

HUMANITIES 103:

Romantic Era to Contemporary Society

"I am human: nothing human is alien to me" --Terence

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SYLLABUS

Welcome to Humanities 103! This syllabus contains all the vital information about this course—what you'll be learning, what will be expected of you, and what you can expect from me. In short, it states what is required of both of us during the term. This is a valuable document, so please refer to it often! **The better you know the syllabus, the better the chance that you'll do well in the course.**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Name: Matt Usner
- Email: matt.usner@linnbenton.edu
- Phone: (971) 208-7175 (call or text weekdays between 9:00 AM-5:00 PM) CRN: 16671
- Drop-in Student Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 via Zoom: <https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/98589898782>. This is learning/discussion time to meet with me. I know this time won't work for everyone, but I am always happy to work with you to find a mutually convenient time; just let me know.
- Faculty Webpage: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/faculty/?sort=lname>

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE

HUM 103 examines the connections among arts, ideas and human experiences through study and experience of selected works from Western and non-Western cultures. It emphasizes arts and ideas as both reflections of and influences on social and cross-cultural change. College-level reading and writing skills (i.e., successful completion of WR 121) are **strongly recommended** for success in this course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Volumes 5 and 6 of Gloria Fiero's *The Humanistic Tradition* 7th edition (2015). Readings can be accessed directly from Moodle.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Because the humanities are so far-reaching, they can be hard to define. They typically include, but are certainly not limited to, the study of history, philosophy and religion, languages and literatures, fine and performing arts, and media and cultural studies. While we can't cover all of those fields in depth in a single class, we'll aim to explore the connections between the arts, ideas, and human experiences from about 1780 to the present. This class is a survey course, meaning that we'll sample a variety of works in art, philosophy, literature, history, architecture, drama, dance, and music over a broad historical period. Along the way, you'll have the chance to develop your skills in responding to any work of art by understanding the work itself, by appreciating its particular time and place, and by coming to know its unique cultural meaning. Throughout the course, I hope you'll expand your understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the many forms of human expression found in previous eras, as well as our own contemporary moment. Some of what we discuss will be controversial and subject to interpretation, but all the cultural artifacts we study (even those we don't understand or enjoy) affirm the creativity and courage of individuals who

pursue the human urge to create something beautiful.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Describe how studying the humanities from the Romantic Era to contemporary society helps us to understand human thought, creativity, and aesthetics in a global and historical context.
- Interpret artifacts and ideas from different cultures and different times, drawn from art, architecture, literature, philosophy, drama, music, dance and theater through critical reading, writing, and discussion.
- Participate in activities that encourage personal awareness, growth, and/or creativity through the experience of the humanities.
- Write and speak effectively about one's own and others ideas as related to humanities.
- Identify and analyze complex practices, values, and beliefs and the culturally and historically defined meanings of difference.

ONLINE LEARNING WITH MOODLE

This course is conducted entirely online, with no required virtual meetings. All course content will be posted on our Moodle class site. If you are new to Moodle, I suggest taking a look at the college's [Current eLearning Students](#) page. You can also contact the Student Help Desk at 541-917-4630 or student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu.

Because online learning requires a high level of independence and self-motivation, students who lack time management skills and self-motivation typically don't fare well in this course. You give yourself the best chance to do well in the course by being proactive: logging-in to our course site frequently, reading online instructions carefully, paying close attention to the course calendar, and contacting me well ahead of time when you have questions, not a few hours before an assignment is due. Students who are not earning a passing grade at midterm and/or are not actively pursuing the course (i.e., many missed assignments, infrequent log-ins, etc.), may want to consider withdrawing (see more information about this below in the "Last Day to Withdraw" section).

Because this is a fully online course, you need to be comfortable with basic computer skills and have frequent access (ideally daily access) to a computer and the internet. You're in good shape if you know how to navigate a web browser, post to a discussion forum, send and receive email, open PDFs, and use a text-editor such as Google Docs or Microsoft Word. **The college does not recommend using your phone as your sole computer device for online classes.** You may wish to review [the college's minimum and standard recommendations for student technology equipment](#) for more information.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Course content will be organized into weekly sections. Each week's section will be made available at **9:00 AM on the Friday before the upcoming week**. So for example, the Week 2 materials will be available starting at 9:00 AM on Friday of Week 1. I always encourage you to start your weekly work as early as you can, but be aware that this isn't a self-paced course where you can work ahead and finish the term early.

