

Introduction to HSC



Welcome

Congratulations! You have made two good choices in your college career: You chose to be in the Honors Program, and you chose to satisfy 9 units of your Honors GE requirement by enrolling in the Honors Survey of Civilization (HSC).

Team-taught and interdisciplinary, HSC gives you a coherent story of the monuments, moments, and movements of civilization. While you may be familiar with some of what we cover, you will come to see how those 'bits and pieces' fit into a bigger picture.

You will share 9 hours of class time a week with about 33 other honors students and at least three faculty members.

Preview of the Story:

We will begin our look at civilization with the millions of years of pre-civilization. In those millions of years, we became biologically differentiated from other primate species with our own innate human nature. Humans lived in little bands of hunters and gatherers -- a way of life that sustained us as a species for hundreds of thousands of years.

We will move onto the momentous invention of agriculture that plummeted us to our current place in the world. By laboriously managing nature, humans could vastly increase their food supply and the number of people nature could support. Yet this caused some major problems: How were large urban agricultural societies to be fed, sheltered, and clothed? How were these urbanized humans to make socially important decisions and control themselves? How were they to feel and understand and find meaning in their new relationships to each other and nature?

After looking at *The Epic of Gilgamesh* and readings from *The Hebrew Bible* to see how the ancient Middle Eastern civilizations attempted to



answer these three questions, we will move onto Classical Greece and Rome to see the beginnings of distinctly western civilization which reached a level of material development that would not be achieved again for almost a thousand years.

Following the collapse of the Classical world, we will look at how Christianity mixed with Germanic traditions and the rubble of Classical civilization to create the culture, politics, and economics of Medieval civilization. Interaction with the Muslim world, the Black Plague, and the growth of commerce in Italy bring about a Rebirth of interest in Classical culture, politics, and new economic advances.



A period of enormous creative destruction, the Renaissance opens up the entire world to the heights and depths of human experience and personality.

We will continue the story with the Enlightenment, the American and French Revolutions, the invention of free market economics, and the Neoclassical and Romantic movements.



Finally, through the Industrial Revolution, which enabled humans to make use of fossil fuels, masses of people are able to enjoy the material benefits of civilization: the middle class becomes the politically, economically and culturally dominant class. But this triumph brings two world wars and the power to destroy the earth.

We end the semester with a brief look at where civilization might be headed and what new answers might be offered to answer civilization's basic questions.

Some Tips for Doing Well in HSC

Select an appropriate study environment and study regularly

Psychological research on attention strongly suggests that multi-tasking is not consistent with attending and focusing, which is the essence of studying. (Google "Awareness Test" and look at the videos.)

Attend Class

Showing up and showing up on time is necessary to do a lot of the course work such as contributing to class discussions and activities and taking quizzes, which occur almost every class period.





Attend in class.

There will be no iPods, MP3 players, or the like used in class. Cell phones will be off and out of sight. There will be no laptops used in class.

Turn in all assignments and turn them in on time.

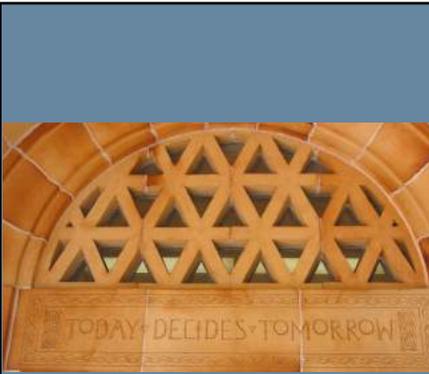
Finally, your faculty in HSC cannot do the reading for this course in less than five hours a week. “Doing the reading” consists of more than merely understanding the sentences as you read them. After reading an assigned reading once to get the ‘drift’ you may need to reread all or parts to see major claims, reasons for them, and conceptual connections. We recommend reading the material in hardcopy, instead of on your computer or smart-phone, so that you can underline and make marginal comments on the text. Quiz yourself on the material and talk to others about it. Read the poetry and plays aloud if you can. Interacting in these ways with text helps it ‘stick.’

HSC Expectations for You

In HSC we aim to teach you a very interesting and provocative story about humanity. We expect you to learn this story and the support for it so that you can repeat it, question it, build on it, amend it, and contribute to it throughout your life. Play your part this semester and you will learn a lot and earn good grades.

Satisfying 9 units of your lower division Honors GE requirements, HSC actively strives to further many of the GE program’s Student Learning Outcomes including Written Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal and Social Responsibility, Sustainability, Diversity, and Global Engagement. In order to successfully complete HSC you will in your assignments, exams and classroom performance over the course of the semester show

1. “the ability to question, investigate and draw well-reasoned conclusions and to formulate ideas through effective written communications appropriate to the intended audience.”
2. the ability to identify “issues and problems raised in written texts, visual media and other forms of discourse, and assess the relevance, adequacy and credibility of arguments and evidence used in reaching conclusions.”
3. “the knowledge and skills necessary to take responsibility for one’s own life and actions, and to recognize the opportunities and responsibilities to become engaged in our various local, regional, national, and international communities.”



