***Honors Humanities*** Mr. Mason Email: pmason@madisonprep.org

**Course Description**

The study of the *humanities* is the study of human culture and creativity. This course is a senior level capstone course that focuses on the development of music, visual arts, theater, literature, philosophy and architecture in Western civilization. Throughout the course, students explore the *whys* of culture: the geographical, religious, economic, and political elements that contribute to the development of the arts, as well as the cultural continuities. The course format is lecture and discussion. Extensive in-class note taking is required. The mid-term and final exams for this course are a timed essay format of 50 minutes.

**Text**

The students are not issued a textbook for this course. Lecture materials come from a wide variety of sources.

**Primary Lecture Source (provides the basic structural framework for the course)**

Witt, et al. *The Humanities: Cultural Roots and Continuities.* 7th ed. Boston: Houghton

Mifflin, 2004.

**Grade Weighting**

Participation 15%

Term Paper 25%

Mid-Term 30%

Final Exam 30%\* For the third term, the midterm is 25% and the final is 35% of the grade

**NOTES:**

I will be using Google Classroom for this course. Please email me through my Google email listed above. Term papers for all students will only be accepted through Google Classroom.

The midterm and final exams for this course will both be timed at 50 minutes and are NOT open note. The amount of material and writing for the mid-term is the same as the final, which is why they are equally weighted in the grade book, and you are given the same amount of time for each. This has been the structure for testing in this course since 2006. All of the graduates from JMPS since that time have been able to meet this expectation, and I know that you can do it as well! The expectation for how to utilize your time for the mid-term and final are as follows:

4 ID prompts- Worth 10 points each. 5 minutes of writing for each of the four prompts.

1 Essay prompt-Worth 60 points. 30 minutes of writing for the prompt.

The end of the year final exam in May 2024 will be cumulative (keep your class notes for the whole year to help you prepare for this exam) and will not follow the traditional 4 IDs and 1 essay format, but will rather consist of 4 essays and will be timed at 30 minutes each to complete (with a short break in between). More information on the content will be given during class.