



CLEP HUMANITIES SYLLABUS

1. About this Course

This course reviews materials intended to acquire a general knowledge of literature, art, music and the other performing arts. The goal of the creator of this course – Modern States Education Alliance, a non-profit organization – is to prepare you to pass the College Board's CLEP examination and obtain college credit for free.

Through the guidance of Dr. José Antonio Mazzotti, from Tufts University, this course will provide a broad coverage in Humanities, with questions on all periods from classical to contemporary, and in many different fields: poetry, prose, philosophy, art, architecture, music, dance, theater and film.

"Mastering the topics presented in this course will allow you to transition to more sophisticated coursework in these and other disciplines. This course forms a foundation from which you can achieve your educational goals," says Dr. Mazzotti.

Our course is organized into six topical chapters or modules that contain short video lessons, exercises and readings.

The CLEP exam contains approximately 140 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. The exam will require you to demonstrate an understanding of the humanities through recollection of specific information, comprehension and application of concepts and analysis and interpretation of various works of art.

Our "Humanities" course is completely self-paced. There are no prerequisites to take this course, and it is entirely free. Any student who wants to save time and money while completing freshman year in college can take it.

Note: Colleges may grant credit toward fulfillment of a distribution requirement for students who achieve satisfactory scores on the Humanities examination. Some may grant credit for a particular course that matches the exam in content.

2. About Jose Antonio Mazzotti, Tufts University

José Antonio Mazzotti is King Felipe VI of Spain Professor of Spanish Culture and Civilization and Professor of Latin American Literature at Tufts University, Boston. He holds a PhD from Princeton University and MAs from Princeton and the University of Pittsburgh. He has taught at Harvard, MIT, Brown and Amherst College and given seminars in Madrid, Seville, Lima and several universities from the U.S.

A native from Peru, he founded the non-for-profit International Association of Peruvianists in 1996 and is Director and Chief Editor of the "Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana" since 2010.

Among his many books are "Coros mestizos del Inca Garcilaso: resonancias andinas" (Lima, 1996), "Poéticas del flujo: migración y violencia verbales en el Perú de los 80" (Lima, 2002), "Incan Insights: El Inca Garcilaso's Hints to Andean Readers" (Madrid/Frankfurt, 2008), "Encontrando un inca: ensayos escogidos sobre el Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (New York, 2016)", "Lima fundida: épica y nación criolla en el Perú" (Madrid, 2016), and eleven volumes of poetry. He has also edited several volumes on Latinos in the U.S., Latin American colonial literature, and literary theory. His most recent project consists on the documentation of Iskonawa, and endangered language of the Peruvian Amazon basin.

3. Required Knowledge and Skills

The CLEP exam requires you to demonstrate the following abilities:

- Knowledge of factual information (authors, works, etc.) (50 percent of the examination).
- Recognition of techniques such as rhyme scheme, medium and matters of style, and the ability to identify them as characteristics of certain writers, artists, schools or periods (30 percent of the examination).
- Understanding and interpretation of literary passages and art reproductions that are likely to be unfamiliar to most candidates (20 percent of the examination).

4. Percentages of exam questions

The exam questions, drawn from the entire history of art and culture, are fairly evenly divided among the following periods: Classical, Medieval and Renaissance, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, nineteenth century and twentieth and twenty-first centuries. At least 5–10 percent of the questions draw on other cultures, such as African, Asian and Latin American. Some of the questions cross disciplines and/or chronological periods, and a substantial number test knowledge of terminology, genre and style. The percentages next to the topics indicate the approximate percentages of exam questions on those topics.

50% Literature

10% Drama

15%-20% Fiction

10% Nonfiction (including philosophy)

50% The Arts

20% Visual arts: painting, sculpture, etc

5% Visual arts: architecture

15% Performing arts: music

10% Performing arts: film, dance, etc.

5. Course Modules

Following are the main topics and percentages of the exam's questions, mostly based on the College Board's description of the course:

Module 1: The Classical Period

1.1 Ancient Greece

1.2 Ancient Rome

Module 2: The Middle Ages

2.1 Between Antiquity and Modernity

2.2 Estates of the Realm: Feudal Lords, Clergy, Peasants

2.3 The Crusades

2.4 The Preservation of Knowledge and the Role of Jews and Muslims

2.5 Theology and Philosophy: Neo-Platonism, Scholasticism and Thomism

2.6 Dante Alighieri: The Metaphysical View of the Afterlife

2.7 The Invention of Printing and the Beginning of Transoceanic Explorations

Module 3: The Renaissance

3.1 The Renaissance: A Return to the Classics

3.2 Main Figures

3.3 Poetry and Drama: Petrarch, Garcilaso, Shakespeare

3.4 Philosophy: Neo-Platonism and Neo-Scholasticism

3.5 Political Thought: Luther, Erasmus and Machiavelli

3.6 The European Expansion, Amerindian Cultures, Asian Cultures, African Slavery

Module 4: The Baroque and the Enlightenment

4.1 What is the Baroque? What is the Enlightenment?

4.2 Rationalism vs. Empiricism

4.3 Baroque and Enlightened Art

4.4 Baroque and Enlightened Music

4.5 Baroque and Enlightened Literature

4.6 The Enlightenment and the New Ideas of Modernity

Module 5: Romanticism and Realism

5.1 What is Romanticism? What is Realism?

5.2 Romantic Literature

5.3 Romantic Music

5.4 Romantic Art

5.5 The Realist Reaction

Module 6: Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

6.1 Revolution and Avant-Garde

6.2 Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Futurism, Dadaism, Cubism, Imagism

6.3 Surrealism and Modern Art

6.4 Fiction

6.5 Poetry and Theater

6.6 Modern Music

6.7 Film

6. How CLEP Works

Developed by the College Board, CLEP (College-Level Examination Program®) is the most widely accepted credit-by-examination program.

CLEP's credits are accepted by 2,900 colleges and universities, according to the College Board. These tests assess college-level knowledge in 33 subject areas.

On average, a college course costs \$700 while a CLEP exam costs \$80.

Modern States Education Alliance is the non-profit organization behind these edX-style courses. Its project is called "Freshman Year for Free" and its mission is to make college more accessible and affordable through free, high-quality online education.