Humanities 3302 Summer 2015

From Faith to Reason ENTIRELY ONLINE with UTEP Moodle Platform

Instructor: Deborah Moore

Office Hours: 24/7 Online Skype available as needed on Fridays. My skype ID: djmoore40

Email: Inside the classroom please. I check email several times a day, so I will be able to help you quickly.

Phone: I am working online this summer, so you may also call me if you have an urgent problem.

575-650-4320

Please call tech support right away if you have any problems with the moodle, or connecting, or any other tech problem. They can help you right away. If you have issues with content or posting, or answering any assignment, please contact me.

Please be advised that this syllabus is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Description

This course examines the transition of the western world from the chaotic period of the fall of the Roman Empire to the exploration and colonization of the western hemisphere. Through the lens of several keys work by various authors and artists and architects, we will analyze this era. Among the periods we will cover are the development of religious unity during the Early Middle Ages; the rise of feudalism and manorialism during the High Middle Ages; the religious divisions brought about the by Protestant Reformation; and conclude with the conflict brought about by the reality versus the perceptions of the Europeans about the worlds they find in the western hemisphere. Finally, we will see how that contact affected both sides in the encounter.

In addition to the written works, we will study the art and architecture of the period to see what they tell us about the past.

Since this is the compressed version of the course, it will move very quickly and require you to start fast and maintain that speed throughout the eight weeks.

Learning Objectives

To improve their vocabulary recognition and information gathering skills students will read several different writing styles in selections ranging from St. Augustine, two medieval epics, through politics, and a documented version of the Spanish conquest of the Aztecs. The goal will be to improve students’ ability to appreciate the connections between different ideas and bits of information and to guide students to realize the connections between individual elements of a text and text’s conclusions.
Students will demonstrate their proficiency through written and oral discussions of the evolving Western European views of human kind and how these views have been shaped by such things as the formation of the early Christian Church, the rise of the medieval world, and the Renaissance. Students will work together in teams to post responses to discussion questions to hone their writing and negotiation skills. Team work and individual effort will be reflected in each discussion thread post and assignments. Understanding of the time period will be reflected in each student’s individual assignments as well.

Class participation is crucial in this course to keep this class interesting for you, informative for the groups and interesting for the instructor.

**Course requirements: 500 points total**

Reading list:


“The Song of the Cid” Translated by Burton Raffel, (Penguin) ISN: 0 780143 105657

Chretien de Troyes, Yain. The Knight of the Lion, trans. by Ackerman, (Waveland)

ISBN:0-88133-716-1


Miguel Leon-Portilla, Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico (Beacon)

ISBN:0-8070-5501-8

You may buy any version of these books. There are some PDF versions of them inside this course. Only Confessions and The Prince are available this way.

I have checked with the bookstore and was assured that all of these books are available at the UTEP bookstore.

**Instructor’s Course Policies**

**Class Philosophy**

This course provides the student who takes it with a degree of flexibility that is unavailable in the traditional classroom setting. You choose when you read and answer discussion questions as long as it is completed by the due date. In a very real sense, your learning is self-directed and self-motivated. What you take away from the course will in large measure be determined by how much time and effort you put into it.
Each member of a group is responsible to their fellow group members to participate on time, to meet the group’s own deadlines, and to produce good work. Evaluations at the end of the semester conducted by each student, for their group members, will determine each students’ participation score. The professor will also add her input.

In this course, the lectures and other visual materials are provided for you. It will be your responsibility to read and process this material. You will be called upon in your assignments and test to show your proficiency with the material. Downloading and reading lectures once will not be sufficient. There are study questions for each book to help you focus on the important points.

Having said that, make no mistake that the requirements are firm. Just as in any job, a deadline is just that, a deadline. Discussion postings and papers must be submitted by the specified time. Late posting and papers will not be accepted. If you are not sure you can follow through on your commitment to this virtual classroom, do not enter it.

For my part you can expect:

1. I will provide you clear instructions on class expectations and any performance gauging (in-class group work, in class discussions, short papers, group work, and any other homework)
2. I will foster a positive online learning environment. If at any time you feel that you are lost, you have the right to ask me to explain the information further.
3. I will check my email and reply to you in a timely manner as long as you have followed the guidelines for emailing me and asking specific questions.
4. I am entirely online this summer, so email is the best way to contact me.
5. I will provide feedback on your performance gauging activities in a timely manner.
6. I will keep you informed about your progress in the class, and will make time to discuss your needs.
7. I will accept input about improvements to the class and related class activities.
8. I will do all I can to ensure your learning and success in this class.

Participation Policy

To be successful in this course, it is essential that you begin class work during the first week, when we will orient you to the technical requirements of an online class, get you set up online, construct online groups, begin assignments, and answer any questions that you may have. Class functionality, assignment and activities rely heavily on your early understanding of expectations. You are also responsible for doing all the work and going over the applicable lectures every week. Please note that lectures will remain posted until the end of the class.

Discussion and Group Assignments

Since this is an online course, weekly discussions on each text will be conducted in small groups on group discussion boards. Each week you will discuss a group of five questions with your group that can be found in the assignments folder. You will also reply at least once with a substantive comment to the
entries of your follow group members. Each week the group will submit a short 2-page document answering a set of questions that I will provide. One written assignment posting of at least 350-400 words, will be submitted by the group.

Team assignments:

Team A  Team B  Team C  Team D  Team E  Team F  Team G  Team H

Please meet with your group in the area provided for your discussions within your group.

Please contact me if you have any questions or issues regarding your group. I like to keep teams intact if at all possible, so it is up to your group to make it all work.

Unit 1

Week one DB, personal intro/bio

group posting for reading #1

Week two group DB posting, reading #2

Ind. Assignment #1

Unit 2

Week three: group posting for reading #2

Week four: group posting for reading #3

Ind. Assignment #2

Midterm Quiz online

Unit 3

Week five: group posting for reading #4

Week six: group posting for reading #5

Assignment #3

Unit 4

Week seven: group posting for reading #6

Week eight: group posting for reading #7

Assignment #4, Final project, written essay and visual presentation
Grades will be cumulative, based on points accrued for each assignment as follows.

Group DB post #1  40 points
Group DB post #2  40 points
Group DB post #3  40 points
Group DB post #4  40 points
Assignment #1     50 points
Assignment #2     50 points
Assignment #3     50 points
Assignment #4, final project, written essay and visual presentation 50 points
Midterm Quiz     100 points
Group participation  40 points(five points a week. They add up!)

Total              500 points

A final grade of C or better is required to receive graduation credit and not repeat the course.

Please check calendar for due dates of all assignments on the home page.

Always check for announcements or updates as we proceed.

450-500 points=A
400-449 points=B
350-399 points=C
300-349 points=D
300 or less=F