**HUMANITIES 103:**

**Romantic Era to Contemporary Society[[1]](#footnote-0)**

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**Instructor:** Matt Usner

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**Phone:** (971) 208-7175 (call or text weekdays between 8:00 AM-5:00 PM)

**Student Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:00 via Zoom; use [this link](https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/98589898782). Think of this as free space learning/discussion time to meet with me. I know these 2 hours each week won’t work with everyone’s schedule, but I am always happy to work with you to find a mutually convenient time. I’m also happy to schedule phone calls as well; just let me know.

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS SYLLABUS:** 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.**

**COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** HUM 103 “Examines the connections among arts, ideas and human experiences through study and experience of selected works from Western and non-Western cultures. Emphasizes arts and ideas as both reflections of and influences on social and cross-cultural change.”

**PREREQUISITE:** College-level reading and writing skills (i.e., successful completion of WR 121) are **strongly recommended** for success in this course.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** [Volume 6](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ufL6nbPufetNxMJ29Z7MqfwpkoJDLpYL/view?usp=sharing) of Gloria Fiero’s *The Humanistic Tradition: Modernism, Postmodernism, and the Global Perspective*, 7th edition (2015). (NOTE: The 6th edition is acceptable, but page numbers may not match. Here is [a conversion chart](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QGcV3HPWAb9xDOaejAxj2K7XusAN2edQiBRa-7nkLQs/edit?usp=sharing) that compares the reading assignments in the 7th edition with the 6th edition.) In addition to the textbook, there will also be some additional online readings.

**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*](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 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:** 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.** (You can find information about accessing your LBCC email [here](http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail)). 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:**

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| * ***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:

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| **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:

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| **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 proficient |
| **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 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.
* **LBCC Student Email:** Please make sure that you check your student email regularly throughout the term. Should I need to contact you, I will be emailing your student account. You can find information about accessing your LBCC email here: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail>
* **The LBCC Writing Center:** The LBCC Writing Center (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students. Get more info about the WC here: [http://www.linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/study/learning-center/writing-assistance/)
* **The LBCC Library:** The LBCC library is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall. Get more information here: <http://library.linnbenton.edu/home>
* **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 go to <http://linnbenton.edu/cfar> for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.
* **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.
* **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 for support: resources@linnbenton.edu or [www.linnbenton.edu/RRC](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 consult with the [Financial Aid Office](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/money-matters/financial-aid/) if you have questions 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.**

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| **DATE** | **WEEKLY READINGS** | **ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY 11:59 PM** |
| ***WEEK 1***  **Mon 1/4** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 27 (209-236): “The Romantic View of Nature” (reading posted on Moodle) | • Introductory Discussion Forum due by Wed.  • Reading Quiz #1 due by Sunday  • Week 1 Reading Response Forum due by Sunday |
| ***WEEK 2***  **Mon 1/11** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 28 (237-256): “The Romantic Hero” (reading posted on Moodle) | • 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 #2 due by Sunday |
| ***WEEK 3***  **Mon 1/18** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 30 (278-318): “Industry, Empire, and the Realist Style” (reading posted on Moodle) | • Assign Project #1 (due by Sunday, Feb. 14)  • 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 #3 due by Sunday |
| ***WEEK 4***  **Mon 1/25** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 31 (319-350): “The Move Toward Modernism” (reading posted on Moodle) | • 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 5***  **Mon 2/1** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 33 (378-398): “The Freudian Revolution” (textbook reading) | • 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 #5 due by Sunday |
| ***WEEK 6***  **Mon 2/8** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 34 (399-422): “Total War, Totalitarianism, and the Arts” (textbook reading) | • 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 |
| ***WEEK 7***  **Mon 2/15** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 35 (423-443): “The Quest for Meaning” (textbook reading) | • Assign Project #2 (due by Sunday, March 14)  • 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 #7 due by Sunday |
| ***WEEK 8***  **Mon 2/22** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 36 (444-474): “Liberation and Equality” (textbook reading) | • 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 |
| ***WEEK 9***  **Mon 3/1** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 37 (475-501): “The Information Age” (textbook reading) | • 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 |
| ***WEEK 10***  **Mon 3/8** | *Humanistic Tradition* Ch. 38 (502-525): “Globalism: The Contemporary World” (textbook reading) | • 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  • Project #2 due Sunday |

1. Many thanks to my colleague David Bockoven, whose language and materials I sometimes borrowed from in developing this course. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)