

Lincoln University
Introduction to Humanities (HUM 10) Fall 2015
Prof. Eric Bergerud rickt2@prodigy.net
3 Units (45 hours of lecture) Friday 9:00 – 11:45 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course charts the development of Western culture from the Renaissance (approximately 1500 A.D.) to the present. We will look at the visual arts and music as representative of basic cultural change, and will examine the changes in Western thought: the development of scientific method, changing views of physical reality, and the redefinition of social justice. Lastly we will consider the possibility that a "world culture" is developing in the post-industrial world.

PURPOSE: To understand the world's present it is necessary to understand its cultural foundations. This is more true than ever at present because of the growing connections between once distant cultures. A basic knowledge of what is becoming, at some level at least, a part of a world culture will prepare students to act and think in today's global society. In addition, this course, in common with all courses in the humanities and social sciences, will help the students improve their analytical skills. Also, because the lectures and the exams essays are very important, students will improve their English language skills.

SCOPE: This course concentrates on the development of Western Civilization because of the impact it has had worldwide. We shall, however, use many comparative examples from other cultural traditions to illustrate important points. Throughout the course, we shall examine the question of what degree it is possible or desirable to create a "world" culture to accompany economic global integration.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: There are no prerequisites for this class. Attendance is mandatory. Students are urged to complete the appropriate reading assignments before the lectures. It is very important that students be attentive in class and take notes as the lectures will have a different emphasis than the readings. Questions and discussions in class are strongly encouraged. It is very important to have an orderly atmosphere during lectures. Therefore cell phones should be turned off and casual conversation between students is discouraged.

The text is *The Humanities* Vol. II (6th Edition) by Mary Ann Witt (ISBN-10: **0618045384**, or ISBN-10: 0669279978). I will show students where to buy an inexpensive used copy of this book. There will also be several copies on reserve in the library. I will distribute

shorter readings from contemporary sources that illustrate how cultural developments of the past continue to shape the present world.

FORMAT AND GRADES: This course will be based on a standard lecture format. In addition we shall use employ videos and internet photos to illustrate the visual arts and architecture. This course will be based on a standard lecture format. Questions, comments and discussion are very welcome. The grades will be based on the outcome of one midterm and a final exam. The exams will be essay in nature. The essays will be very broad and I will discuss their scope prior to exams. We shall also discuss the basic techniques of building an orderly argument suitable for the exams. The Standard A-F grades will be given. Approximately 1/3 of the grade is based on the midterm and 2/3 on the final. However, I do take into consideration a favorable trajectory between the midterm and final when deciding the course grade. Bad attendance results in a grade penalty. Grading essays is necessarily subjective but the grades will be put into a numerical format:

Point/Grade Conversion

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|--------|----|---------|----|
| 100-95 | A | 76-74 | C |
| 94-90 | A- | 73-70 | C- |
| 89-87 | B+ | 69-67 | D+ |
| 86-84 | B | 66-60 | D |
| 83-80 | B- | 59 or < | F |
| 79-77 | C+ | | |

CONTACT BETWEEN INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS: I will have office hours between 2:30-3:30 on Wednesday at a room to be arranged. If you would like to arrange a different time for a meeting I will be glad to arrange one. If there are any questions or messages you wish forwarded please email me: I check my messages several times a day and will contact you very promptly. I ask that you use my home email address (rickt2@prodigy.net). My school email is bergerud@lincolnuca.edu but this will be forwarded and it is easier to go direct.

SCHEDULE: Text Chapters Given In [] (**The Humanities** Vol.2 by Mary Witt)

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| August 28 | Introduction: The West [Introduction] |
| September 4 | Renaissance/Reformation Europe [21-22] |
| Sept. 11 | Beginnings of Science and Enlightenment [25-26] |
| Sept. 18 | Revolution:Political & Industrial [27] |
| Sept. 25 | Romanticism [28] |
| October 2 | 19th Century Realism [29] |

Oct. 9 19th Century Science [30] Midterm
Oct. 16 Culture of Imperialism [29]
Oct. 23 The West in 1914 [30]
October 30 “Progress” and Doubt [31]
Nov. 6 War and Culture [32]
Nov. 13 New Science and Industry and Society [33]
Nov. 20 New Communication [34]
Nov. 27 Fall Break (Holiday)
December 4 World Culture? [35]
December 11 Final Exam

Syllabus updated: August 9, 2015