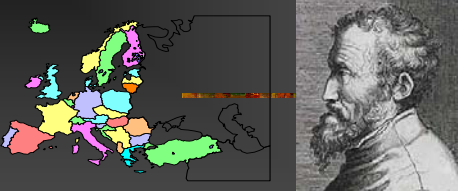


Humanities 101



Michelangelo--1475-1564

A Look at Western Civilization Since the Renaissance

Humanities -- What are they?

- They are studies of human attempts to understand our relationship to ourselves, to others, to our past, to the future, to nature, and to God.



2

Humanities -- What are they?

“When we reflect on the changes in our lives, when we recognize some of the things we love about the world, and when we resist loss and death with all our strength--we are participating in the humanities. All adults think and choose; all adults reflect and wonder. The humanities address our deepest contemporary concerns.”
(Annie Dillard, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist)

3

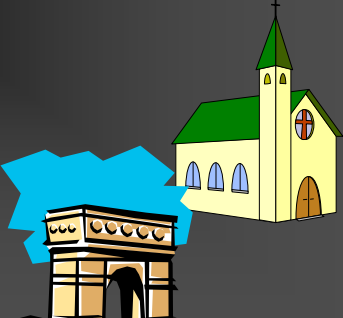
Humanities -- What are they?

“Through the humanities we reflect on the fundamental question: what does it mean to be human? The humanities offer clues but never a complete answer. They reveal how people have tried to make moral, spiritual, and intellectual sense of a world in which irrationality, despair, loneliness, and death are as conspicuous as birth, friendship, hope and reason. (Report of the Commission on the Humanities)

4

Humanities -- What are they?

- History
- Art
- Philosophy
- Music
- Literature
- Architecture
- Dance
- Film




5

Humanities: When did they begin?

1250 A.D. --In Verona and Padua, there began a rediscovery of the total culture of classical antiquity: literature, history, rhetoric, ethics, politics. **Humanism** stressed the earthly fulfillment of humans rather than only seeing earth as a preparation for paradise.

Botticelli:
 La Primavera
 (The Spring)



6

Humanities: Why Study Them?

“Knowledge and skills alone cannot lead humanity to a happy and dignified life. Humanity has every reason to place the proclaimers of high moral standards and values above the discoverers of objective truth. What humanity owes to personalities like Buddha, Moses, and Jesus ranks for me higher than all the achievements of the inquiring and constructive mind.” (Einstein)

7

Humanities: Why study them?

“It is not enough to teach man a specialty. Through it he may become a kind of useful machine, but not a harmoniously developed personality. It is essential that the student acquire an understanding of and a lively feeling for values. He must learn to understand the motives of human beings, their illusions, and their sufferings in order to acquire a proper relationship to individual fellow-men and to the community. He must acquire a vivid sense of the beautiful and of the morally good. Otherwise he—with his specialized knowledge—more closely resembles a well-trained dog. . . .Premature specialization on the ground of immediate usefulness kills the spirit on which all cultural life depends, specialized knowledge included.” (Einstein)

8

Greek Models

Venus de Milo

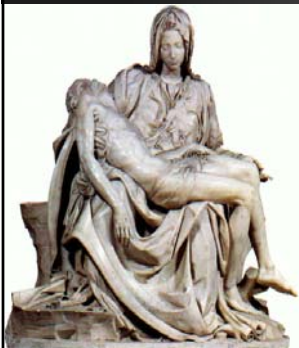


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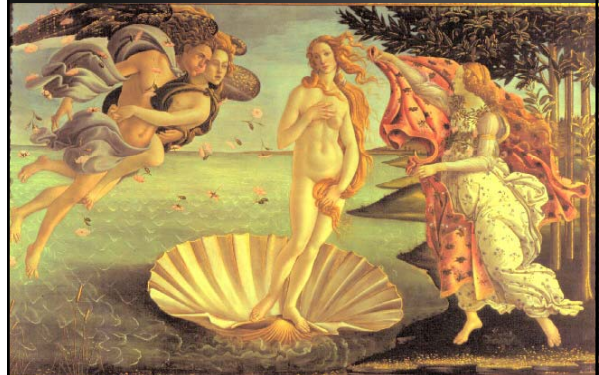
Renaissance Humanism: Michelangelo: Bacchus, God of Wine, and sketch of a torso



Renaissance Humanism: Michelangelo: Pieta and David



Sandro Botticelli: The Birth of Venus



Humanities: When did they begin?

Pico della Mirandola (1463-94) wrote the Oration on the Dignity of Man, a kind of **manifesto of humanism**. He put these words into the mouth of God's character: "We have made you neither of heaven nor of earth, neither mortal nor immortal, so that with freedom of choice and with honor, as though the maker and molder of yourself, you may fashion yourself in whatever shape you shall prefer. . . . You shall have the power, out of thy soul's judgement, to be reborn into the higher forms, which are divine." (contrast with St. Augustine's idea of will)

13

Renaissance Humanism

Humanism is a contrast to the medieval Christian view of humans as sinful and depraved. Humanists praised humans as God's highest creation, capable of learning and creativity.

Michelangelo
Creation of Adam



14

Renaissance Art



Titian:
Madonna
of the
Cherries

Renaissance Art--Perspective

Healing
of the
Cripple
By
Masolino



16



School of Athens -- Raphael
(Perspective)

17

Christ in Majesty,
from the Codex
Aureus, 870 A.D.



18

Leonardo da Vinci:
Madonna of the
Rocks



19

Renaissance Humanism

A **humanist** was a student of Greek and Roman literature, history, rhetoric, and ethics. These subjects comprised *studia humanitas*, "the course that made one human." In such studies, scholars reconciled Christian beliefs with the moral teaching of the ancients. They challenged the medieval notion that the material world contained only temptation and evil; instead, they glorified the beauty and order in nature.

Erasmus
by Holbein



20

Humanities: Why Study Them?

"Where does one acquire wisdom? Courses in wisdom are not listed in college catalogs, but there are courses that can nurture the development of wisdom. You can find them listed under the title of **humanities.**" (Willard C. Butcher, Chairman, The Chase Manhattan Corporation)

21

Humanities: Why Study Them?

"It is never too late to strengthen our character by deepening our awareness of the humanities." (Willard C. Butcher, Chairman, The Chase Manhattan Corporation)

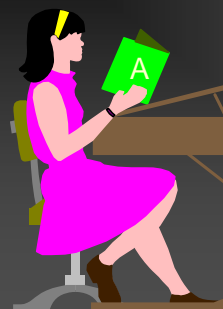
22

Themes of this course.

- The history of western civilization is a story of a tension between faith and reason, religion and science.
- That tension is the source of much of our greatness.
- We have moved from a paternalistic view of governing people to humanistic democracy.
- Scientific determinism is the dark smudge on the bright banner of scientific progress.

23

How Can I be Successful in this Class?



- Attend class
- Study the text and do the out-of-class quizzes
- Attend review sessions
- Study with others
- Take the exams
- Write a good paper

24