HUMANITIES 101: INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES

Location: NH-100, MoWeFri 10-10:50 am.
Professor: Dr. Maria Rybakova
Office: AL-628
Office hours: MoWe 11am-noon or by appointment
E-mail: mrybakov@mail.sdsu.edu

Course description and objectives: Preliminary investigation: how values and ideals are expressed in literary, artistic, and intellectual achievements of individuals and civilizations throughout the world. We will survey the development of literature and arts from prehistory until early Renaissance by looking at a selection of masterpieces. We will inquire into how the shamanistic tradition resurfaces at different times in European culture. We will master basic cultural literacy and key vocabulary concepts.


Workload: You are supposed to read the assigned Chapter the week it is assigned for. I will be lecturing on narrower subjects in-depth (for lecture topics see third column).

Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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Typically exams test your knowledge of cultural terms (see brown boxes in the book). Two versions of the exams are distributed to prevent cheating. If you missed the midterm for medical reasons and have a doctor’s certificate, your next exam will count for both itself and the missed one.

Intellectual Properties

I reserve all rights over the intellectual property of the course. You must ask me for permission to record the class. You must ask my permission to bring any guests to class.

I reserve the right to assess and reassess your progress in the course and to readjust assignments in the middle of the semester. Grades posted at Blackboard are not to be understood as reflecting on the reality of your grade; they do serve to indicate to you that I have corrected an assignment and recorded it. My own grading software is the final arbiter of your weighted grade, based on the scores that I enter into it from Bb.

If you will be absent for religious holidays or have disabilities requiring special arrangements, you must inform the instructor in the first two weeks of the class.

Tentative Schedule:
| Week 1 | Chapter Intro | Introduction  
|       |              | Shamanism and Painted Caves  
|       |              | Stonehenge  
| Week 2 | Chapter 1 | **Mo Sep. 3 Labor Day (no class)**  
|       |              | Egypt: Book of the Dead  
|       |              | Egypt: Pyramids  
| Week 3 | Chapter 2 | Epos of Gilgamesh  
|       |              | Arts and Society in Mesopotamia  
|       |              | The Hebrews  
| Week 4 | Chapter 4 | Greek gods  
|       |              | Iliad and Odyssey  
|       |              | Greek Tragedy  
| Week 5 | Chapter 5 | Film week: Myth of Orpheus in Cinema:  
|       |              | Black Orpheus  
|       |              | L’Orphée by Cocteau  
| Week 6 | Chapter 6 | Plato  
|       |              | Greek Art  
|       |              | Alexander  
| Week 7 | Chapter 7 | MIDTERM 1  
|       |              | Roman poets Virgil and Ovid  
|       |              | Dissidence under Nero (Seneca, Petronius)  
| Week 8 | Chapter 8 | Mystery cults in Late Antiquity  
|       |              | Jesus  
|       |              | Buddha  
| Week 9 | Chapter 9 | Augustine  
|       |              | Byzantium: Iconoclasm  
|       |              | Byzantium: Isichasm  
| Week 10 | Chapter 10 | Early History of Islam  
|        |              | *Mo Oct 29 – Adams Lecture at 3:30 – Anthony Grafton (Princeton)*  
|        |              | Sufism and Rumi  
|        |              | 1001 Nights  
| Week 11 | Chapter 11 | MIDTERM 2  
|        |              | Medieval epic: Beowulf, Song of Roland  
|        |              | Courtly love: Romance, Troubadours  

Week 12  Chapter 12  Hildegard of Bingen
          Dante
          Scholasticism

Week 13  Chapter 13  **Mo Nov. 12 – Veterans’ Day (no class)**
          Romanesque cathedral
          Gothic cathedral

Week 14  Chapter 14  Chinese poetry: Li Bo and Du Fu
          **We Nov. 21 – Office hours**
          **Fri Nov 23 – Thanksgiving Recess (no class)**

Week 15  Chapter 15  Black Death
          Boccaccio
          Giotto

Week 16  Chapter 16  Petrarch
          Marsilio Ficino and the Platonic Academy
          Revue session

**FINAL EXAM**  Friday, Dec. 14  8:00 am – 10:00 am