

Kingsborough Community College
Humanities 1: Modern Humanities—Arts and Ideas

Standard Syllabus

HUM 1 Course Description: Through the exploration of modern literature, drama, art, film, poetry, and music, this course places developments in the Humanities into historical and philosophical contexts and illustrates the continuity of culture. This course introduces students to literature, philosophy, art, film, and music from the beginning of the 20th century to the present.

HUM 1 Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, students will be able to

1. gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view;
2. evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically;
3. produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions;
4. identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring creative expression, including, but not limited to, arts, communications, creative writing, media arts, music, and theater;
5. analyze how arts from diverse cultures of the past serve as a foundation for those of the present, and describe the significance of works of art in the societies that created them;
6. articulate how meaning is created in the arts or communications and how experience is interpreted and conveyed;
7. demonstrate knowledge of the skills involved in the creative process;
8. become acquainted with the human tradition as expressed in its literature, philosophy, and the arts;
9. become familiar with seminal modern ideas and theories as expressed through literature, philosophy, and the arts;
10. examine underlying assumptions about and ways of seeing literature, philosophy, and the arts;
11. think critically about the humanities by looking outward at the world and formulating thoughtful and informed ideas about it; and
12. understand themselves as persons whose identities are shaped through participation in a wider community and longer history.

Required Books/Articles:

1. Gloria K. Fiero. *The Humanistic Tradition*. Book 6, 5th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2005
2. Elie Wiesel. *Night*. Bantam, 1982 (Or any other books instructors choose to teach. See “College Now Library” below.)
3. Barron, Stephanie. “1937: Modern Art and Politics in Prewar Germany.” (Or any other chapters or articles that instructors choose to teach. See “Selected Bibliography” below.)

Specific Assignments:

Essays: Students will be required to write two essays during the semester and will substantially revise each essay. It is recommended that each essay will be a minimum of 3 pages. (One page is approximately 250 words.) A printed copy of final drafts of papers must be turned in at the beginning of the class for which it is due.

Midterm/Final: The midterm and final will be a mixture of short answer and short essays. The final is cumulative.

Grades in HUM 1

Essay Assignments	60%
Essay 1 (with Revision)	30%
Essay 2 (with Revision)	30%
In-class Assignments (e.g., low-stakes writing, group work), Homework, Quizzes, and Participation (including discussion)	10%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%

Recommended Course Schedule:

Week One:	Introduction to Course
Week Two:	Chapter 32, The Modern Assault, <i>Humanistic Tradition (HT)</i>
Week Three:	Chapter 33, The Freudian Revolution, <i>HT</i>
Week Four:	Chapter 34, Total War, Totalitarianism, and the Arts, <i>HT</i> Stephanie Barron, "1937: Modern Art and Politics in Prewar Germany."
Week Five:	Chapter 35, The Quest for Meaning, <i>HT</i>
Week Six:	Elie Wiesel, <i>Night</i>
Week Seven:	Essay 1, Midterm
Week Eight:	Chapter 36, Liberation and Equality, <i>HT</i>
Week Nine:	Chapter 37, The Information Age, <i>HT</i>
Week Ten:	Chapter 38, Image and Sound in the Information Age, <i>HT</i>
Week Eleven:	Museum of Modern Art Visit—REQUIRED Essay 2
Week Twelve:	Presentations, Final Exam

College Now Library:

The following texts are in the College Now library and are available for use in HUM 1. HUM 1 is not limited to these texts, but these are the texts College Now can provide to a HUM 1 class.

