

Humanities 1B, Spring 2009
Due: May 5th

Arts Essay Assignment: Medieval & Renaissance Eras

For this semester, you are asked to prepare a four-page, double-spaced essay that is both an evaluation of an arts experience as well as a description of your feelings in response to it (this latter part is called an *affective response*). For your arts experience this semester, you may include activities such as visiting a museum of art or artifacts, an art gallery visit, a theatre production, a film, a live reading of a play or a live poetry reading, a live performance of music or dance, or some other interactive arts activity, so long as it is related to the Medieval or Renaissance eras. Please check with me to assure that some event you might consider is relevant to the Medieval or Renaissance context.

After experiencing the artwork you have chosen, be sure to include the following in writing about it:

1. A description of the art/event you have chosen, about a page in length.
2. An identification of three especially noteworthy features about the art/event and say why each is noteworthy.
3. Tell about your feelings in response to the work, and any other affective considerations you would like to address, no more than a page in length for this part of your assignment.
4. As you evaluate the work, state your views (about three noteworthy features), but also be sure to give reasons for each of your evaluations. Comparisons to similar arts experiences you have had may also be described. This section also should take up no more than a page.
5. Conclude by drawing some conclusions about or from your arts experience.

Remember, you must have attended the arts experience this semester. Include with your assignment a means to show evidence of your attendance at the arts experience, such as a program or ticket stub. If you have any questions about your assignment, please be sure to discuss it with me before proceeding.

The following are among the possibilities for your arts experience, but by no means do they exhaust those possibilities. Making you more aware of the arts experiences available to you is part of the purpose of this assignment, so please look for opportunities in a field of particular interest to you. Remember that many exhibits and performances mix art from different periods; please focus on the works you experience from the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Painting:

Both the Cantor Arts Center, at Stanford, and the Palace of the Legion of Honor, in San Francisco, have Medieval and Renaissance works in their permanent collections. Check first to make sure they have something suitable on display before making the trip to either. The Cantor Center is free, but its collection begins in 1500, so you would be limited to the 16th and 17th centuries.

Music

Possibilities include Cut Circle in concert on Wednesday, April 22, 8:00 pm, at Memorial Church at Stanford University (vocal music by Renaissance composer Johannes Ockeghem); and The American Recorder Orchestra of the West (AROW), Saturday, April 18, 3 pm, at Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Rd., San Jose ("Viva Italia"). Please check if there is an admission fee.

Theater

Staged Readings by Subterranean Shakespeare Company at the Berkeley Unitarian Fellowship, 1924 Cedar, Berkeley: 4/13: Henry IV, pt. I; 4/20: Henry IV, pt. 2; 4/27: Henry V; 5/11: Hamlet. \$8 per ticket.