

# Humanities in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**HUM 2250; T 7:00-9:45pm**

**Instructor:** Dr. Matthew J. McAllister

**Office: East Campus:** 1-145

**Office Hours:** M/W 12-1, 2:30-4; T 5-7pm, R 10am-Noon; F 10am-11am (Online)

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## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Integrated examination of dominant ideas in Western culture expressed in art, literature, music, philosophy and religion. Covers period from turn of century to present. Focuses on creative forces which have shaped contemporary consciousness from pioneering work of Einstein, Picasso, Stravinsky and Wright through dominance of objective consciousness to newly emerging guiding myths of today. Gordon Rule course which requires 6,000 words of writing. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

Upon completing Humanities 2250, students should be able to identify key concepts, themes, and people of the Twentieth century as well as explore the major achievements of the cultures' expression through art, science, religion, and philosophy.

**STUDENT CORE COMPETENCIES** This course reinforces Valencia Student Core Competencies

- **Think** clearly, critically and creatively by analyzing, synthesizing, integrating and evaluating symbolic works and truth claims.
- **Value** by understanding your own and others' values from individual, cultural and global perspectives.
- **Communicate** by reading, listening, writing and speaking effectively.
- **Act** purposefully, reflectively and responsibly by implementing effective problem solving and decision making strategies.

**PREREQUISITE:** This course has a prerequisite of ENC 1101 Freshman Composition completed with a minimum grade of C.

**REQUIREMENTS** Gordon Rule course in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple writing assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement

**Required Texts:** Henry M. Sayre, *The Humanities: Culture, Change & Continuity*, **Book 6** (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2008/2012).

- **ISBN-10:** 020501332-5
- **ISBN-13:** 978-02051332-6

## **Course Requirements and Assessment:**

Test 1: 25%

Test 2: 25%

Writing Assignments ***and*** Active Participation (Contribution): 50%

(There will be either three or four writing-with-participation assignments)

**Attendance Policy:** Each student will be allowed only ONE absence. An additional absence will reduce the students' grade by one-half letter grade, and all subsequent absences will result in a further reduction of a full letter grade. Since this class meets only once a week, attendance is of paramount importance. Moreover, a substantial portion of your grade comes from classroom contribution, so it is vital that you are in class and prepared to speak every week. Failure to do so not only negatively impacts your capacity for learning, but it also diminishes everyone's academic experience by removing your voice from our discussions.

## **Grading Scale:**

90%-100%    A

80%-89%    -    B

70%-79%    -    C

60%-69%    -    D

< 60%        -    F

## **Course Policies and Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

Valencia Community College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Valencia Community College is dedicated to promoting honorable personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules articulated in the Student Code of Conduct (6Hx28:10-03). The instructor reserves the right to refer students who engage in activities that are disruptive to the learning environment to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. The following list, though not exhaustive, includes things which are disruptive to the learning environment:

- Use of any electronic devices including but not restricted to: Cell phones, iPods, and laptop computers (documentation from OSD will be taken into consideration).
- Preparing homework for other courses during class.
- Engaging in private conversations with classmates while class is in session.
- Excessive tardiness
- Leaving and re-entering the classroom while the class is in session. In addition, Valencia Community College strives to provide a drug-free learning environment for all those involved in the academic experience. Our policy is as follows:

**Policy:** In compliance with the provisions of the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, Valencia Community College will take such steps as are necessary in order to adopt and implement a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by Valencia Community College students or employees on college premises or as part of any college activity.

**Disclaimer:** While it is important for the course that everything go according to the syllabus' plan, there may be a time or times when adjustments must be made. Therefore, the instructor reserves the right to alter or correct the syllabus during the semester, and to inform the students of those changes within a reasonable timeframe. It is the responsibility of the students to make any adjustments necessary.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide 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 Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The East Campus Office is located in Building 5, Room 216.

## **Course Calendar**

**Week 1: Introduction and Assignment 1: Walter Benjamin essay.**

**Week 2: Benjamin “Boil Down” Due. Graded Discussion. What is “Modernism?” Einstein and Relativity.**

**Week 3: Futurism and Primitivism. Marinetti and Stravinsky. *The Rite of Spring*. Sigmund Freud.**

**Week 4: Cinema from 1894-1933.**

**Week 5: World War I and the Dissolution of the Notion of Progress.**

**Week 6: Test #1**

**Week 7: The Rise of Totalitarianism. Nazi, Fascists and Communist Art.**

**Week 8: World War II**

**Week 9: Existentialism and The Beats**

**Week 10: Cinema since World War II**

**Week 11: The 1960s and the Emergence of Rock and Roll**

**Week 12: Test #2**

**Week 13: Pluralism as Dogma: Music, Visual Arts, and Film in the 60’s and Beyond.**

**Week 14: What is “Postmodernism?” Electronic and Digital Art.**

**Week 15: Final Assignment Due and Graded Discussion**