COMMUNICATING WITH ME

My main communication tool with you is **email** so it's **essential that you check [your LBCC account](#) at least once daily**. In addition to having useful reminders for upcoming tasks, my emails will also often provide valuable course content that complements the current assignment we are working on. **Checking email frequently and reading my messages carefully is your best way to stay current in the class!** I have a 24-hour turnaround when replying to emails Monday through Friday, although I typically reply much sooner than that. On weekends, I typically do not check email. When you have questions about an assignment, do not wait until a few hours before it is due to email me. Instead, be working on the course content early, and allow yourself time for questions--and time for me to answer those questions. I'm also happy to videoconference with you; just email me to schedule a time.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Week 1 Assignments (10 points = 4% of final grade):** There will be 2 discussion forum assignments during our first week (as well as a reading quiz, which is discussed below). In the first forum, you will introduce yourself and begin exploring some broad ideas about the humanities; this will be **worth 5 points and due by the first Wednesday**. In the second forum, you will respond to a question about the first week's reading; this will be **worth 5 points and due by the first Sunday**. **These Week 1 assignments will also count as your attendance for the first week of the term; if you complete them on time, you earn a spot in the class.** If you don't complete them on time, and have not contacted me by this time, you will be reported as a "no-show" and will lose your spot on the roster.
- **10 Weekly Reading Quizzes (90 points = 36% of final grade):** Each week there will be a short quiz on the week's assigned reading. Quizzes are my way of encouraging you to complete the weekly readings. You are always welcome to refer to the readings while taking the quizzes. My goal is for you to interact with the readings, not to test your memory skills. Each quiz will consist of 9 questions. 8 will be multiple choice, and one will require a written response of at least a well-developed paragraph. Quizzes will be worth 10 points. **There will be a total of 10 quizzes, but only your 9 highest scores will count. Quizzes will be available until 11:59 PM each Sunday. Once you start a quiz, you will have 3 hours (180 minutes) to complete it. Only one attempt will be allowed, and missed quizzes cannot be made up.**
- **9 Weekly Discussion Forums (80 points = 32% of final grade):** Starting with Week 2, there will be a group discussion on selected aspects of the week's reading. These discussions are designed so that you can interact with a small group of your classmates while doing a "deeper dive" on some of our reading topics. For each discussion, I will provide some questions, and you will choose one to respond to. In addition to posting your response to your chosen question, you will also need to read and reply to at least 2 of your classmates' posts--and sometimes my posts as well. This activity is designed to work in much the same way as a face-to-face class discussion, but of course your writing will be a bit more thought-out and organized than it might be in a spoken conversation. Each discussion will be worth 10 points: 6 points for your initial post and 2 points each for your 2 replies. **There will be 9 weekly discussion forums, but only your 8 highest scores will count. Your response to your chosen discussion question will be due by Wednesday of each week; replies to your classmates will be due between Thursday and Sunday.** This ensures that you interact with the forum at least twice a week. **You can earn one extra credit point if your response to your discussion question is posted by Tuesday.** Note that missed discussion forums cannot be made up.
- **Project #1 (30 points = 12% of final grade) and Project #2 (40 points = 16% of final grade):** These projects will present you with a couple of different options--writing a traditional academic essay, attending a virtual humanities event, or creating a personal gallery of artworks you select. **The first project will be due at the end of Week 6, and the second will be due at the end of Week 10.** The

goal of both projects will be to dig deeper into the concepts we are studying in class.

GRADING

You can earn up to **250 points** in this course:

ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS	% OF FINAL GRADE
Week 1 Assignments (2 discussion forums)	2 x 5 points each = 10	4%
10 Weekly Reading Quizzes (9 highest scores count)	9 x 10 points each = 90	36%
9 Weekly Discussion Forums (8 highest scores count)	8 x 10 points each = 80	32%
Project #1	30	12%
Project #2	40	16%
POINT TOTAL	250	100%

Your **final grade** will be determined by the following point breakdown:

FINAL GRADE	TOTAL POINTS	DESCRIPTION
A	250 to 224 points (89.5% and up)	Passing work that is <u>excellent</u>
B	223 to 199 points (89.% to 79.5%)	Passing work that is <u>good</u>
C	198 to 174 points (79% to 69.5%)	Passing work that is <u>adequate</u>
D	173 to 149 points (69% to 59.5%)	Non-passing work that is <u>inadequate</u>
F	148 and below (59% and below)	Non-passing work that is <u>fundamentally lacking</u>

