OBJECTIVE: The objective of this course is to have the student achieve introductory knowledge about the major socio-historical, artistic, philosophical, and literary achievements of the Western world.

TOPICS: Topics discussed include, but are not limited to, culture, philosophy, literature, architecture, sculpture, theater, art, and music.


ATTENDANCE: ALL absences are excused! There is no such thing as an unexcused absence. Please notify me ahead of time about absences and tardiness, if possible. No incompletes (I) will be given.

If you believe that you will miss more than five consecutive contact hours (about two consecutive weeks), then please inform me of your situation or you will be permanently purged from the class roll. I will not have a student reinstated in my class after they have missed more than five consecutive contact hours without any prior notice.

- MWF classes: 5 hours consists of missing six days in a row.
- T, TH classes: 5 hours consists of missing four days in a row.
- Once a week classes: 5 hours consists of missing two days without notice.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC (NOISEMAKING) DEVICES:

ALL CELLPHONES AND OTHER NOISEMAKING DEVICES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CLASS SESSION. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE IF YOU FAIL TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS. If you refuse to leave, then security will remove you from my class.


It is my responsibility to minimize all possible distractions in order for you to learn at the optimal level. If your cell phone is off, then there is no need to check it for any reason, not even to check the time. If you check your cell phone, then that indicates to me that it is on and you disregarded my directions. You will be asked to leave my classroom.
If you are expecting an important call, then YOU MUST let me know before class and place cell phone on vibrating/silent mode. If you fail to notify me of your emergency, then you will be asked to leave the classroom.

You may use your personal computer, but only for taking notes. You are not allowed to go online. If you are caught going online, then you will lose your privilege to use a computer in my classroom for the rest of the semester.

DISCUSSION FORUMS:

You will be engaging with other students and me in Discussion Forums. These discussions are comprised of short responses that teach the student how to apply what s/he learned to real life occurrences, situations, and/or events. Although there is no specified length to your responses and replies, I will be looking to see that your entries are substantial and meaningful. I will provide examples showing what a good entry looks like. I may also provide a list of questions for you to answer. I will be checking EACH AND EVERY POST, so make sure that you ABIDE BY THE DIRECTIONS. You must CORRECTLY complete at least 50% of all discussion forums in order to receive a grade—you will receive a zero (0) if you do not.

Half of your forum points for each discussion are based on your writing skills, therefore, you must write in proper academic English. A sentence consists of a subject, verb, a predicate, and relates to the subject matter discussed. Random sentences not relating to the subject matter does not constitute a sentence. Saying “hello” or “goodbye” does not constitute a sentence; expressing a reaction--“Wow!” or “Cool!”--is not considered a sentence.

Proper netiquette is warranted. Anyone personally attacking or flat out disrespecting another person’s response will be given a zero (0) for this discussion forum and will not be included in any other forums. Tasteless vulgarities or jokes not pertaining to the subject matter will not be tolerated. ALWAYS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!

I must add that this is your chance to voice your opinions, feelings, thoughts, and ideas. I prefer to see stimulating, thought-provoking, and intellectual conversations-discussions-debates between the students and me. You will never be penalized for disagreeing with me or anyone else’s ideas or thoughts, just as long as it is done in a respectful manner. As a matter of fact, I prefer to see that you have a mind of your own and the ability to express your personal thoughts in a way that is convincing and with substance.

FOR STARTERS

Each week you will be required to do research PRIOR TO coming to class. If you do not do the homework prior to coming to class, then you will be asked to leave the class in order for you to complete the work. This homework is important because it prepares you for the upcoming lectures in which we will discuss the subject matter in depth. Without
this fundamental knowledge, you cannot fully grasp the upcoming lecture. You must CORRECTLY complete at least 50% of all assessments in order to receive a grade—anything less will yield a zero (0).

Because your course may be a blended course, this means that for at least one day out of the week, you must do online work rather than meet face-to-face. For MWF classes, one or two days may be blended; for TR classes, one day may be blended. Check your schedule in order to know what day is blended, or online. It is during that time online that you are supposed to do this assignment. For all other face-to-face classes, you must do this work on your own time PRIOR TO the class discussion.

The short assignment is usually comprised of answering questions about a video you must watch, and defining concepts/terminology related to the subject matter. The questions address general facts about the subject matter. Furthermore, there may be a set of concepts that you must define. The assignment must be completed PRIOR TO coming to class. You must print out a copy for discussion in class. You will be asked to leave if you come to class empty-handed. No excuses!

**ANALYSIS OF ARTISTIC ARTIFACTS:** Various analyses (or examinations) of artworks will be administered throughout the semester. The final analysis is not cumulative. All analyses are comprised of identification of architecture, sculptures, and paintings. The best answers are those that are concise, pithy, accurate, and cover the important terms discussed in class. Grammar, spelling, and proper syntax will also be considered in final grade. All exams are open notes. You cannot use any other resource (IF YOU COPY AND PASTE YOUR ANSWERS FROM A WEBSITE, THEN YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THIS COURSE). You must CORRECTLY complete at least 50% of any given examination in order to receive a grade—anything less than that will result in a zero (0).

Only under DIRE circumstances (limited to unexpected death in the family, automobile accidents, and medical emergencies only—must have proof of such!) will you be allowed to make up an examination. You must contact me by telephone or electronic mail within twenty-four (24) hours after the emergency that prevented you from taking the examination. Failure to contact me within twenty-four hours will result in a zero (0) for that particular exam. It is YOUR responsibility to contact me and make the appointment.

