Humanities 101
Fall 2012, San Diego State University

Class Time: TTH 8:00-9:15 a.m.
Location: NH 100
Instructor: Dr. Darren Iammarino
Office: AL 672
Office Hours: TTH 11-Noon
Email: diammarino@mail.sdsu.edu
Twitter: @Cosmosyntheism

Course Overview and Description

This course is designed to provide you with an in-depth look at the majority of the world's civilizations. Throughout the semester we will explore the role that art, literature, science and technology, philosophy and religion have all played in creating the unique and distinct cultures one finds around the world. The course is designed to be broad and interdisciplinary, so there should be something for everyone. The primary goal, however, is to gain a better understanding of the amazing degree of creativity which has led humanity from our earliest beginnings in prehistory, to the globalized world we find ourselves living in today.

Learning Objectives

♦ To gain an insight and appreciation of all of the world's cultures.
♦ A noticeable increase in the ability to recognize subtle differences between artistic styles, cultural beliefs, symbolism, sacred scriptures, ritual practices etc. and the major implications which can result from these minor variances.
♦ To grasp exactly how and why studying the humanities is still important and relevant in the 21st century.
♦ Lastly, to gain a brief exposure to some of the current hot topics within the field, as well as a look at the world to come.

Required Text


Recommended Text, Podcasts and Supplementary Material


I have 25 plus podcasts available for free on itunesU (itunes university). The podcasts are linked through Blackboard. Some of the discussion questions will relate to the podcasts.

I HIGHLY recommend subscribing to my Youtube channel, which can be found at: http://www.youtube.com/user/DarrenIammarino or by simply searching my name. By subscribing, Youtube should automatically update you if new material is added.
Grading Policy

There are a total of 100 possible points in the class. The point distribution is as follows:

Exam 1 25 points  
Exam 2 25 points  
Exam 3 30 points  
In Class Discussion Questions/Attendance 20 points  
Total 100 points

There will be two or three extra credit questions at the end of each exam, but that is the only available form of extra credit.

Grading Scale
94-100 points=A  
90-93 points=A-  
87-89 points=B+  
84-86 points=B  
80-83 points=B-  
77-79 points=C+  
74-76 points=C  
70-73 points=C-  
67-69 points=D+  
64-66 points=D  
60-63 points=D-  
59<points=F

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating is strictly forbidden and if you are caught you will be reported to the administration. Bottom line, don’t do it; it’s better to try your best or admit you don’t know the answer.

Students Disability Services

I will work with students to accommodate disabilities, as well as to protect their confidentiality. Please inform me by the end of the second week of classes if you will be needing assistance and of course, you must have the proper documentation from Student Disability Services.

Classroom Demeanor

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to learn. I will not tolerate repeated cell phone ringing or someone listening to an iPod during class. All electronic devices, except for necessary note taking devices, should be turned off for the duration of the class. In addition, respect your classmates, and that means no excessive talking during class. Food and beverages (non-alcoholic of course) are permitted.

Course Assignments
1. **Exams**: There will be three exams. The first exam will cover the Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2. The second exam will cover Chapter 3 and Chapter 7. The third exam will cover Chapters 4, 5 and 6.

2. **Attendance/Participation/Discussion Questions**: You are expected to attend all the classes. Attendance and participation will be assessed via random and periodic discussion questions. You will be responsible for writing at least a few sentences on the discussion topics. This exercise will also help facilitate engaging class conversations.

**Course Schedule/Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction and Prehistory (Introduction and Chapter 1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Mesopotamia and the Hebrews (Chapter 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Ancient Egypt (Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Egypt and Sudan; <strong>Exam 1 Review on Thursday</strong> (Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 on Tuesday</strong>; India (Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>China; the Americas (Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Confucianism; Daoism, Mohism; Legalism (Chapter 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Chinese Arts and Medicine; <strong>Exam 2 Review on Thursday</strong> (Chapter 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 on Tuesday</strong>; Minoans, Heroic Age; The Gods (Chapter 4)</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Greek Arts and Politics; warfare; Early Greek Philosophy (Chapter 4)</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Plato and Aristotle (Chapter 4)</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>The Classical Style (Chapter 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Ancient Rome; (Chapter 6)</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Classical Theism; the Renaissance; the Enlightenment; Existentialism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>The 21st Century and Beyond; <strong>Exam 3 Review on Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam/Exam 3</strong></td>
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