**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](mailto:matt.usner@linnbenton.edu)
* Phone: (971) 208-7175 (call or text; I’ll respond between 9:00 AM-5:00 PM)
* Virtual Office Hours: I’m happy to schedule a Zoom meeting with you at any point during the term if you have questions or concerns; just call, text, or email me to set up a time. Use this Zoom link to access our meeting: <https://linnbenton.zoom.us/my/mattusner>
* 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**

**Gloria Fiero’s *Landmarks in Humanities* 5th edition (2021)**. You can purchase the ebook rental through the [LBCC bookstore](https://linnbenton.verbacompare.com/) or rent the ebook directly from the publisher using [this link](https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/landmarks-humanities-fiero/M9781260220759.html). There is also a printed copy of the book, but be aware that it is much more expensive than the ebook rental. In addition to the textbook reading, there will also be some other required readings that will be made available on 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. I encourage you to take a look at [these various definitions of the humanities](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vd4RIEwNK08xbm5GPv_rgmMzulwqF0uyqnXJbvpMwNc/edit?usp=sharing) as well. 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.

**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*](https://www.linnbenton.edu/staff-resources/college-services/information-services/services/elearning/current-elearning-students.php) page. You can also contact the [Student Help Desk](https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/library/help-desk.php#:~:text=The%20Student%20Help%20Desk%20is,%3A%20(541)%20704%2D7001) at 541-917-4630 or [student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu](mailto: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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Iaq1NSAxhVj0knQNQZEcKQBJMKMGp8y4rM2CQ_zEHQE/edit?usp=sharing) for more information.

**STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE**

With the exception of the first and last week of the term, our course content will be organized into 2-week sections. Each section will be made available at **9:00 AM on the Friday before the upcoming week**. So for example, the materials for Weeks 2 and 3 will be available starting at 9:00 AM on Friday of Week 1. I always encourage you to start your 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**](http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail) **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 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**

| * ***2 Week 1 Assignments (10 points each x 2 = 20 points = 8% of final grade):*** The first assignment will be a forum in which you introduce yourself and begin exploring some broad ideas about the humanities; this will be **worth 10 points and due by the first Wednesday**. For the second assignment, you will be exploring our textbook to acquaint yourself with its contents; this will be **worth 10 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 don’t complete them on time, and have not contacted me by the end of the first week, you will be marked as a “no-show” and dropped from the class.** * ***4 Reading Quizzes (20 points each x 4 = 80 points = 32% of final grade):*** For each of our 4 textbook chapters, there will be a quiz on Moodle. I encourage you to use the textbook 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. Each quiz will be worth 20 points and will consist of 16 questions: 15 will be multiple choice (worth 1 point each), and 1 will require a short essay response (worth 5 points). **Each quiz will be available for a period of 10 days (from Friday until 2 Sundays later). Once you start a quiz, you will have 6 hours (360 minutes) to complete it. Only one attempt will be allowed, and missed quizzes cannot be made up**. * ***4 Discussion Forums (15 points each x 4 = 60 points = 24% of final grade):*** Periodically throughout the term there will be a group discussion on selected aspects of the textbook 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 one 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 forum will be worth 15 points: 10 points for your initial post and 5 points for your follow-up reply to a classmate. **Your initial post for your discussion question will be due by Wednesday; your reply to your classmates will be due between Thursday and Sunday.** This ensures that you interact with the forum at least twice in a given week. **You can earn 2 extra credit points if your response to your discussion question is posted by Tuesday.** Note that missed discussion forums cannot be made up. * ***4 Reading Journal Entries (10 points each x 4 = 40 points = 16% of final grade):*** For each textbook chapter we read, we’ll also read at least one primary source from the time period covered in the book. These readings will be made available on Moodle. After reading each of these primary sources, you’ll be required write a journal entry in which you analyze and respond to them. * ***Final Exam or Humanities Project (50 points = 20% of final grade):*** For your end-of-term major assignment, you will have the choice of completing either a final exam or a project. **The final exam will consist of 5 short essay questions**. The exam will not be timed. **The project will present you with 3 different options**: writing a traditional academic essay, creating a personal art gallery, or designing a supplement for our textbook. **Exam questions and project details will be made available on Friday of Week 7. Whether your choose to complete the exam or the project, the due date is the same: the Sunday of Week 10.** |
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**GRADING**