If you know that you will be absent the time period the test is administered, then you must arrange to take the test PRIOR to the scheduled time. Failure to arrange a make-up time will result in a failing grade for that particular exam.

**Absolutely NO make-up exam for the final!**

**ALWAYS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!**
OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENT
The student will be required to do ONE out-of-class assignment of his or her choice.

Profession-related assignment: You are required to write a one- to two-page assignment about a particular aesthetic project that you create for your desired profession. You are to create a situation in which you find yourself working in your profession and have been asked to come up with a project that incorporates artistic creativity combined with an activity common in your profession.

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS!!!
ALWAYS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!

Movie assignment: During the current semester, you are required to watch and write about one of these movies:
- The Breakfast Club (1985)
- Dogma (1999)
- Little Miss Sunshine (2006)

You are to write a three-page paper in which you give a brief summary of the film, state which character you most liked and why, express how you relate to that character showing how you have incorporated those observed values in your life, and describe your favorite scene stating why it was so meaningful to you.

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS!!!
ALWAYS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!

You are required to turn in a rough draft of your work at least ONE MONTH (two weeks for summer courses) before the assignment is due. That way you will ensure to receive the best possible grade. If you do not, then good luck to you.

The assignment must be typed IN YOUR OWN WORDS, on 8½ x 11” paper, stapled on the top left-hand side, 11-point font size, Times New Roman font, and double-spaced. Your name and class meeting days/time are typed on the top right-hand side. No title page or cover sheet is necessary.

ALWAYS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!

PLAGIARIZING MAY AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE ENTIRE OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, LOWERING OF GRADE FOR THE COURSE, AND POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM MIAMI DADE COLLEGE. CONSEQUENCES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY ARE WRITTEN IN YOUR STUDENTS’ RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES HANDBOOK. ALWAYS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!

GRADES:
Each student is an individual who has unique strengths and weaknesses. Some of us are better test takers, some are better participants, and some of us are better writers. Therefore, in order to give the student the best
possible grade, the grading system I have formulated focuses on your individual strength.

THE STUDENT chooses the percentage amount in each category below. The percentage amount may be $40\% \geq X \geq 20\%$ for any given category. All percentage amounts must add up to 100%. Percentage amounts must be divisible by 5 (e.g., 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40%) and cannot be a fraction (e.g., 27.5%).

**Turn in your chosen grading percentages to me no later than the withdrawal-with-refund date.** There is a default percentage amount for each category below if you do not choose to create your own. Your chosen amounts may not be changed after they have been turned in. Choose your percentages wisely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Starters</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of Artistic Artifacts</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One (1) Out-Of-Class Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTA BENE:** ALL RULES STATED IN THE STUDENT’S HANDBOOK AND MIAMI DADE COLLEGE’S POLICY AND PROCEDURE IS IN EFFECT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BY THE PROFESSOR.

ANY QUESTIONS? CONSULT SYLLABUS FIRST. ALWAYS FOLLOW DIRECTIONS. THEN CONSULT WITH ME.

My responsibility…

To teach you by any reasonable means necessary about truth and beauty.

Your responsibility…

To learn to the best of your reasonable abilities about truth and beauty.

Ultimately, you are responsible for yourself and your actions. It is that responsibility and the course of action that you take in order to create an ethical code of values by which you guide your life both personally and professionally. In order to prepare you for the furtherance of your academic / professional career and your personal growth development, Miami Dade College has created the Ten General Education Learning Outcomes which are essential to the mission of the College. The purpose of these general education outcomes is to provide multiple, varied, and intentional learning experiences to facilitate the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and skills and the development of attitudes that foster effective citizenship and life-long learning.

The ten outcomes are:

1. Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
2. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data.
3. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning.
4. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.
6. Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.
8. Use computer and emerging technologies effectively.
9. Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities.
10. Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment.

Students in my class are expected not only to read from the class text, but also evaluate and reiterate in written form what exactly they learned from their reading. I believe that while reading helps the student learn the material, evaluation and feedback are what indicate to me that they have understood and are able to express in their own words what they have read. Furthermore, I can provide feedback to those students who may not fully understand, helping them out with their understanding and communicating of the relevant subject matter. Throughout the course of the semester, the student sees the improvement in their reading, listening, understanding the material, all of which ultimately affect their speaking and writing skills.

The wonderful advantages of attending MDC are that students become aware and encouraging of other cultures. Students at different campuses can immediately see the impact of diverse cultures, and they may acculturate those cultural nuances into their own. Furthermore, in my class, for instance, I expose my students to learning not only about the Western tradition, but also about other cultures, including the Far East, Middle East, and even the Pacific Islands, that may have well influenced that tradition. Students quickly understand that we truly live in a global village in which we share world views and ideas almost instantaneously through technology and acculturation.

Last, I believe that the students in my class truly develop an appreciation for the arts, both in ancient and modern times. In showing them the beginnings of the Western artistic tradition through modern day, they see in a short period of time how its development has reached the state in which it is today. I hope to leave them with a NEW tradition of experiencing and supporting art and music, and perhaps this may be something that they may engage in for the rest of their lives.

Outcomes learned: 1, 5, 6, 7, and 9.

In this class, there is a STRONG emphasis in learning outcomes 1, 5, and 9, with a milder emphasis in outcomes 6 and 7.