Blue Marble University

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Humanities: Worlds

(**3 Year Online Program**)

Admission Requirement: Bachelor Degree or equivalent. 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 outline for our learning. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Story_of_Civilization

We then explore various topics concerning ancient civilizations and religions in further depth, and conclude with an introduction to virtual worlds.

Although no dissertation is required *per se,* the student 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 the course of the program, 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/_dO2Iy2NUBM [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.

TOTAL: 78 TRIMESTER CREDITS (72 trimester credits is the USA Minimum Requirement for a Doctoral Degree)

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

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

Term 2

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

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

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

Term 3

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

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

Year 2

Term 1

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

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

Term 2

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

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

Term 3

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

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

Rousseau and the Revolution: Covers France as well as Johnson's England 3 Credits

Year 3

Term 1

The Age of Napoleon: The course centers on Napoleon I and compares Britain and Germanic musicians and arts 3 Credits

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

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: Each of the above courses (with the exception of the Finalization of Online Portfolio which is 6 credits) consists of 3 trimester credits each.The program comprises 78 *trimester* credits, and consequently is equivalent to the minimum 60 *semester* credits 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 from a foreign education credentials evaluation service approved by the USA Department of Education for employment purposes in the USA.