



HUM 119: Western Culture: Renaissance to Modernity

Student Syllabus for the Adult Degree Programs

Course Description

This is a survey course of the historical, cultural, social, economic, and religious developments in western civilization. This course will examine, through reading, writing, and discussion, the dominant ideas in western culture as expressed in the philosophy, art, literature, and music from a Christian perspective.

Course Introduction

Humanities 119 is the second of two sequential courses examining human cultural achievements in Western civilization from ancient times until the present. This second course begins with the Renaissance in Europe and continues through the 20th century. The philosophy, theology, and political thought of the last 600 years of Western civilization will provide the historical context for examining and appreciating literature, visual arts and architecture, and music.

Course Overview and Assumptions

So what is humanities? The simple answer is that humanities designates the study of endeavors which are peculiarly human. While human beings are continually striving to improve their physical and material well-being, humans also do creative things that they don't have to do. Such things as singing, painting, dancing, writing, and building are frequently done as expressions of the artist's inner life. Understanding and appreciating art, as well as making it, are reflections of human nature. And since Christians believe that we are created in the image of God, our arts are a reflection of God's image, even though that reflection is distorted by our sinfulness.

Works of art allow us to make contact with people of other times and places. In Humanities 119, we will look at the revolutions in thought, culture, and technology which provide the foundation for 21st century life. We begin with the expressions of humanism and reformation in the Christian tradition and continue by examining the results of explorations in the New World and of the first scientific revolution. Political revolutions and ideological shifts characterize much of the next two hundred years in the West. Finally, we discuss the emerging role of the United States in economic and cultural affairs in the West from the middle of the 20th century to its end.

Christians tend to find that the human urge to create form out of chaos is instilled by God for we are made in his image. The human works we will be studying have been created, whether the artist knows it or not, in response to the Creator, who first brought form out of nothing. In Humanities 119, we don't separate the study of art from the study of history and philosophy; we see all these fields as human

expressions of God's gifts: creativity, time, and mind.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Articulate why the study of humanities is of value.
2. Explain how Western civilization has debated the worldview issues of God, humans, and the natural world and how these issues were expressed in writings and the arts from the Renaissance to the end of the 20th century.
3. Describe how 17th and 18th century revolutions in scientific, economic, and political thought provided the foundations for modern life.
4. Trace and identify ways in which cultural expressions in the arts across the period reflect earlier achievements and point forward to post-modernism.
5. Compare and contrast Christianity and its effect on customs and culture with other Western perspectives, particularly rationalism, humanism, and post-modernism at the end of the 20th century.
6. Identify other historical and cultural building blocks leading Western civilization to the 21st century.

Course Texts

Matthews, R. T., Platt, F. D., & Noble, T. F. X. (2014). *Experience humanities volume II: The renaissance to the present* (8th ed.). McGraw-Hill.

ISBN-13: 978-0077494711

ISBN-10: 0077494717

Matthews, R. T., & Platt, F. D. (Eds.). (2014). *Readings to accompany experience humanities volume II: The renaissance to the present* (8th ed.). McGraw-Hill.

ISBN-13: 978-0077494735

ISBN-10: 0077494733

Textbook Disclaimer

The textbooks for this course were chosen because their primary content directly relates to the objectives of this course. At times, there may be items or issues that are not presented from a proper Christian worldview. As such, the textbooks do not represent an endorsement by Geneva College or the relevant academic department at Geneva College.

Archiving of Online Courses

In order to provide the best service and to eliminate bandwidth bottlenecks, online courses will be removed from Moodle according to a scheduled archiving process. Students will have access in Moodle to courses taken during the current academic year and one previous academic year. Once a course is removed from Moodle, students will no longer have access to their coursework for the archived course. In preparation for the archiving of online courses, students are advised to save copies of their papers and other important coursework offline on a personal computer or other file storage location. Geneva College is not responsible for student files once a course has been archived offline.

