

# HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

## ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

### Course Description

This course covers ancient civilizations with a special emphasis on canonical texts from world literature. Students will analyze primary texts covering the different periods of western and non-western literature, and will discuss them from different critical stances. They will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the works by responding to questions focusing on the works, authors, themes, and motifs. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the works by writing research paper focusing on the works, movements, authors, themes, and motifs. In addition, they will discuss the historical, social, cultural, or biographical contexts of the works' production. This course is intended for students who already possess a bachelor's and, ideally, a master's degree, and who would like to develop interdisciplinary perspectives that integrate with their prior knowledge and experience.

### About the Professors

*Blackburn, Stuart, Ph.D.*

Stuart Blackburn did his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, in South Asian Studies and Folklore. He taught for many years at SOAS in London and later held visiting professorships at Heidelberg, Berkeley and Berlin (Humboldt University). He is the author of seven monographs (including the prize-winning *Inside the Drama House*, California, 1996) and the editor or co-editor of eight other books. He is currently a research associate at SOAS and writes historical fiction.

*McPherson, David, Ph.D.*

David McPherson is professor emeritus and former chair of the English Department at the University of New Mexico. His areas of expertise include the drama of Renaissance England and comparative literature.

*Nash, Susan Smith, Ph.D.*

Dr. Nash has developed numerous literature courses in the humanities, including world literature, American literature, and film. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma, and is widely published in the areas of literature, e-learning, and discourse. In addition, she has served as editor for journals focusing on literature and literary criticism.

*Will, Frederic, Ph.D.*

Frederic Will is a widely published professor of comparative literature who has been a Fulbright Scholar in Greece, Tunisia, and Ivory Coast. He is the founding editor of *Micromegas*, a journal of poetry in translation, and served as administrator and faculty member of Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts, and University of Iowa.

### Texts

Bedford Anthology, Vol 1. NY: St Martins, 2004

Jerry H Bentley, Traditions and Encounters, McGraw Hill, 2015.

Gloria Fiero. The Humanistic Tradition, Book 1. NY: McGraw-Hill, 2015.

Daniel Kolak. The Longman Standard History of Philosophy. NY: Pearson, 2006.

Peter N Stearns, World history in brief, Pearson, 2012.

Marilyn Stokstad. Art History: Vol 1. Ancient Art. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Prentice-Hall, 2014.

Further Readings are assigned at the end of the articles below.