

**University of Houston-Downtown**

**Course Prefix, Number, and Title:** HUM 1302 Modern Western Culture

**Credits/Lecture/Lab Hours:** 3/3/0

**Foundational Component Area:** Language, Philosophy, & Culture

**Prerequisites:** Enrollment in or completion of ENG 1301 or 010 Core complete

**Co-requisites:** None

**Course Description:** The study of major literary, historical, artistic, and scientific developments that have contributed to Western culture from the Renaissance to the present, with special emphasis on critical thinking, communication skills, and social and personal responsibility.

**TCCNS Number:** N/A

**Demonstration of Core Objectives within the Course:**

Assigned Core Objective	Learning Outcome Students will be able to:	Instructional strategy or content used to achieve the outcome:	The method by which students mastery of this outcome will be evaluated:
Critical Thinking Communication Social Responsibility	Describe how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect the human experience.	Students in HUM 1302 will read and discuss target works in literature, philosophy, and the fine arts from the Renaissance to the present as they express the human experience.	In written exams, students will identify the major intellectual trends, values, and beliefs of our target cultures and consider their expression of the human experience. Through discussions and journal entries, students will consider the relationship between culture and aesthetic creation.
Critical Thinking Communication Social Responsibility	Analyze fundamental ideas that foster intellectual and aesthetic creation across human cultures.	Students in HUM 1302 will read, discuss and analyze material and develop arguments through the study of the visual arts, literature, and historical contexts associated with various philosophical movements and artistic periods from the Renaissance to the present.	Students will compose journal entries and participate in oral and written discussions in which they analyze and critique intellectual, ethical and aesthetic traditions across cultures.

<b>Assigned Core Objective</b>	<b>Learning Outcome Students will be able to:</b>	<b>Instructional strategy or content used to achieve the outcome:</b>	<b>The method by which students mastery of this outcome will be evaluated:</b>
Critical Thinking  Communication	Evaluate assumptions, concepts, and language to develop defensible conclusions based on analysis and interpretation of information relevant to course content.	Discussion and in-depth writing assignments will be used to teach students to evaluate language, concepts, and assumptions from our target periods in order to arrive at defensible conclusions.	Essays for HUM 1302 (Signature Assignments 1 & 2) are not just descriptive, but are persuasive in their rhetoric. Here, students are required to evaluate language, concepts, and assumptions in support of ethical and cultural views of their choice, as they have come to understand them from readings and discussions. Their submissions are also evaluated for clarity and style.
Critical Thinking  Communication	Synthesize and deliver well-constructed analyses and arguments about course content using multiple modalities (including written, oral, and visual formats).	Students are required to debate the concepts central to the course via classroom discussion and journal entries.  Students will learn to synthesize and analyze material and develop arguments through the study of the visual arts, literature, and historical contexts associated with philosophical movements and artistic periods from the Renaissance to the present.	Students will compose journal entries in which they defend an original idea related to the works they have read and discussed.  Students will participate in oral discussions and write papers (Signature Assignments 1 & 2) in which they analyze core values and develop defensible arguments as to why those values remain or do not remain relevant in the 21st Century.
Social Responsibility  Personal Responsibility	Investigate ethical dimensions of behavior and language use in different cultural contexts.	Readings and student responses (in the form of papers and discussion) examine the ethical aspects of behavior and language use.	Students must defend in writing an ethical position that they have analyzed in the course of their readings and discussion. Through Signature Assignments 1 & 2, students will identify ethical dimensions of behavior and language use in different cultural contexts.

Assigned Core Objective	Learning Outcome Students will be able to:	Instructional strategy or content used to achieve the outcome:	The method by which students mastery of this outcome will be evaluated:
Social Responsibility  Personal Responsibility	Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making through the analysis of ethical dilemmas explored through literary, philosophical, or intercultural texts.	Class discussions and online interactions focus on contemporary ethical issues and how our views of them have been formed by cultural traditions from the Renaissance to the present.	Students will compose journal entries and participate in class conversations exploring ethical dilemmas as expressed throughout target works. In Signature Assignment 2, students will connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making through the analysis of ethical dilemmas explored through art, literature, as well as philosophical, and intercultural texts.

**Additional Course Outcomes:** In addition to the learning outcomes noted above, students will be able to:

- Identify and discuss major intellectual trends of Western cultures from the Renaissance to the present in multiple domains, including arts, music, literature, science, philosophy, theology, and politics
- Identify and discuss the historical and cultural contexts from the Renaissance to the present in which the great artistic and literary works of Western traditions appeared.
- Identify and analyze important works of the Renaissance to the present in a way that makes them relevant in the 21st century
- Use correct English syntax and semantics, cogent reasoning and rebuttal skills, cohesiveness of expression, and effective argumentation
- Use standard computer office suites like MS Office or OpenOffice to produce professional appearing documents.
- Write papers that comply with MLA, APA, or Chicago style guidelines

**Course Outline:**

- Course Overview and Introduction
- Ethical Dilemmas: Making connections across choices, actions, and consequences
- The Arts in Transition
- Analyzing Ideas, Values, and Beliefs
  - Renaissance and Reformation
  - 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Literature
  - Baroque
  - Enlightenment
  - Romanticism
  - Realism and Impressionism
  - Globalism
- Cross-cultural Encounters
- The Quest for Equality

**Grading/Course Content that Demonstrates Student Achievement of Core Objectives:**

<i>Course Grade</i>	<i>A: 90-100</i>	<i>B: 80-89</i>	<i>C: 70-79</i>	<i>D: 60-69</i>	<i>F: 0-59</i>
	<b>Assignment/Activity</b>				<b>% of Final Grade</b>
	Signature Assignment – Written Communication				20%
	Signature Assignment – Personal Responsibility				20%
	Exam 1 (Midterm)				15%
	Exam 2 (Final)				15%
	Journal Entries				20%
	Participation in Discussions				10%
	Total				100%