignments with a grade penalty, but I do not accept late quizzes under any circumstance.

Canvas will automatically deduct 20% from late assignments each day they are late. Canvas is strict: if you submit an assignment at 12:00 am instead of by the deadline at 11:59 pm, you will automatically get a 20% deduction. I will not manually change grades for any reason, even if you are 1 minute late.

Because all modules are unlocked on the first day of class and you can work at your own pace, I will strictly adhere to my late work policy. This may sound rude, so I apologize in advance, but please do not waste your time asking for an extension on quizzes or any other assignment that is late.

This is a university-equivalent course and you are expected to keep up with the work. If you can't, there is a generous late-work policy.

I will not make exceptions to the late-work policy for any circumstance including but not limited to power outages, internet outages, computer/technology problems, fire, death, illness, job-related excuses, theft, highway robbery, pandemic, animal-related excuses, weddings, delayed planes, vacations, terrorism, acts of god, acts of the devil, ufo abductions, Armageddon, or any other reason that does not include sudden and documented military orders.

## Grading

I will grade all assignments after their due dates. So, if you work ahead, I will not grade those assignments until after their deadlines. I recommend that you don't get ahead of yourself until you can see how I grade. You can expect your assignments to be graded within seven to ten days of their due dates.

## Grading scale

A: 100 - 90

B: 89 - 80

C: 79 - 70

D: 69 - 60

F: 59 - 0

## Grading policy

Your grade is determined by the total available points by the points you've earned.

## Assignment Types

### **Quizzes**

You will have regular quizzes on the modules and readings throughout the semester. These quizzes are low-stakes assignments and their points vary from week to week.

### **Exams**

You will have a midterm exam and a final exam. Exams are essay-based reflections. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing in any part of the final exam will result in a zero for the entire exam.

### **Term Paper**

You will have one term paper on the novel Frankenstein worth 200 points. You will have advanced access to my grading rubric.

### **Discussions**

You will have discussion board assignments from time to time based on the readings, which are often 80 points each. The standard format is as follows: you will submit an original post before you can see and respond to your classmates' posts.

If you "accidentally" submit a blank or incomplete post, you will receive a zero for the assignment. I have this policy in place because I want you to form your own opinion before being entertaining or being influenced by the opinion of another classmate.

You will need to respond to your classmates' posts. Throw-away responses like "great post" will receive automatic zeros. I'm looking for substantial academic engagement and contribution. You don't need to write a novel, but you need to show me that you've actually read and understood what your classmate and what the author of the reading said. All responses must be courteous and respectful. Intolerant, hateful, disrespectful, and offensive posts will result in an automatic zero for the entire assignment grade (not just the replies) and may be reported to Valencia College administration. "Disagreement" doesn't necessarily mean "offensive," so rest assured that I will not fail you if you and I do not agree about controversial subjects.

The original post and the responses have the same deadline. It is in everybody's best interest to post early.

## Withdrawal policy

Valencia College policy states that you must complete the introductory module's assignments by the deadline or I need to withdraw you as a "no-show." After this, I will not withdraw a student for any reason (though, I reserve the right to request and initiate a student's removal from the course if I deem their actions as disruptive to the teaching and learning environment). Please familiarize yourself with Valencia's refund date (usually around a week after classes begin if a full-term class) and its withdrawal deadline (usually around the 8th week of class if a full-term class). If you're considering a withdrawal, please note that you can calculate and predict your grade in Canvas under Grades to see if it is mathematically possible for you to pass.

## Disclaimer

The eighteenth century was a time when thinkers began questioning the world around them—religion, politics, social norms, etc. In addition, many writers and artists were often provocative. Some of the topics we will examine in this course contain nudity, vulgar words, violence, and sensitive issues that deal with race, sexual identity/orientation, or gender. All of the content is directly related to the course’s learning objectives. I will never embarrass a student or make them uncomfortable. But I will also not pretend like the world isn't complicated and challenging. I will also often ask you to debate or challenge your classmates' views. If you are easily offended, please let me know so I can help you find another course. That said, I reserve the right to request the removal of a disruptive, hateful, intolerant, and offensive student.

The opinions, statements, and any other expressions in the content of this course, including those made by third parties or by the professor, do not necessarily reflect the views of the professor or the college. References to political, social, and religious views in this course do not necessarily reflect the views or endorsement of the professor or of the college.

# Textbooks

This course does not require that you purchase a paperback textbook. All information is provided for you herein in electronic formats.

There are two books that you will read/consult in this class. They are:

## 1) The Early Modern World

This is our primary source reader. We will read and discuss essays from this book. It contains "primary sources," which are artifacts, documents, or any other sources of information that were created at the time under study.

Please download a PDF of The Early Modern World to your computer to reference it as needed.  You can freely read and print the PDF for personal use at Valencia College.