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES AND CAMPUS RESOURCES

- **No-Show Policy:** Students may be **dropped from the class** if they do not complete the first week's assignments.
- **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** Presenting someone else's ideas in writing as if they are your own is plagiarism, and it is a serious academic offense. **Any plagiarized elements in your writing will result in, at minimum, a zero for the assignment and, at maximum, automatic course failure.** If you ever borrow information from an outside source to put in an essay, you must cite it properly. If you're not sure how to do this, please ask me for help before submitting your assignment. Once you submit an assignment, the policy mentioned above will be enforced. I strongly suggest that you review [the college's administrative rule on academic integrity and honesty](#).
- **LBCC Student Email:** You are responsible for all communication sent to [your student email](#), so be sure that you are checking it frequently.
- **The LBCC Writing Center:** [The LBCC Writing Center](#) (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students interested in improving their writing skills.
- **The LBCC Library:** [The LBCC library](#) is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall.

- **Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR):** LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through [the Center for Accessibility Resources \(CFAR\)](#) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please contact them for steps on how to apply.
- **Non-Discrimination Policy:** Everyone in the LBCC community has the right to think, learn, and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill, and we will honor that in our class.
- **Title IX Reporting Policy:** If you or another student are the victim of any form of sexual misconduct (including dating/domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment), or any form of gender discrimination, LBCC can assist you. You can [report](#) a violation of our [sexual misconduct policy](#) directly to our Title IX Coordinator. You may also report the issue to a faculty member, who is required to notify the Coordinator, or you may make an appointment to speak confidentially to our Advising and Career Center by calling 541-917-4780.
- **Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the [Roadrunner Resource Center](#).
- **Last Day to Withdraw:** Each term, the Friday that concludes Week 7 is the last day for students to withdraw from a course. If you are still enrolled after this point, you must receive a grade. Be aware that withdrawing from a course can impact your financial aid, so be sure to contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) before withdrawing.

COURSE CALENDAR

The week-by-week schedule below is a key to success; follow it carefully! **Remember that each week's materials are made available at 9:00 AM on Friday before the upcoming week.**

DATE WEEKLY READINGS ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY 11:59 PM

WEEK 1 Mon 3/29

- Assign Project #1 (due by Sunday, May 9th)
- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)

WEEK 2 Mon 4/5

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 30 (278-318): "Industry, Empire, and the Realist Style"

- Introductory Discussion Forum due by Wed.
- Reading Quiz #1 due by Sunday

- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun.
- Reading Quiz #3 due by Sunday

WEEK 3 Mon 4/12

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 27 (209-236): "The Romantic View of Nature" (all readings posted on Moodle)

- Week 1 Reading Response Forum due by Sunday

WEEK 4 Mon 4/19

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 28 (237-256): "The Romantic Hero"

- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)
- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun.

WEEK 5 Mon 4/26

- Reading Quiz #2 due by Sunday

WEEK 6 Mon 5/3

(502-525): "Globalism: The Contemporary World"

- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)
- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun. • Reading Quiz #4 due by Sunday

WEEK 7 Mon 5/10

WEEK 8 Mon 5/17

- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)

WEEK 9 Mon 5/24

- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun. • Reading Quiz #5 due by Sunday

WEEK 10 Mon 5/31

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 31 (319-350): "The Move Toward Modernism"

- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)
- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun. • Reading Quiz #6 due by Sunday
- Project #1 due Sunday

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 33 (378-398): "The Freudian Revolution"

- Assign Project #2 (due by Sunday, June 6th) • First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 34 (399-422): "Total War, Totalitarianism, and the Arts"

- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun. • Reading Quiz #7 due by Sunday

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 35 (423-443): "The Quest for Meaning"

- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)
- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun. • Reading Quiz #8 due by Sunday

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 36 (444-474): "Liberation and Equality"

- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)
- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun. • Reading Quiz #9 due by Sunday

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 37 (475-501): "The Information Age"

- First post for Discussion Forum due by Wednesday (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)
- Discussion Forum replies due between Thur-Sun. • Reading Quiz #10 due by Sunday

Humanistic Tradition Ch. 38

- Project #2 due Sunday