

**Syllabus for AH 111 (Sections 01, 02); Spring 2006: MW 1300-1415**  
AH 111: THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE, Introduction to the Arts and the Humanities

**Instructional Team:**

**David Avalos**, Professor (01) CRN 21310, Visual and Performing Arts Dept.  
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**Brandon Cesmat**, Lecturer (02) CRN 22208, Literature and Writing Dept.; Film Studies  
Office Hours: MW 1430-1530, and by appointment. Office: Markstein 126J  
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**Course description:**

This team-taught course surveys the arts and the humanities with a thematic and topical selection of readings, classroom presentations, and outside art events that span the human experience from the first civilizations to the present. We will focus on some basic themes, such as: self-reflection and identity, death attitudes and life affirmation, and happiness. Through analytical writing assignments and class discussions, students will be prompted to evaluate and compare different forms of creativity as communicated across various time periods and cultural locations, in varying genres and media.

By examining the connectedness of the human experience over time and space we will participate in a dialogue between the past and the present, bringing us face to face with the values of our ancestors, and enabling us to reflect on contemporary values affecting our own future.

This semester students are encouraged to understand their role as participants in the creation of art's meaning. You will experience the arts and humanities as active makers, viewers, listeners and audiences.

**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 careful listening; asking informed questions and making informed comments; making group presentations; engaging in learning exercises, and communicating with your section instructor

Read or view assigned materials on schedule and always bring your textbook to class  
Activate your University email account the first week of classes and make sure you have  
WebCT and internet access from home or campus

**Assigned Materials:**

Fiero, Gloria K. *Landmarks in Humanities*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2006.

**Scheduled events outside of class times:**

**Exhibition:** *Jay Bolotin: The Jackleg Testament*

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown

Date to be announced. Entrance free.

<http://www.mcasd.org/exhibitions/index.asp>

<http://www.semantik.com/medium/jaybolotinfeature.htm>

**Opera:** George Frideric Handel's *Julius Caesar in Egypt*

Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 pm Ticket Price: Approximately \$40

<http://www.sdopera.com/season/julius.html>

**Assessment:**

Grades in this course will be based on the fulfillment of the requirements outlined above and on the following assessment tools. Your grades depend on your regular attendance and participation in class discussion. (See page 4 below for more details.)

Website discussions

Art project

Three writing assignments and office conference with instructor

Attendance at required events

**Course Policies:**

Students are responsible for the material covered through readings, websites, lectures, class discussion, and out-of-class events. Students are responsible for anything missed due to an absence. There will be no make-ups, extra credit, or late papers.

Students who have questions or comments about readings, events, or lectures are encouraged to speak up in class or to speak to a professor, either after class or during office hours.

Absolutely no cell phones or other electronic communication devices are to be heard or used during class.

**The instructional team reserves the right to modify 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 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. DSS staff is located in Craven Hall 5205, and may also be reached at: (760) 750-4905 (Voice), (760) 750-4909 (TTY) or (760) 750-3445 (Fax).

**Student athletes** must schedule and keep an appointment with their instructor with any questions regarding course deadlines, scheduled events, exams, quizzes, or procedures

## Grade Points Distribution

Assignments	Explanation	Points
Website Discussions	Each student posts responses to prompts on the AH 111 website, based on lectures, readings and events.	100
Writing Assignment 1 Due: TBA	Thesis, outline and Works Cited page	100
Writing Assignment 2 Due: TBA	First draft of paper	100
Writing Assignment 3: Due: TBA	Paper, 4 pages	300
Art Project	TBA	200
Museum tour	Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego - Downtown	100
Opera	Civic Theatre (located in the San Diego Concourse)	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	Sum of points for all assignments and assessment tools	1000
Office Conference Due: TBA	Meet with your professor. Bring Writing Assignments 1 & 2. Be prepared to discuss paper.	-100 if missed

The grading scale to be used is the following: A  $\geq$  950; A- = 900-949; B+ = 870-899; B = 840-869; B- = 800-839; C+ = 770-799; C = 740-769; C- = 700-739; D = 600-699

READING SCHEDULE

NOTE: All readings are to be completed by the following Monday before class begins.

REMINDER: Bring textbooks, we will use them regularly.

WEEK 01	W Jan. 18	Before Jan. 23 read Fiero, Preface to page 63
WEEK 02	M Jan. 23	Before Jan. 30 class read Fiero, pages 64 – 89
WEEK 03	M Jan. 30	Before Feb. 06 class read Fiero, pages 90 – 121
WEEK 04	M Feb. 06	Before Feb. 13 class read Fiero, pages 122 – 145
WEEK 05	M Feb. 13	Before Feb. 20 class read Fiero, pages 146 – 177
WEEK 06	M Feb. 20	Before Feb. 27 class read Fiero, pages 178 – 217
WEEK 07	M Feb. 27	Before Mar. 06 class read Fiero, pages 218 – 243
WEEK 08	M Mar. 06	Before Mar. 13 class read Fiero, pages 244 – 265
WEEK 09	M Mar. 13	Before Mar. 20 class read Fiero, pages 266 – 299
WEEK 10	M Mar. 20	Before Apr. 03 class read Fiero, pages 300 – 331
WEEK 11	M Apr. 03	Before Apr. 10 class read Fiero, pages 332 – 361
WEEK 12	M Apr. 10	Before Apr. 17 week read Fiero, pages 362 – 389
WEEK 13	M Apr. 17	Before Apr. 24 week read Fiero, pages 390 – 423

Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 pm

OFF-CAMPUS Opera: George Frideric Handel's *Julius Caesar in Egypt*

Civic Theatre located in the San Diego Concourse.

[you must arrive early – you will not be seated once the program begins]

WEEK 14	M Apr. 24	Before May 1 week read Fiero, pages 424 – 473
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