A. Reading

1. Fiction/Other
 - a. Baldwin, *To Be an American*
 - b. Bradbury, *The Veldt*
 - c. Camus, *The Stranger*
 - d. DiNato, *Christ in Concrete*
 - e. Ethnic Writers in *American Selections from the Harlem Renaissance*
 - f. Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
 - g. Fitzgerald, *A Diamond as Big as The Ritz*
 - h. Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
 - i. Hemingway, *In Another Country*
 - j. Huxley, *Brave New World*
 - k. Kafka, *The Trial*
 - l. Kafka, *Metamorphosis*
 - m. Wiesel, *Night*
 - n. DeLillo, *White Noise*
 - o. Cooper, *Briar Rose*
 - p. Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
 - q. Smiley, *A Thousand Acres*

- r. Patchett, *Bel Canto*
- s. Moore, *Birds of America*
- t. Erdich, *Tracks*
- u. Banks, *The Bone*
- v. Kerouac, *On the Road*
- w. Lawrence, *The Fox*

2. Theater

- a. Albee, *The American Dream*
- b. Albee, *The Zoo Story*
- c. Ionesco, *Rhinoceros*
- d. Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
- e. Shephard, *True West*
- f. Parks, *Top Dog, Underdog*
- g. Russell/Simmons, *Def Poetry Jam*

3. Poetry

- a. *The College Now Poetry Anthology*, which includes works by Auden, Benn, Cummings, Eliot, Owens, Rimbaud, Sasson, Stein, Stevens, and Yeats.

B. Music

1. Custom CD to Accompany Fiero Book

- a. Debussy, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*
- b. Ravel, *Bolero*
- c. Schoenberg, *Verklarte Nacht*
- d. Stravinsky, *Rite of Spring*
- e. Stravinsky, *Petroushka*
- f. Bartok, *Music for Springs, Percussion and Celeste*
- g. Ives, *Variations on America*
- h. Copland, *Simple Gifts Variations*
- i. Webern, *5 pieces for Orchestra No. 3*
- j. Berg, *Wozzeck, Act III, 4 and 5*
- k. Prokofiev, *Alexander Nevsky*
- l. Shostakovich, *Symphony No. V, II*
- m. Cage, *Sonatas and Interludes*
- n. Ligeti, *Disorder from the Etudes for Piano, Bk. 1*
- o. Tower, *Snow Dreams for Flute and Guitar*
- p. Glass, *Company*
- q. Part, *PASSIO (first movement)*
- r. Gershwin, *Rhapsody in Blue*
- s. Bernstein, *Symphonic Dances*
- t. Joplin, *Easy Winners by ragtime quintet*
- u. "The Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz"

2. Instructor (CD) Library

- a. Wagner, "Overtures".
- b. Debussy, "The Afternoon of a Faun"
- c. Stravinsky, "Le Sacre du Printemps" and "Petroushka"
- d. Schoenberg, "Pierrot Lunaire" and "The Book of the Hanging Gardens"

C. Visual Arts

1. College Now Slide Library of approximately 150 slides
2. Lynton, *The Story of Modern Art*, including works by Arp, Boccioni, Braque, Dali, Degas, de Chirico, Duchamp, Ernest, Gaudier-Breska, Grosz, Leger, Macke, Manet, Marc, Matisse, Miro, Monet, Oldenberg, Picasso, Rauschenberg, Renoir, Schwitters, Warhol
3. Hughes, *The Shock of the New*.

D. Film

1. College Now Film Library
 - a. Avante Garde and Experimental Films
 - b. Balanchine Ballets
 - c. *Batman*
 - d. *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* (Bunuel).
 - e. *If*
 - f. *Mary Hartman*, Vols. 1 and 2
 - g. *Frieda*
 - h. *The Godfather* (Coppola)
 - i. *Modern Times* (Chaplin)
 - j. *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Kubrick)
 - k. *Koyanisqaatsi* (Reggio)
 - l. *Ordinary People* (Redford)
 - m. *Spellbound* (Hitchcock)
2. Other
 - a. *Cabaret* (Fosse)
 - b. *Citizen Kane* (Welles)
 - c. *Midnight Cowboy* (Schlessinger)
 - d. *On the Waterfront* (Kazan)
 - e. *Pollock* (Harris)
 - f. *Terminator 1* (Cameron)

Selected Bibliography

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