Department:

History

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course critically examines the ideas and values of Western culture from the beginning of the Early Modern period to the 20th Century. The course focuses on the most influential writings and ideas that have shaped the intellectual and cultural heritage of the Western world during the Modern era.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the contributions of Seventeenth Century Europe to Western Civilization, including the growth of absolutism in France and continental Europe, the growth of parliamentary government in England, and the Scientific Revolution.
2. Describe the contributions of the 18th Century Age of Enlightenment to Western Civilization, including European philosophies, the events of the Scientific Revolution, the French Revolution, the rise of the American Republic, and the rise of Romanticism at the end of the 18th Century.
3. Describe the contributions of the 19th Century Age of Progress to Western Civilization, including the Industrial Revolution in Europe, social and political ideologies leading to nationalism and power politics, the second Industrial Revolution, realism, pessimism, and materialism in the West, the growth of existentialism, the rise of feminism and the changing family, modern art, Darwinism, and social Darwinism.
4. Describe the contributions of the 20th Century to Western Civilization, including Freudian thought, the rise of racism, totalitarianism, and imperialism, equality as the hallmark of modern Western Civilization, and factors leading to World Wars I and II.

Course Content:

A. Rene Descartes and Seventeenth-Century Europe
B. John Locke and Modern Political Thought
C. The Enlightenment and Jean Jacques Rousseau
E. Cultural Consciousness and Literary Critique: Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein
F. John Stuart Mill
G. Charles Darwin and the Theory of Evolution
H. The Marxist Heritage
I. W.E.B. Du Bois
J. Russia and the West: Fyodor Dostoevsky
K. Friedrich Nietzsche
L. Sigmund Freud and Psychoanalysis
M. Virginia Woolf
N. Modern Judaism and the Holocaust: Gerda Klein’s All But My Life

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by regular written examinations, discussion participation, reaction papers, and other assessment material as the instructor deems appropriate.

Instructional Materials:

Other assigned readings at various Web sites
Instructor’s notes and videos, library, Internet

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link:
https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.