4. the ability to “describe and explain the environmental dynamics associated with human activities, and assess the value of balancing social and economic demands with the Earth’s ability to sustain physical and biological resources and cultural diversity.”
5. the ability to understand and work with “different intellectual viewpoints as well as the unique perspectives of others based on varied experiences, identities and social attributes.”
6. the “knowledge and skills to engage global cultures and peoples.”

Grades

The HSC grading system favors consistent, high-quality, day-to-day performance over short-term cramming for exams. Miss or do poorly on enough ‘little’ assignments and quizzes and you will be in academic trouble. This means that although we do have final exams, if you take only those seriously and “blow off” the daily assignments, you will be very unpleasantly surprised by your final semester grades. In short, you will profit more from relying on doing as well as you can everyday than from ‘acing’ the finals. Doing well on quizzes is overwhelmingly a matter of reading -- and rereading -- the material assigned.

Because of HSC’s interdisciplinary, integrated character and flexibility in meeting GE requirements, you will get the same semester grade for the whole 9 units, i.e. you will get the same grade for each of the three Honors Courses that make up HSC: HNRS 200 C, D, and E.

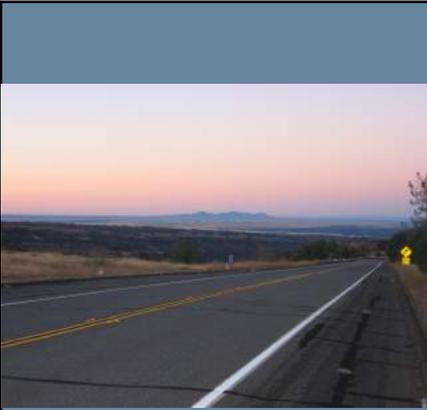
Each faculty member keeps his or her own grade book and the faculty members’ grade books are combined at the very end of the semester for each of the three HSC ‘course’ grades (for HNRS 200 C, D, E) you will receive. In the course of the semester, you may keep track of how well you are doing by tracking how well you are doing for each faculty member. Faculty members will post scores to help you determine what you may have missed and help you verify your scores. You are officially enrolled in these three courses:

- HNRS-200 C Arts and Humanities - 3 units.
- HNRS-200 D Individuals and Contexts - 3 units.
- HNRS-200 E Enduring Issues - 3 units.

The grade in each of the above is based on this material:

- Participation - 5% (Each of the faculty contributes an equal portion of the participation points.)
- Professors Yudell’s and Monfort’s material - 40%





- Professor Sweet's material - 40%
- Exams - 15% (2% group midterm, 3% final group exam, and 10% objective final.)

[Each professor's grading policy is given at the end of this syllabus intro.]

Participation

Five percent can make the difference of a half-letter grade in the semester course grades. Participation includes: coming to class, coming prepared, willingness to talk about ideas, asking questions, listening respectfully, suspending judgment, and trying out new ways of thinking.

Syllabus Calendar

The HSC syllabus comes as a calendar to help you manage your time. For example, you can look ahead to see when there is a lot of reading. All on-line HSC materials can be found on the Blackboard Learn site for only HNRS-200 C. We won't use the sites for HNRS-200 D and E. Everything you need to navigate the course can be found on the Blackboard Learn Welcome page for HNRS-200 C.

Since the Syllabus Intro and the Calendar -- and much else we will post on Blackboard Learn -- will be in PDF format, your computer will have to have Adobe Acrobat Reader. (And we do recommend that you use a computer for this and not your phone.) Given the relatively large file size of this introduction and the syllabus calendar, you want to use a fast computer connection -- but not your phone because you should print hard copies of at least the syllabus calendar, and the text lectures. None of the other material on the HSC Blackboard Learn site should occasion any trouble opening or downloading. Call Student Computing for computer problems.

Although details of the syllabus calendar may be revised as we go along, it gives you the best information we now have about what we will be doing in class this coming semester. We may have to modify our plans, but we will let you know as soon as we can of any changes.

Each day's entry in the calendar includes a title suggesting the topic(s) for the day and reading assignments. The key to the abbreviations for repeatedly used texts appears below under "textbooks." **Reading assignments are due on the day on which they are listed.**

The calendar also includes exams, special events, and due dates for assignments. However, the calendar does **not** include detailed descriptions





of assignments. For these, you must check the web site “Assignments” folder **frequently**. To prompt you to check the Assignment folder, a red star appears on the syllabus calendar on any day when one or more assignments is due.

We suggest you keep a hard copy of your syllabus calendar in a folder with a tablet of paper for notes and in-class writing and always bring it to class. Keep all your graded quizzes, papers, and homework. When you ask us at the end of the semester what you can study, we will tell you to go over your notes, quizzes, and other assignments. In addition, having this material is essential to resolve disputes about scores, grades, and missed assignments.

Textbooks

You can purchase the following texts in the AS Bookstore in the section labeled “HSC” or Honors 200 C.

