

Blue Marble University

Combined Bachelor Degree and Masters Degree in Humanities: Worlds

(B.A./M.A. 3 Year Online Program)

Admission Requirement: Some basic experience using computers. No credits for prior education or work are issued; each student must complete our full curriculum. Access to an excellent library would be very helpful.

About the Program: Join us on expeditions to find the soul of the humanities. This is an Instructor-led self learning program in which we use the massive eleven volume work of Wil and Ariel Durant "The Story of Civilization" as the foundation and overview for our learning. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Story_of_Civilization

We then move to the Masters Degree level courses and explore various topics concerning ancient civilizations and religions in further depth, and conclude with an introduction to virtual worlds.

Each student is introduced to blogging and is expected to contribute independent original work to his/her Online Portfolio. The Online Portfolio is the online digital identity and record of the student's education, research, writings, accomplishments, and other interests organized and presented in a professional, artistic manner for all the world to see. The concept and techniques for the Online Portfolio will be presented as a first course, and the student is expected to develop and contribute to the portfolio over during the program's duration, culminating in the finalization of the Online Portfolio at the end.

Our Virtual Worlds course will introduce the student to online 3D Virtual Worlds, and how this medium can be used for artistic expression and presentation of work and writings. Heritage-key.com was one of the first websites to make use of virtual world technology to elucidate concepts and presentations of ancient history. No longer available, the essentials of heritage-key.com live on in a Youtube video collection. Click on this video link for an example: <http://youtu.be/dO2ly2NUBM> [If the link is broken, just search "heritage-key.com" on Google YouTube videos].

Some previous knowledge and capability with computers is necessary both for the creation of the Online Portfolio and for the study of Virtual Worlds; **however these parts of the program are designed for non-computer science students.**

This program will be useful to anyone interested in politics, teaching, writing, journalism, communications and just about every non-science endeavor one can imagine. In contrast to our other Humanities doctoral program (which is based on themes and the exploration of large topics through the case study method), this program is patterned on historical periodicity and hence generally follows the time line of history. The incorporation of virtual worlds methodology will get the student thinking about the presentation aspects of communication. It is not just important how one presents an idea but how it is presented.

In this program, courses are taken sequentially for approximately a 1 month period. This allows for in depth consideration of the material.

Please Note: This is a 3 year program only. We do not offer a Bachelor Degree to students who only partially complete the full program.

Year 1

Term 1

Online Portfolio: Introduction to blogging, website creation, and outline for student's online digital portfolio of education, writings, research, accomplishments, and other interests. **3 Credits**

Our Oriental Heritage: Near Eastern history until the fall of the Persian Empire in the 330s BC, and the history of India, China, and Japan up to the 1930s **3 Credits**

The Life of Greece: Ancient Greece and the Hellenistic period **3 Credits**

Term 2

Caesar and Christ: History of Rome and Christianity through the time of Constantine the Great **3 Credits**

Age of Faith: The Middle Ages in both Europe and the Near East, from the time of Constantine I to that of Dante Alighieri, including the Islamic civilization **3 Credits**

The Renaissance: The Italian Renaissance, with emphasis on Leonardo da Vinci **3 Credits**

Term 3

The Reformation: Religious revolution in the 1500's, the genius of Islam (1258-1520), literature in the age of Rabelius, and science in the age of Copernicus **3 Credits**

The Age of Reason: History of Europe and the Near East (1559-1648) **3 Credits**

The Age of Louis XIV: The French high point and the new science **3 Credits**

Year 2

Term 1

The Age of Voltaire: The age of Enlightenment, with emphasis on science and religion **3 Credits**

Begins Masters Degree

Cradles of Civilization: An in depth study of Mesopotamia and Egypt **3 Credits**

Early Greek World: Independent study and research project relating to the pre-history of Greece **3 Credits**

Term 2

Flood Legends: The folklore of great floods in the Middle East, India, China, Australia, Europe and South Asia **3 Credits**

The Islamic World: Covers the Islamic Golden Age, Caliphate, Somalia, the Mongol-Turkish Empire, Mughal India, and of course the Ottoman Empire **3 Credits**

Cities of God: A more in depth study of Religion and Philosophy in the Ancient World, including an investigation into the Lost Gospel of Mary Magdalene, and the myth of the Holy Grail. Independent study project required. **3 Credits**

Term 3

Great Battles of the Ancient World: The study of warfare beginning in Egypt and Mesopotamia to the Greece and Roman Empires. **3 Credits**

Latin Studies: We learn to read original texts. **3 Credits**

Soviet Russia and the Fall of Communism: This is studied as an example of a nation change that is still developing **3 Credits**

Year 3

Term 1

The Fall of Civilizations: Examples of civilizations that have collapsed are studied, along with theories as to why they ended **3 Credits**

Money: The world of money-history, including modern Internet exchange media **3 Credits**

Film Studies: The narrative, artistic, cultural, economic, and political implications of the cinema. **3 Credits**

Term 2

Future World: We review possible scenarios for our future, including the influence of social networking in connecting worlds **3 Credits**

Virtual Worlds: A surprising and fun course for a Humanities program! The student is introduced to 3d Virtual Worlds and their creation using various web applications. Available tools will be surveyed. The student will consider the application of the medium to presentations and construction of humanities related websites. Although computer based, the course is intended for non-science oriented students. **3 Credits**

Research Methodology and Writing: Technical research skills are polished. The Online Portfolio, being the student's digital presentation of accomplishments, education, research, and other interests, is further developed. **3 Credits**

Term 3

Finalization of Online Portfolio: The program concludes with the student's finalization of Online Portfolio, which may require additional independent work and development. There is no dissertation requirement, but the creation of a satisfactory online digital portfolio highlighting independent works and writings is required. The independent works and writings must be of a professional quality and creatively presented. Faculty will guide and mentor the student throughout this process. **6 Credits**

Credits: The program comprises a total of 78 *trimester* credits, of which 48 are allocated to the Masters Degree. The Masters Degree is thereby equivalent to the minimum 44 trimester credits which is the minimum requirement for a USA regionally accredited college or university. Upon completion, and for a nominal fee, graduates will be able to obtain a Certificate of Equivalency (respecting their Masters Degree) from a foreign education credentials evaluation service approved by the USA Department of Education for employment purposes in the USA.

Note Concerning Undergraduate Degree and "Seat Time"

As we have stated before, we drop "seat time" from each and every one of our programs. All of our students must demonstrate "Proficiency" with regard to the subject matter of their studies. Consequently, our programs are shorter.

"Seat time", which is the foundation of "accreditation" in the USA, is the old fashioned, outdated requirement that a student spend a required amount of time and/or take required general studies courses or second language courses in order to receive a Bachelors Degree. We follow the USA Department of Education in its "National Education Technology Plan 2010" wherein it recognized that "seat time" has got to go. At Page 12 of the report: *"One of the most basic assumptions in our education system [accreditation] is time-based or "seat-time" measures of educational attainment... [instead, colleges and universities should be organized] around competence rather than seat time and others that enable more flexible scheduling that fits students' individual needs **rather than traditional academic periods and lockstep curriculum pacing.**"*