

READINESS PROFILE & COURSE EXPECTATIONS

HONORS HUMANITIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Honors Humanities is an academically challenging and rigorous study of the arts and literature throughout history. The course studies man's relationship with society, nature and himself. Students write in a variety of essay modes including: informative/explanatory, argumentative, narrative, and research. The course involves library research, outside reading, peer cooperation and formal public speaking. Students study Western culture and the arts beginning with the Renaissance continuing to our current era in order to understand how the historical context in which a piece of writing, music, or art is created gives added meaning, as does the political or social milieu. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU "B" or "G" requirement.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

By the end of the course, students will achieve the following goals:

- **Knowledge:**
 - Interrelation of all aspects of human experience (art, music, literature, politics, philosophy, religion)
 - The ebb and flow of movements and the reasons for the ebb and flow
 - Effect of past movements/ideas on NOW
 - No specific, discrete knowledge needed (individual texts or pieces)

- **Skills:**
 - Ability to analyze a "text" through outside factors (filters)
 - Ability to support an argument (personal writing)
 - Ability to analyze an argument (the writing of others)
 - On demand strategies and comfort
 - Ability to analyze a prompt for on demand writing
 - Ability to break down a difficult "text"

- **Attitudes:**
 - Understand why the humanities are important
 - Understand what it means to be a scholar
 - Understand that struggle is good for learning
 - See themselves as part of the greater discussion of learned people and participate in that discussion

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MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY (based on the *Culture & Values* textbook):

- The Renaissance
- The Baroque
- Rococo/Neo-Classical/Romanticism
- “Toward the Modern Era “
- “Between the World Wars”
- “The Contemporary Culture”

Students will typically read:

- The *Culture and Values* textbook
- Shakespearean sonnets
- Sophocles’ *Antigone*
- Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*
- Two outside reading novels from a given list
- Modern poetry

Students will typically submit eight writings, at least half of which are on-demand, including synthesis essays, a research thesis essay on a piece of art, and a modern film analysis. They will also complete a project and presentation based on the Google 20 model.

STUDENT BACKGROUND

Students entering Humanities should already have a good understanding of the following:

- Basic essay writing skills of thesis, commentary, and using text
- The importance of independent scholarly work
- The importance of revision to improve the quality of written work

Students entering should also be able to:

- Think independently and cooperatively
- Synthesize multiple sources in discussion and writing

Suggested preparatory courses

- Honors English 1-2

WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

- Lots of revising and rewriting
- On average, six hours per week (varies by week)