Themes in Western Literature and Art

Contact information:
Mrs. Jen Smith
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Office Hours: Before school in room 251; by appointment

Purpose and Course Expectations:
The purpose of this course is to present an overview of the ways in which visual and literary texts connect to convey key themes about humanity and Western Civilization. Texts for this course are varied, and include, but are not limited to, philosophical texts, historical texts, classic and modern Western literature, paintings, sculptures, and mixed media artwork. A student of this course should gain a basic understanding of the ways in which artists and authors draw on key themes and ideas in order to convey an individual message; a student of this course should also be able to identify connections between the works of artists and authors.

Being a weighted course of study, the expectations for assignments and participation will reflect a pre-collegiate level. Merely completing minimum course requirements will likely result in a 70%-80% overall grade in the course. To receive a 90% or higher in the course, please prepare to take an innovative and thoughtful approach to the completion of all assignments.

Each unit will include:

A. An extended text (with the exception of Unit I)
B. Required supplemental readings, including philosophical texts
C. Discussion of visual texts
D. Graded academic conversations in which verbal participation is required
E. A written exam

Grading Policy:
Semester work = 90%
Final Exam = 10%

Grading Scale:
A (Outstanding, Superior): 100-90
B (Above Average): 89-80
C (Average): 79-70
D (Below Average): 69-60
F (Unacceptable): 59 & below

Semester Work Grade Weightings:
Reading (written responses and academic conversations): 40%
Writing (written responses): (40%)
Speaking (academic conversations and formal presentations): (20%)

Missing and late work:
Be responsible for missed work. See me during office hours for quizzes, tests, and handouts (you will also find most, if not all, handouts posted on Canvas). If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, it should be submitted via email prior to the start time of the class period. If you are absent on the day of class presentations, then you may lose part or all credit for that day’s work. If you are excused absent on the day of an academic conversation, you will be excused from that assignment; however, if you miss a number of academic conversations—even if they are excused—you may find that it will impact your final grade. Work, including make-up tests and quizzes, completed and submitted ten or more days late will receive a 0%. 

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Revision of Summative Assessments:
Opportunities for revision will be provided for most summative assessments (usually the last summative assessments of the semester have no opportunities for revision). On the day that your graded work is returned to you, I will post the revision requirements. Typically these include the following; however, I reserve the right to add further requirements:

1) In order to revise, you must have completed all formative assessments (drafts, etc.) on time.
2) In order to revise, you must have turned in your summative assessment on time.
3) In order to revise, you must have earned a C+ or less* on the summative assessment.

*Revised work may earn up to a B-

Source Documentation & Turnitin.com:
The latest version and updates to the Modern Language Association’s (MLA) must be used throughout all essays. This includes page layout, internal citations, and works cited pages.

All essays must be submitted to Turnitin.com. Essays not submitted to Turnitin.com will not be considered for a grade. Turnitin.com class ID and password are posted on Canvas.

Self-Plagiarism:
The use of prior work for a current assignment (self-plagiarism) is not permissible. If a student wishes to cite previous work, it is the responsibility of the student to discuss the extent and the purpose of the use of this work with the teacher in advance of submitting any portion of the work for any part of an assignment. (For example, do not wait until the “final draft” stage of a paper to notify the teacher that a portion of the work is from another assignment.)