

Humanities 6: Great People, Great Ages

Dr. Dean Pickard
L.A. Pierce College
Spring 2002

Office: FO 3008, Ph: 710-4398
E-mail: pierceStudents1@cs.com
Hrs: Call for appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION: *General description:* An interdisciplinary course which covers leading figures and major cultural developments in an historical period, such as the Greek playwrights and 5th century Athens; Jesus, the New Testament, and the Emergence of Christianity; Augustine and the Augustinian Age; Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and the Renaissance; Descartes to Kant and the Enlightenment; Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche and the 19th century, Heidegger and the 20th Century, etc.. The course can also focus on a major development or issue of a particular period, such as the problem of truth and the sacred as it developed in the 19th-20th centuries or the transition from modernism to postmodernism.

Title and Description of Spring 2002 course: Muhammad and the Rise of Islam

Islam is one of the World's great religions. It began in Arabia in the seventh century and became the center of a major cultural development that reached a "golden age" within two centuries. The Islamic empire was larger than the former Roman and Persian empires. Only the later British Empire was larger. Major intellectual, artistic, economic, and other cultural advances were achieved by the ninth and tenth centuries and much of the cultural heritage of the ancient world was passed to Europe from the high civilization of the Islamic Empire, especially Moorish Spain.. The founder of Islam, Muhammad, is one of the most influential people in history. Islam is currently the fastest growing religion in the world. Muslims now number more than one billion, approximately one sixth of the world's population. Recent tragic events have brought greater attention in the West to this religion, unfortunately, for the wrong reasons. But there is now a greater impetus and opportunity to come to know more about this major religion. It is impossible to deal effectively in world politics without a good knowledge of Islam.

Note: 1. If you drop the class, do so officially or you may receive an automatic F for the course.

2. I no longer give incompletes, but I will accept late work in some cases. If work is not completed by the end of the semester a grade will be given which can be changed within 2 years.

3. You are subject to automatic exclusion if you miss 2 weeks of class.

4. If you come to class late or leave early, please sit in the rear of the class. Seats there should be otherwise left empty.

5. Beepers and cell phones should be turned off before entering class.

6. Please see me first for help or complaints.

7. This outline is a basic guide and is subject to revision. Follow announcements in class about any changes.

TEXTS: 1. Armstrong, Karen. *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*. Harper:SanFrancisco, 1993. (KA)

2. Arberry, A. J.,trans.. *The Koran Interpreted*. Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 1996. (AA)

3. Cook, Michael. *The Koran , A Very Short Introduction* , Oxford U.P., 2000. (C1)

4. Cook, Michael. *Muhammad , Past Masters Series* , Oxford .U.P., 1983, 1996. (C2)

5. Esposito, John L. *Islam: The Straight Path*, 3rd ed., Oxford U. P., 1998. (E)

6. Rippin, Andrew. *Muslims, Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*, 2nd. Ed.. Routledge , New York , 2001. ®

7. Sells, Michael. *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations* (book & CD). White Cloud Press, 1999. (S)

GRADING: 1) One or two essay exams: each essay 3-5 standard typed pages, 100 pts. each. 2) A journal of collected favorite passages from your reading briefly saying why each passage both represents a major issue raised in the text and was particularly meaningful for you. Late journals and exams are not graded until the end of the semester. Thoughtful, informed class participation and perfect or near perfect attendance may raise the grade.

Date	Topic	Reading
2/6	Introduction	
2/13	Muhammad and the Rise of Islam	C1 all, KA pp 6-107
2/20-27	Muhammad and the Rise of Islam	KA pp. 108-266
3/6	Muhammad and the Rise of Islam	E Intro & Ch1-2; R Ch 1,3,4
3/13	Islam and the Koran	R Ch 2; C2 Ch1-2; S pp. 1-34
FIRST JOURNALS DUE 3/13		
3/20	Islam and the Koran	S pp. 35-144; C2 Ch 3-5
3/27	Spring Vacation	
4/3	Islam and the Koran	C2 Ch 6-10
4/10-17	Islam and the Koran	C2 Ch.11-14; E 3
FIRST ESSAYS DUE 4/17		
4/24	Islam and the Koran	R 5-11
5/1	Islam and the Koran	S pp. 145-207
5/1-8	Islam and the Koran	R Ch. 12-15; E Ch. 4
5/15	Islam and the Koran	E Ch. 5-6
5/22	Islam and the Koran	R Ch 16-17
5/29	Review	
FINAL ESSAYS AND JOURNALS DUE on or before 5/31		