Learning and Physical Disabilities Policy

Geneva College values diversity and inclusion and recognizes disabilities as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive, ultimately leading to the success of our students in and beyond college. Therefore, Geneva College complies with the ADA as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by affording reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations should contact Geneva's Student Success Center (SSC) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the SSC before or during the first week of classes. (Some accommodations may take time to put into place, so it is advised to request this appointment as early as possible.) Legally, no retroactive accommodations can be provided.

Accommodations for disabilities are available only as recommended by the SSC. For more details, visit the [Student Success Center website](#), call 724-847-5005, or stop by the SSC office. The SSC is located on the second floor of the Student Center. Students who have questions about their right to benefits or have grievances under these statutes should contact the Director of the SSC.

The Grading System in the Adult Degree Program

The grading scale for the Adult Degree Program is A, B, C, D, and F. Geneva includes pluses (+) and minuses (-) in the determination of the grade point average (GPA). Grade points are assigned for each semester hour of credit earned according to the following system:

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Explanation
A	93.00% - 100.00%	4.0	Excellent
A-	90.00% - 92.99%	3.7	
B+	87.00% - 89.99%	3.3	
B	83.00% - 86.99%	3.0	Good
B-	80.00% - 82.99%	2.7	

C+	77.00% - 79.99%	2.3	
C	73.00% - 76.99%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70.00% - 72.99%	1.7	
D+	67.00% - 69.99%	1.3	
D	63.00% - 66.99%	1.0	Less than Satisfactory
D-	60.00% - 62.99%	0.7	
F	< 60.00%	0.0	No Credit Given
WX, WP, WF			Withdrawal

Policy on Academic Honesty

Because honesty is expected in all college relationships, any form of cheating on exams or any plagiarism in formal written work is punishable by failure in the course. Repeated violations may result in expulsion from the college. Please read the Academic Integrity Guidelines in Appendix A of the ADP Student Handbook.

Students may appeal any disciplinary action by following the procedure laid out in the Academic Integrity Guidelines in the ADP Student Handbook.

Students are encouraged to visit www.plagiarism.org in order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism as well as a number of other academic standards. This website also provides directives as to how to avoid committing this act and how to properly cite academic sources.

Turnitin Policy

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Students must agree to the End User License Agreement (EULA) for Turnitin. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on Turnitin.com. Assignments that are not submitted through Turnitin will not be graded and will not receive credit.

Participation Policy

In the online environment, **participation is marked by the completion of an *academic event in each session (week) of the course.*** Academic events include, but are not limited to, submission of a class assignment, participation in class discussion forum, or completion of a quiz/exam.

If no academic event is completed within the first session (Week 1) of a course, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course. Beyond the first session, if no academic event is completed for a class session, the student will be considered as having not participated in that week of class, which in some cases may result in zeros on the missed assignments and a half-letter grade deduction from the student's final course grade.

If a student does not complete an academic event for two consecutive sessions, the student will either be administratively withdrawn from the course or will receive a final course grade of F, depending on how much of the course has transpired at the time of the second week of nonparticipation. For more details, please review Geneva's Student Handbook ([Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#)).

Academic Grievance Policy

For grievances related to grading and other course academic policies, the student should follow the published Grievance and Appeal Process in the ADP Student Handbook.

Course Evaluation

Criteria	Points Breakdown	Points
Discussion Forums (8)	30 points each	240 points
Quizzes (3)	40 points each	120 points
Written Assignment	One Submission	60 points
Applied Summary Project Parts 1-3	60 points each	180 points
Final Applied Summary Project	One Submission	190 points
Total		790 points

Assignment Descriptions

Discussion Forums

Class participation is monitored by postings and responses in the discussion forum. Typically, class participation is composed of two parts:

- a. Part 1 – Requires you to go to your discussion forum and post a response to a question or prompt that is written in your syllabus by 11:55 pm (EST) Wednesday of your scheduled session week. Your instructor will generally respond to your post within 24 hours. Depending on the nature of the assignment, the instructor may have a follow up question for you, ask you for

clarification or further details, or direct your conversation to someone else for rebuttal.

