

Common Course Outline  
HUM 203  
Artifacts of Culture: Renaissance Topics  
1 to 3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

### **Artifacts of Culture: Renaissance Topics**

**Provides an intensive study of a single masterpiece, theme, or movement of world art, music, literature or architecture; focuses on topics drawn from Renaissance culture.**

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. develop and apply critical and analytical skills to cultural studies
2. detail and analyze comparatively selected relevant cultural artifacts
3. analyze selected relevant cultural artifacts in their cultural contexts, synchronically and diachronically
4. recognize and describe the relevant influences that shape cultural production, including factors of race, class and gender
5. view cultural artifacts with a more sophisticated intellectual appreciation
6. analyze critically the formal qualities and characteristics of selected cultural artifacts
7. assess the different cross-currents of cultural influences that have shaped cultural production in different historical and geographical milieux
8. develop a greater openness to different cultural criteria of beauty and significance
9. produce a careful and thoughtful scholarly or creative project with written and oral components
10. recognize, analyze and assess the historical importance of selected relevant cultural artifacts
11. recognize and describe the impact and influences of Renaissance cultural production on contemporary American and world culture

Major Topics

Depending upon the specific modules offered

I. Evolution and development of literary forms in the given cultural context, in a comparative perspective.

II. Evolution and development of artistic and musical forms in the given cultural context, in a comparative perspective.

III. Evolution and development of musical and theatrical forms in the given cultural context, in a comparative perspective.

IV. Formation and role of individuals or groups crucial to cultural production in a given context.

V. Relationship of selected relevant cultural artifacts to other manifestations of the given societal context: political, economic, religious, recreational.

VI. Concepts and vocabulary relevant to the academic study of a given cultural context.

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#### Course Requirements

1. Regular and punctual attendance and active participation in class
2. Written essay-style examinations
3. Reading and writing assignments
4. Annotated scholarly or creative project with written and oral components

#### Other Course Information

Artifacts of Culture modules are team-taught interdisciplinary courses in humanities, each devoted to the intensive study of a single masterpiece, theme or movement of world art, music, literature, or architecture. First implemented with the support of a National Endowment for the Humanities program grant, and subsequently selected as one of 13 nationally selected Exemplary Humanities Programs for Adults, Artifacts of Culture was named to the Honor Roll of Outstanding Ideas and Achievements (1987) by the Maryland State Board for Community Colleges, and selected as Distinguished Instructional Program by the Maryland Association for Higher Education (1992). The program is of special interest to those returning to college primarily for purposes of personal enrichment and intellectual stimulation

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth of knowledge,

attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career, and as an informed and concerned citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for tests.

Artifacts of Culture: Renaissance Topics  
HUM 203

A series of team-taught, interdisciplinary courses in humanities, each devoted to the intensive study of a single masterpiece, theme, or movement of world art, music, literature or architecture; the Humanities 203 sequence focusses on topics drawn from Renaissance culture. Each semester different course modules may be offered, of from one to three semester hour credits, depending upon topic and duration of course module. Following is a sample course outline of a one credit module on "Renaissance Lyric."

A study of the poetic and musical forms of the Renaissance English lyric, focusing on the poetry and music of the courts of Henry VIII, Elizabeth and James I. The course is designed as one component of a series of related Artifacts modules that focus on the close interconnection of music and poetry in the tradition of lyrics put to musical settings. The Renaissance lyric represents one of the great moments in the evolution of English poetry, and it is also one of the truly great periods in English music. The course will examine the development of lyric poetry in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, beginning with Skelton and the work of Wyatt and Surrey, showing the earliest influence in England of the Italian sonnet tradition best known in the work of Petrarch. Focusing on the great miscellanies of the period -- such as Tottel's Miscellany, The Gorgeous Gallery of Gallant Inventions, and England's Helicon -- as well as such crucial individual poets as Spenser, Sidney, Marlowe, Shakespeare, Drayton and Jonson, the course will explore the Renaissance lyric in terms of forms, especially the sonnet, and in terms of dominant motifs: lament, blazon, encomium, meditation, prayer. Concurrently, the course will examine the musical traditions of the period, including the influence of Italian and French traditions, and focus on the modes used in the setting of the different types of lyric poetry, producing the great tradition of the renaissance aires and madrigals. Also considered will be matters of

contemporary instrumentation and vocalization, and the differences between courtly and folk traditions.