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

| **ASSIGNMENTS** | **POINTS** | **% OF FINAL GRADE** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2 Week 1 Assignments | 2 x 10 points = 20 | 8% |
| 4 Reading Quizzes | 4 x 20 points each = 80 | 32% |
| 4 Discussion Forums | 4 x 15 points each = 60 | 24% |
| 4 Reading Journal Entries | 4 x 10 points each = 40 | 16% |
| Final Exam or Humanities Project | 50 | 20% |
| **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 excellent |
| **B** | 223 to 199 points (89.% to 79.5%) | Passing work that is good |
| **C** | 198 to 174 points (79% to 69.5%) | Passing work that is adequate |
| **D** | 173 to 149 points (69% to 59.5%) | Non-passing work that is inadequate |
| **F** | 148 and below (59% and below) | Non-passing work that is fundamentally lacking |

**IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES AND CAMPUS RESOURCES**

* **No-Show Policy:** Students may be **dropped from the class** if they do not complete all of the first week’s assignments by the indicated due dates.
* **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](https://www.linnbenton.edu/about-lbcc/administration/policies/board-policies-and-administrative-rules/7000-series-student-services/ar-7030-02.php).
* **LBCC Student Email:** You are responsible for all communication sent to [your student email](http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail), so be sure that you are checking it frequently.
* **The LBCC Writing Center:** [The LBCC Writing Center](https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/learning-center/writing-support/index.php) (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students interested in improving their writing skills.
* **The LBCC Library:** [The LBCC library](http://library.linnbenton.edu/home) 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)](http://linnbenton.edu/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](https://linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid073717?) a violation of our [sexual misconduct policy](https://www.linnbenton.edu/about-lbcc/departments-and-contacts/report-an-issue/harassment-and-misconduct.php) 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](http://www.linnbenton.edu/RRC).
* **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](https://www.linnbenton.edu/tuition-and-admission/financial-aid/contact.php) before withdrawing.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

The week-by-week schedule below contains all course topics and assignment due dates; follow it carefully!

| **DATE** | **READINGS** | **ASSIGNMENTS (all due by 11:59 PM)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***WEEK 1***  Mon 9/27 to Sun 10/3 | • Hum 103 Course Overview  • HUM 103 Syllabus | • Introductory Forum due by Wed, 9/29  • First Look at the Textbook due by Sun, 10/3 |
| ***WEEKS 2-3***  Mon 10/4 to Sun 10/17 | • *Landmarks in Humanities* Ch. 12 "Romanticism: Nature, Passion, and the Sublime" (pages 328-357)  • PRIMARY source CHOICES | • First posts for Ch. 12 Discussion Forum due by Wed, 10/6 (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)  • Discussion Forum replies due between Thur, 10/7 and Sun 10/10  • Ch. 12 Reading Quiz due by Sun, 10/10  • Reading Journal #1 due by Sun, 10/17 (Primary Source: “What to the Slave is the 4th of July?” by Frederick Douglass) |
| ***WEEKS 4-5***  Mon 10/18 to Sun 10/31 | • *Landmarks in Humanities* Ch. 13 "Materialism: The Industrial Era and the Urban Scene" (pages 358-385) | • First posts for Ch. 13 Discussion Forum due by Wed, 10/20 (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)  • Discussion Forum replies due between Thur, 10/21 and Sun 10/24  • Ch. 13 Reading Quiz due by Sun, 10/24  • Reading Journal #2 due by Sun, 10/31 (Primary Source: To be announced) |
| ***WEEKS 6-7***  Mon 11/1 to Sun 11/14 | • *Landmarks in Humanities* Ch. 14 "Modernism: The Assault on Tradition" (pages 386-419) | • First posts for Ch. 14 Discussion Forum due by Wed, 11/3 (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)  • Discussion Forum replies due between Thur, 11/4 and Sun 11/7  • Ch. 14 Reading Quiz due by Sun, 11/7  **• Final Exam and Project details posted on Fri, 11/12**  • Reading Journal #3 due by Sun, 11/14 (Primary Source: To be announced) |
| ***WEEKS 8-9***  Mon 11/15 to Sun 11/28 | • *Landmarks in Humanities* Ch. 15 "Globalism: Information, Communication, and the Digital Revolution" (pages 420-465) | • First posts for Ch. 15 Discussion Forum due by Wed, 11/17 (1 extra credit point if posted by Tue.)  • Discussion Forum replies due between Thur, 11/18 and Sun 11/21  • Ch. 15 Reading Quiz due by Sun, 11/21  • Reading Journal #4 due by Sun, 11/28 (Primary Source: To be announced) |
| ***WEEK 10***  Mon 11/29 to Sun 12/5 | Review readings as needed while working on your Final Exam or Humanities Project. | **• Final Exam or Humanities Project due by Sun, 12/5** |