- b. Part 2 – Respond back to your instructor’s post. In addition, post a response to at least two of your fellow classmates’ postings, using 1 or 2 paragraphs. Your response should further the discussion (e.g., ask a question, provide further information or examples, or introduce a different opinion). In particular, one response to a classmate **MUST** be in the form of a question that seeks to further the conversation. Your question must be posed by 11:55 pm (EST) Friday of the scheduled session week so that your classmate has adequate time to answer it.

Likewise, if a question is posed to you by Friday night, you are also required to answer it.

Part 2 of these online activities (response to instructor, response to classmates’ questions of you, and responses to your classmates) must be completed by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of each session.

NOTE: How to earn full credit in discussion forums:

1. Become familiar with the discussion forum rubric, which is available to you in all of your Moodle classroom discussion forums.
2. Be thoughtful in your responses and incorporate examples from your personal and professional experiences and references to the course material (e.g., readings, lecture, videos, audio clips, scripture, etc.) when appropriate. Remember to cite all sources and references according to proper APA style.
3. Respond to the discussion contributions of at least 2 peers and be sure to adequately address all posts your instructor may pose to you throughout the week. This level of participation is **REQUIRED** as the minimum in all discussion forums (see the rubric for more detail).

Your posting and responses will be graded by your instructor. For a detailed description of your responsibility in discussion forum postings, please see the “Interacting in the Online Environment” section in the ADP Student Handbook.

Quizzes

During this course, there will be three quizzes that cover the essential elements of the text. These quizzes will include multiple choice questions.

- Session 1 – Students will take an online quiz on Chapters 12-13 of the text
- Session 3 – Students will take an online quiz on Chapters 15-16 of the text
- Session 7 – Students will take an online quiz on Chapters 20-21 of the text

Students will be allowed to consult their text and notes when taking online quizzes. However, quizzes will be timed, and students will need to have a working knowledge of the material before taking the quiz. There will simply not be enough time to “look up” every question in your text.

If a student does not take the quiz by Saturday at 11:55 pm (EST) of the designated session week, they will not have an opportunity to make it up.

Written Assignment

There is one written assignment in this course that will require you to concisely respond to and apply some of the key course concepts.

In total, your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and adhere to typical APA style and formatting (double spacing, proper APA citations, etc.).

Your paper is due by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday Session 5.

Applied Summary Project

In this course, students will complete a project that will pull together many components from this complex course. The project will be submitted in several parts, allowing for feedback and comments from the instructor and culminating in the final project submission in Session 8.

This project will require you to choose one of the major sources of human division that we will study in this course: humans vs. God, humans vs. nature, or humans vs. humans. Then, you will trace and illustrate how this source of human division has affected civilizations over the 600 years and major cultures discussed in this course. Describe how each culture encountered the division and provide examples of literature, philosophy, visual art, and music that demonstrate the cultures' responses to the division. Be sure to describe each of these selected works by answering the encounter questions and including how each selected work portrays the worldview of the culture in relation to the human division. Finally, be sure to connect what you examine to the response this source of division might elicit in the present and how this division has been or might be reconciled.

In total, the Final Applied Summary Project should be 9-10 pages in length (not including cover sheet and reference page) and adhere to typical APA style and formatting (double spacing, proper APA citations, etc.).

The Final Applied Summary Project is due by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday Session 8.

Professional Skills in Your Online Courses

All courses in your Geneva College Online program will provide you with an opportunity to develop valuable skills that can positively influence your professional and career development. Each course at Geneva provides numerous opportunities to develop skills employers desire in their employees and job candidates in areas including, but not limited to, written communication, research, critical thinking, and

decision-making. However, targeted skill sets are also developed through the learning in particular courses.

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to add these particular skills to your bank of professional assets:

Research Skills



Skillful in compiling, organizing, and using data to enhance planning and effectiveness

Observation Skills



Adept at using eyes, hands, and the body with precision and skill in the physical world

Synthesize/Integrate



Adept at forming structures, patterns, and connections from information, ideas, and images

Written Communication Skills



Ability to organize knowledge and beliefs into convincing arguments and to convey meaning through well-constructed text