We are not requiring you to buy a textbook. Instead, lectures covering the art history, history, and philosophy components of HSC are posted on the class Blackboard Learn site. These Text-Lectures should be treated as a textbook. Download the lectures in hardcopy so you can read, underline, make marginal notes, and study. To save yourself money, set your printer options to download 2-4 pages/ standard sheet of paper, and print only in gray shades. The art looks great in color but paying for color cartridges for your printer will be very expensive.

The following texts are required:

Candide, Voltaire

Epic of Gilgamesh

Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte

Oryx and Crake, Atwood

Short Stories, Hemingway

Text-Lectures (TX)

Things Fall Apart, Achebe

Twelfth Night, Shakespeare

Western Literature, 8th Ed., Vol. 1, Mack, *et. al.* (WL)

The Worldly Philosophers, Heilbroner (WP)

Supplemental Readings, denoted by S in the syllabus calendar, are found in the folder labeled “Supplemental Readings” in Blackboard Learn for HNRS 200 C

(The capital letter abbreviations appearing after some of the texts above are the ones used in the syllabus calendar.)



Supplies

Besides the usual pens, pencils and paper, you will need a ream of printer paper for downloading material off Blackboard Learn if you choose to print it yourself. Besides hardcopy of the syllabus calendar and the text-lectures you will have to bring hardcopy of some supplemental readings to class. To save money do your hardcopy only in black and white or gray shades.



For quizzes in class, we'll use Scantron 15-item Quizstrip Form 815-E. Pick up at least 30 of them at the bookstore and tuck them into your class notebook so they do not get bent and you have them every day.

HSC Office Hours

Zanja will have office hours in Arts 370 on Monday, 2:00 to 4:00, Tuesday, 2:00 to 3:30 and Wednesday, 2:00 - 3:30. Tricia will have office hours in the Honors Office, Sutter (The Hub), on Monday 2:00 - 3:45, Tuesday 1:00 to 3:00, Wednesday 1:00 to 3:00, Thursday 1:00 to 3:00, and F 12:30 - 3:00. Office hours for both are also given the opening page of the class web site. Let us know if you want to talk or need some help. Tricia will be happy to help you with your writing.



University Policies and Campus Resources

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at California State University, Chico, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct is at <http://www.csuchico.edu.sjd/integrity.shtml>.



Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please talk to with ARC (Accessibility Resource Center) as soon as possible. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the ARC Office to establish a record of their disability.



Disability Support Services are at Student Services Center 170 at phone number 530-898-5959 or arcdept@csuchico.edu

Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

Individual Professors' Grading Policies:

Professor Sweet

Every calendar day that includes literature, you should come to class having written the first three responses for your ten-point literature quiz. The first three prompts are always the same:

- 1) Briefly summarize the assigned literature (only the assigned parts of excerpted larger texts).
- 2) Make a claim interpreting the literature.
- 3) Provide evidence to support your claim.

The next seven prompts will vary, and you'll answer those in class. If as you read the literature, you find yourself enjoying it, you are likely to do well on the quiz. Your enjoyment indicates you're focused on the reading. You can better prepare for quizzes by thinking through answers to the "Literature Study Questions" under "Assignments."

You can make up missed quizzes by writing responses to the usual first three prompts and detailed answers to several of the "Literature Study Questions."

You will be assigned three essays on literature. Each of these essays will be 3-4 pages and worth 50 points. Please turn in all three essays even if late for a lowered score.

We will be reading some of the best literature in the galaxy. Please don't miss out by resorting to online descriptions of the assigned texts. Even if (or especially when) your parents divorce, your first and only lover wants to be friends, and you gain the freshman fifteen, honor yourself by reading the literature.

Professor Yudell and Professor Monfort will be sharing class time. However, Professor Yudell only will have charge of this grade book.

The Text-Lectures on Blackboard Learn function as the basic textbook for HSC. In order to prepare for class you must read each of them, perhaps a couple of times. Class time devoted to us discussing issues raised by the



Text-Lectures will be a lot more fun than our merely telling you what you could read for yourself.

To help you read and remember the Text -Lectures we will give a short quiz almost every time one of us has class time. There will be about 30 such quizzes. Each quiz will be worth ten points.

At the end of the semester, Professor Yudell will drop your three lowest quiz scores. So, for example if we have given 30 quizzes over the semester, and you have missed two of them and earned only a 3 on another the two zeros and the 3 will be dropped. Quiz questions will cover material you should have read for the day on which the quiz is given plus any previous material we have covered in class. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.



We also give a number of written assignments. They usually require an individual response to a prompt, which might be a radio program or questions or readings. These are only a typewritten page or two in length, but they must be turned in on time to avoid a point reduction for being turned in late. However, since none of these scores are dropped in the final reckoning, it is better to turn in something late than nothing at all.

Finally, all the professors will contribute to midterm and final exam questions as well as evaluation of your participation.

A Parting Word

We have tried to give you an accurate picture of HSC. We have told you what you need to know to get started. We are all going to work hard, learn a lot, and have a great semester. We are off and running!

