**Instructors: Here is an overview of all suggested weekly activities (excluding assessments)**

Module One: Introduction and Early Humanity

1. View the lectures and read linked materials

2. DF 1: Introduce yourself to the class and tell us a bit about yourself! Why are you here? What do you enjoy in your life when you’re not working on school?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 of your colleagues. Can you relate to any of your colleagues’ life experiences or hobbies?

3. DF 2: Discuss the value of exploring science in the Humanities. Explain the ways in which the liberal arts can benefit from exploring and understanding scientific principles.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 of your colleagues. Are there any perceived conflicts between the sciences and the liberal arts that you can identify, either in education or in society?

4. Weekly Reflection: Compare and contrast a modern-day cultural indicator (such as art, music, religion, etc.) with an example of a cultural indicator from Neolithic humanity. In a 1-page reflection, discuss similarities and differences between these ancient and modern practices, and explain to what effect the ancient ritual or practice has influenced or paved the way for the modern example.

Module Two: Old Dead Greek Dudes

1. View the lectures and read linked materials

2. DF 3: Consider our explorations of Plato and Socrates. Discuss the value of the mentor relationship in terms of Plato’s life and works. In what ways do we value mentoring in modern societies?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 of your colleagues. Discuss a specific example of mentoring that has impacted your life, or the life of someone else.

3. DF 4: Consider the role of theatre in ancient as well as modern society. Discuss the idea of socially-created “safe places” to express deviance in societies and cultures.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 of your colleagues. Provide an example of a behavior/custom/idea which goes against a society’s moral code but exists or is practiced in a designated place or at a certain time.

4. Weekly Reflection: Read the linked materials detailing Plato’s Allegory of the Cave. In a 1-page reflection, discuss the meaning of this story. How would you re-word this story using modern language and examples?

Module Three: Early Religion

1. View the lectures and read linked materials

2. DF 5: Discuss the similarities and differences between polytheistic religious systems (such as early humans, or the Greeks) and monotheistic religious systems.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 of your colleagues. Explain the role of henotheism in establishing the transition from systems of many gods into monotheistic practices.

3. DF 6: Describe the similarities and differences between the three primary monotheistic systems (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). Identify the primary overlapping themes between these religions.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. In what ways do you observe these three religions influencing moral codes and the perception of “right” and “wrong” in societies?

4. Weekly Reflection: Consider the impacts of patriarchy on the ancient as well as the modern world, and in multiple societies/cultures. In a 1-page reflection, discuss a specific example of patriarchy which exists in the modern world. How does this example benefit or hinder the society? In what ways does this example promote inequality? How might the culture adapt to diminish patriarchy and balance power between males and females?

Module Four: Medieval Europe

1. View the lectures and read linked materials

2. DF 7: Discuss the role of the church in medieval European life. Is there a modern-day example of a group or entity in a society which serves a similar function?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Describe the benefits and drawbacks of the level of involvement in daily life and politics the medieval church demonstrated.

3. DF 8: Compare and contrast life in medieval Europe versus ancient Greece. Consider politics, education, religion, and other elements of culture and living.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Discuss some of the similarities and differences between how the medievals and the Greeks investigated philosophy.

4. Weekly Reflection: Using this week’s explorations of the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition, write a 1-page reflection comparing and contrasting medieval “holy wars” to modern-day military occupations and conflicts.

Module Five: Reformation and Renaissance

1. View lectures and read all linked materials.

2. DF 9: Discuss the idea of “convergent factors” and how this relates to the events of the Protestant Reformation in Europe.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Discuss a modern-day example of “convergent factors” that have resulted in some sort of social change.

3. DF 10: Discuss the role that education played in the early Renaissance. In what ways can education bring about social changes in the modern world?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Describe how your own educational experiences are, or have the potential to, impact and change your own path within the world.

4. Weekly Reflection: Using Martin Luther’s life and teachings as an example, write a 1-page reflection about a modern-day person who might be called an “agent of change” in their society/culture (but who is not without personal flaws, like Luther).

Module Six: The Baroque

1. View the lectures and read all linked materials.

2. DF 11: Describe the changes in musical theory/composition and musical performance that Baroque musicians pioneered and embraced.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. In what ways does modern music borrow from prior composers or styles? Give specific examples.

3. DF 12: Discuss some of the differences between the Catholic expression of Baroque and the Protestant expression of Baroque.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Describe a modern-day example of two social groups who view the same issue through a different lens.

4. Weekly Reflection: Using our course readings about the scientific innovations of the Baroque era (from the Dutch and others), write a 1-page reflection about the impacts of key inventions of the 17th century. Use a minimum of three examples in your essay.

Module Seven: The Romantic Era

1. View the lectures and read all linked materials.

2. DF 13: Describe the events of the early movement for women’s rights. How did feminists writers and artists during the Renaissance pave the way for women in the 19th and 20th centuries?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Discuss an example of oppression or discrimination that a culture/society is currently struggling with, and describe how these challenges are impacting the experiences of people living in that society.

3. DF 14: Discuss the contributions of Romantic-Era writers/poets such as Thoreau and Emerson. How do Transcendentalist writings about the spirituality of nature differ (or relate to) the emerging American Gothic literature by writers such as Edgar Allen Poe?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. If you were to write a poem in the style of the Romantic poets, which setting would inspire you most, and why?

4. Weekly Reflection: In a 1-page reflection, write a fictional story about a family who moves from a farming community into the city of London during the early 1800’s. Consider each person’s perspective, and the issues we face as individuals when faced with a challenging life decision.

Module Eight: American Civil War

1. View the lectures and read all linked materials.

2. DF 15: Discuss the idea of “colonization” as a theme in the Civil War. How did this impact people’s emotional responses to the issues surrounding the War?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Discuss a modern-day example of “colonization”, and the potential impacts on the people who are involved in the scenario.

3. DF 16: Describe the movement into Realism which occurred through the visual arts, writing, and the emerging field of photojournalism of the 19th century. In what ways did technology impact this transition?

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Compare and contrast the ways technological innovations impacted people’s lives during the 19th century versus how the internet revolution has impacted our recent experiences.

4. Weekly Reflection: Choose one of the poems from this week’s materials. Write a 1-page reflection about the poem, considering meaning, tone, speaker, and setting. Describe your impressions of what the author is saying through the poem, and discuss if the poem might apply to modern-day experiences of war and suffering.

Module Nine: Toward the Modern

1. View the lectures and read all linked materials.

2. DF 17: Discuss the impacts of motion picture technology on the world of entertainment and mass media.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Discuss how the silent film era promoted stereotypes about ethnicity and gender in society. Do films today still do this? Give examples to support your views.

3. DF 18: Discuss the impacts of social unrest and economic despair on the arts, such as the Mexican mural movement of the early 20th century.

Guided Response: Reply to at least 2 colleagues. Provide a 21st century example of social unrest/economic struggles influencing the arts/expression.

4. Weekly Reflection: Consider our readings on D.W. Griffiths and Birth of a Nation. Write a 1-page reflection about the relationship between film media and expression, and how censorship impacts society as well as artists. Provide a current example from art, film, or literature to support your ideas.



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