

Los Angeles Harbor College

Humanities AA

Course Descriptions

**Humanities 1: Cultural Patterns in Western Civilization**

This course introduces the general concepts of the Humanities in the framework of the predominant cultural patterns of the Western tradition from the earliest civilizations, such as the Sumerians and the Egyptians, the classical heritage of Greece and Rome, the Medieval period, or Middle Ages, and possibly continuing through the Renaissance and the Reformation. Mythology, music, history, philosophy, painting, drama, sculpture and architecture are studied and compared in relation to their background, medium, organization and style. Emphasis is placed upon the awareness of cultural heritage, values and perspectives as revealed in the arts. Comparisons to relevant Asian, African and American cultures and art may also be explored. Specifics may vary based on instructor.

**Humanities 2: Studies in Selected Cultures**

A study in some depth of Imperial China, pre-Westernized Japan, Golden Age Islam, pre-Socialist Russia. Art, music and literature are studied as they interrelate to reveal non-Western views of philosophy, science, religion, and the self. Historical background, key personalities, contribution and significance within the various arts and sciences are emphasized.

**Humanities 3: The Arts of Contemporary Society**

A cultural survey which includes a study of the literature, philosophy, music, painting, architecture and sculpture of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries in western Europe and North America, in terms of the political, cultural, religious and societal ideas and basic needs which stimulated the artists and thinkers and the contributions of their work toward the development of contemporary society. Specifics may vary based on instructor.

**Humanities 6: Great People, Great Ages**

This course presents a cultural survey of the lives and contributions of selected individuals such as Martin Luther, Elizabeth I, Louis XIV and others whose impact helped shape the eras in which they lived. The course will explore both their lives and eras with an appreciation of their historical importance and their individual contributions to our cultural heritage. The specific individuals studied may vary from those specified here, and other specifics may vary based on instructor.

**Humanities 8: Great Women in the Humanities**

This class is a cultural survey of the lives and contributions of selected individuals such as Hatshepsut, Elizabeth I, Madame Curie, Virginia Woolf and others whose impact helped to shape the eras in which they lived. This course will explore both the lives and

eras with an appreciation of both their historical importance and their individual contributions to our cultural heritage. Specifics may vary based on instructor.

### **Humanities 17: Film Appreciation**

This course is a survey of motion pictures and changing social attitudes in film from the silent era to the present. Film appreciation, dealing with the ability of popular movies to crystallize society's myths, fantasies, and realities, is presented within a historical, social context. Movie heroes and heroines and their relationship to culture may be studied by viewing representative feature films. Specifics may vary based on instructor.

### **Humanities 30: Beginning of Western Civilization**

This course is a survey of man's cultural heritage from prehistoric times to the early civilizations of Sumeria, Babylonia, Assyria and Egypt. Emphasis is placed on the arts, literature, religion, cultural traditions and contributions made by these civilizations to humankind's historical and cultural heritage. Specifics may vary based on instructor.

### **Humanities 60: People and Their World: Technology and the Humanities**

This course introduces the student to the predominant cultural patterns of Western Civilization as expressed in great works of literature, visual arts, music, drama, philosophy, history and architecture from all periods, possibly focusing on the Romantics, Victorians and Modernists up to contemporary times, while emphasizing the effects of technological progress on the various mediums of the humanities. The interaction of the individual and society, and the interrelationship of humanities and technology within history and modern society, is explored for the student to gain a better understanding of the world and its culture. The student is introduced to general concepts of the humanities, including applied aesthetics. Comparisons to relevant Asian, African and American cultures and art may also be explored. Specifics may vary based on instructor.

### **Humanities 77: Medieval Cultures**

Comparative study of the cultures of the middle ages in Europe and the middle east, including the literary, musical and artistic traditions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Specifics may vary based on instructor.