## 2) Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

We will be reading Mary Shelley's famous novel Frankenstein this semester.

It is available online for free at Project Gutenberg (Links to an external site.). While a paperback version is not required, Frankenstein is widely available for purchase on Amazon or in any bookstore if you want a physical, bound copy. I recommend that you purchase one, though it is not required.

Technology Requirements

General information

As this is an online course, you'll obviously need web access. This course does have streaming videos and timed assignments, so a fast and reliable connection is necessary.

Many students access Canvas on their phones. And this is generally okay to check due dates, send emails, and check grades. But you will need to have access to a desktop or laptop computer to complete quizzes, papers, and other assignments.

Required Technology

* A laptop or desktop computer
* Reliable Internet connection
* Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox
* Word-processing software like Microsoft Word

Mac/Apple Technology Note

Using a Mac is okay, but please note that Safari is not 100% compatible with Canvas. Sometimes, pages will be formatted incorrectly or images will not be visible. You must download Chrome or Firefox to use in this course.

Using Apple Pages as your word-processing software is okay, but please note that written assignments like term papers and exams need to be submitted in .docx, .doc, or .txt formats. Submitting it in .pages format will not work.

If you submit a .pages assignment and don't resubmit the correct format prior to the due date, the assignment will be considered "late" until you resubmit the correct format. Please be advised that your professor may not check the assignments until a few days after the deadline.

Course Prerequisites & Skills Needed

Prerequisites:

Minimum grade of C in ENC 1101, ENC 1101H, or IDH 1110

Skills needed:

* Critical reading
* Academic communication
* Self-motivated work ethic
* Familiarity with word-processing software like MS Word
* Familiarity with Valencia College software like Canvas and Atlas
* Open-mindedness

Course Communications & Office Hours

Office hours:

Valencia College has moved most fall 2020 courses completely online. Therefore, I will not be keeping traditional face-to-face office hours. I am generally available throughout the week to have private Zoom meetings or Skype meetings, but you must make an appointment with me. If you want to discuss your grade, you will need to have your video camera activated and working so I can verify your identity.

How can you get in touch with your professor?

If you need to get in touch with me, please email me directly through Canvas. Please do not email my atlas account.

Optional and Informal Zoom Gatherings

From time to time, the professor will organize optional and informal Zoom gatherings with students. They are typically held on the days before assignments are due. So, if a module is due on Tuesday, the Zoom gathering will be held on the preceding Monday. These are optional, but they are a good time for students to connect with other students and the professor to ask course- and assignment-related questions. They are also informal, so students should expect conversations and discussions instead of lectures.

Keep in mind...

* Only email me through Canvas.  Due to privacy laws, I can only discuss performance/grade-related issues with you through Canvas.
* Under normal circumstances, I will reply to your email within 48 hours on the next business day. If you email me on a Friday, I probably will not respond until Monday morning. If Monday is a holiday, then you can expect a response on Tuesday. And so on.
* My name is not "yo" or "hey."
* Always email all your professors using proper netiquette.

Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is defined as using the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own without giving credit to the original source.

Plagiarism thus can be described as the act of

* Copying a textbook
* Copying a classmate
* Copying a website
* Asking someone else to complete an assignment for you
* Copying a sentence and using a thesaurus to change words
* Not submitting original work that you made specifically for this course
* Etc.

Penalties of plagiarism

Valencia College has a strict plagiarism policy. If a student has plagiarized, the student will receive a zero for the assignment. No make-ups allowed. If a student plagiarizes a second time, the student will receive an automatic F in the course and will be reported to Valencia College.  If a student plagiarizes on the final paper, the student will receive a zero for the assignment and also fail the course.

How to avoid plagiarism?

Don't copy. Create original work. If you want to copy a sentence or two from a website or a book, it is not plagiarism if you use quotation marks (" ") and cite your source using in-text citations and proper bibliographic documentation. I will teach you how to properly document your sources for the final paper, so don't worry if you don't know how to do it.

# Covid-19 Note

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.

# Student Accommodations (OSD)

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first week of class.

The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

For more information, please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities directly.

# Course Schedule

(More detailed breakdown and due dates posted on the Canvas page)

Start Here / Orientation

 Module - The Ancien Régime

 Module - Early Scientific Thought

 Module - From Rococo to Neoclassicism

 Module - The French Philosophes, Reason, and the Enlightenment

 Module - Revolt, Revolution, and the Reign of Terror

 Module - Midterm Exam

 Module - The Industrial Revolution and the Romantic Worldview

 Module - Romantic Poetry

 Module - Realism, Marxism, & Unrest

 Module - The Birth of Photography and Modernism

 Module - Ibsen's "A Doll's House"

 Module - Thanksgiving Week Module

 Module - Term Paper

 Module - Final Exam