COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: HUM 1131: The Art of Being Human

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 3  
2. Hours/Week: 3  
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing skills are required.  
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None  

This course is an introduction to the methods, techniques, and scope of the study of the humanities, surveying a range of artistic forms with an emphasis on the relationship between form and meaning as well as on the development of each person’s own critical and analytical skills used for interpretation of those forms. The course will also concern itself with the conduct of human life: What makes life good, enriched; in short, worth living.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): February, 2005

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Visual Arts  
2. Literature  
3. Music & Musical Stage  
4. Theater  
5. Cinema  
6. Other artistic forms  
7. Themes in the humanities: a philosophical approach to themes of morality, religion, truth, love, happiness, life and death, nature, freedom, myths  
8. Implications of science and technology for the humanities  
9. Non-Western artistic forms  
10. Critical interpretations of art forms

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of terminology from each of the humanities areas by recalling and using accurately the terms that are essential for understanding the subject matter.  
2. Knowledge of the humanities by identifying perspectives, ideas, themes, elements, and content of works from the several disciplines of the humanities.  
3. A comprehension of works with intellectual content by being able to paraphrase them.  
4. An understanding of representative works in the humanities by comparing forms, media, styles, and philosophies.  
5. A knowledge of the humanities by relating representative works to their creators, eras, and cultures.  
6. A knowledge of philosophers and their thinking by recognizing the impact and enduring relevance of their theories.  
7. An awareness of the interaction between the artist and society by identifying those elements of an artist’s work which can be traced to the social context within which it was created.  
8. A regard for the value of the humanities through articulate statements in essays or journals about the personal impact of the humanities.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):

Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.  
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.  
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.  
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 6/The Humanities and Fine Arts: The student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 8/Global Perspective: The student will be able to:
1. Describe political, economic and cultural elements, which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of and sensitivity to cultural, social, religious, and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
1. Objective and/or essay exams
2. Written responses in various forms
3. Small study-group work
4. Suggested attendance at plays, musical performances, or art museums
5. Creating an original project or any other work as deemed appropriate by the individual instructor and so indicated on his/her syllabus (original or revised)

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):
Additional fees may be charged for televised sections of this course, for online versions of the course, and/or for off-campus performances.