

CSUSM College of Arts and Sciences AH 111 (Sections 1, 2 and 3)

THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE:

Introduction to the Arts and the Humanities

Fall 2003 / Meeting times: MW 1300-1415 in ACD 102

Instructional Team:

D. Avalos (Sec. 01, CRN 42591) Visual and Performing Arts
Office: ARTS 302 on MW 1430-1530, and by appointment.
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C. von Son (Sec. 03, CRN 42593) World Languages and Hispanic Literature
Office: UNIV 219 on MW 1130-1300 and by appointment.
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A. Yáñez (Sec. 02, CRN 42592) Geography (Liberal Studies)
Office: CRA 6129 on MW 1130-1230 and by appointment,
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Sleeping Beauty: Pablo Picasso,
Woman with Yellow Hair. 1931.
Oil on canvas, 100 x 81 cm.
Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Course Website: see <http://courses.csusm.edu/ah111/cv/> for on-line discussion sessions, readings and sources. **Log-on Directions:** Name: e-name (portion before the "@") and Password: the last four digits of your SSN

Course description:

This team-taught course explores the arts and the humanities with a thematic and topical selection of texts, performances, exhibits, and readings that span the human experience from the first civilizations to the present. To provide depth to this exploration, we will focus on some basic questions, such as: **What is art? What is beauty? What is human?**

In addition to attending class lectures, successful students in this course experience the arts and humanities as active viewers, listeners and participants by attending a theater performance, creating an installation, visiting an art museum, and viewing an assigned film.

Course objectives:

- Introduce students to significant works of human creativity through an examination of primary texts in the arts and humanities.
- Introduce students to basic concepts, techniques, and methods of creating and analyzing works of art in various forms and mediums
- Foster critical thinking in the interpretation and evaluation of the visual and performing arts as well as of literary texts
- Encourage students to actively explore their own imagination and creativity
- Enable students to understand works of art and the humanities in terms of text, context and subtext

Requirements:

- Attend class **and scheduled events outside of class times** (see below)
- Participate in class. This includes listening; asking informed questions and making informed comments; making group presentations; engaging in learning exercises, and communicating with your designated instructor
- Read or view assigned materials (see materials and schedule of readings below)

Assessment:

Grades in this course will be based on **fulfillment of the requirements** outlined above and on the following assessment tools. Grades can be strengthened by meaningful discussion and regular class attendance. (See page 4 below for more details.)

- Quizzes on **Mon. or Wed., at anytime during class.** A green Scantron card and #2 lead pencil and eraser are required.
- Website discussions
- Three writing assignments
- Office conference with instructor
- Final examination

Assigned Materials

(Bring appropriate texts to class periods. Be prepared to discuss the assigned readings.)

- Fiero, Gloria K. *The Humanistic Tradition*. [Books 2, 5 and 6 only.] 4th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2002.
- Fuentes, Carlos. *Aura*. 1962. New York: Farrar, 1986.
- Landau, Tina. *Beauty*.
- Tepper, Shari S. *Beauty. A Novel*. New York: Bantam Spectra, 1992.
- Wilder, Billy, dir. *Sunset Blvd.* Hollywood, Calif.: Paramount Pictures Corp., 1990. Videocassette release of 1950 motion picture.
On reserve in Media Library; may also be available at your local video store.

Scheduled events outside of class times:

- **Theater:** Mandell Weiss Forum, La Jolla Playhouse, UCSD
Beauty, written and directed by Tina Landau.
Friday, October 10, 8:00 pm
- **Installation:** *Día de los Muertos*, Palm Court, Cal State San Marcos
Thursday, October 30, 12:00 pm
- **Art exhibit:** San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park
Paris: A Century as Europe's Art Capital, Selections from the Permanent Collection, and Of Earth and Sky: Elements in Abstraction
Friday, November 21, 12:00 Noon
- **Film:** *Sunset Blvd.* (1950). Directed by Billy Wilder. Starring William Holden, Gloria Swanson, and Eric von Stroheim. **View entire film before Dec. 1.**

Course Policies:

- Students are responsible for all of the material found in the required readings, class lectures, and out-of-class assignments. Students are responsible for anything missed due to an absence. No make-up exams, quizzes, or late papers.
- Students who have questions about readings or lectures are strongly encouraged to ask questions and to see a professor after class or during office hours.
- The instructors reserve the right to change the course content and syllabus at any time during the semester.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disabled Student Services (located in Craven Hall, Suite 5205) as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. DSS staff is available both for walk-in and scheduled appointments, Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm and can be reached at: (760) 750-4905 (Voice), (760) 750-4909 (TTY) or (760) 750-3445 (Fax).

Student athletes are expected to schedule and keep an appointment with their instructor ASAP with any questions regarding course deadlines, events, exams/quizzes and/or procedures.

Classic Beauty:
Venus de Milo. 130-120 BC
Parian marble, h 2.02m (6.5 ft)
Found at Milo, Greece.
Musée du Louvre, Paris

