

## **IDEAL PROGRAM COURSE SYLLABUS ONLINE**

Dear Student,

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course expectations and activities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

**The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process.** The activities and assignments in our courses build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student's preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount of time outside the classroom to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend a minimum of ten-twelve hours per week on course material.

**To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:**

1. Participate in and complete the online orientation prior to your first online course.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the course start date.
3. **If you do not participate during the first week of the course, you will be dropped one letter grade. If a student doesn't participate for two or more weeks a grade of "F" will be entered for a final grade.**
4. Login to your course a minimum of three times per week.
5. Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
6. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.
7. If you have any technical difficulties, you must contact the Office of Distance Education immediately at [ubonline@bridgeport.edu](mailto:ubonline@bridgeport.edu).

It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with and adhere to the standards set forth in the policies on cheating and plagiarism as defined in Chapters 2 and 5 of the Key to UB <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2623.asp> or the appropriate graduate program handbook.

### **E-mail correspondence**

It is imperative that you check your UB e-mail on a regular basis. All written correspondence, to include IDEAL and the University will be sent to you through his e-mail. **The University can no longer correspond to your personal e-mail account(s).**

### **Have questions about taking an online course? Go to:**

“Instructions for Taking a UB Online Course”

[<http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/online/yourfirstcourse.aspx>]

## **The IDEAL Program**

### **Humanities C201: The American Dream Online**

Eric D. Lehman

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(203-576-4504)

Online

May 6 – June 30, 2013

### **Course Description**

This is an interdisciplinary course which employs history, literature and philosophy to examine and explain the cultures and values of a civilization over time and place. Works studied include primary historical and philosophical texts, as well as literary and artistic creations. Currently, the course looks at the civilization of the United States, focusing on the —American Dream, its origins, growth and significance.

### **Prerequisite Courses: ENGL 101**

### **Goals**

Humanities C201 is an interdisciplinary course exploring the concept of the American Dream from the perspectives of literature and the social sciences. The course is designed to help students understand and interpret the culture of the American Dream and its evolution through the insights of history, as well as develop rhetorical, analytical, and writing skills. Interactive discussion and debate will take place on the message board. Therefore participation is an important part of your grade.

A few of the questions we will be exploring are:

What is the American Dream?

Is it for everyone? Are some people left out?

What is the price of this dream?

How does the dream today differ from a hundred years ago?

### **Discussion Board**

Our class 'meetings' will take place on the course message board.

Everyone will be required to participate in the ongoing discussion, though of course at your own convenience. Each student is required to submit at least 10 messages per week. One of these should be a study question on the reading (a "thread starter") and one should respond to the 'weekly question' that I post on the board. Other entries could be references to materials that might help others understand. (Example: a short biography of F. Scott Fitzgerald, with an appropriate link to the source you got the information from) Otherwise, try to answer each other's questions and otherwise give your opinions on the readings.

### **Workshop Board**

There will also be online rough draft workshops for the response papers. You must submit a draft of at least 3 essays for consideration and critique by your peers. Each student will be required to critique (according to the guidelines provided) at least 12 other essays over the course of the class. This means that each student should also receive at least 4 critiques for each paper. I will also periodically place samples of poetry analysis on the workshop messageboard. You will be required to comment on and discuss these essays. The discussion board and workshop activities will account for 40% of your grade.

## **Response Papers**

There will be a three-page response paper due every other Sunday by midnight. That means a paper every two weeks. The response paper should answer some question about the text, which you can ask yourself or get from the discussion board. Your answer should be supported by quotes from the readings. The response should be emailed to me in the body of the email and should be about 750 words (approx. three double-spaced pages). These 4 essays are worth a combined 48% of your grade.

## **Final Exam**

An essay exam worth 12% will be scheduled during the last week of class. It will consist of eight questions, of which you will choose three. Answer them using quotes from the readings to back up your opinions. You will have two hours to complete the exam.

## **Texts**

Listed below are the required textbooks for this class. There is also an essay, Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Self-Reliance," which can be found online easily by searching on Google, and a film to watch, *The Muppet Movie*. The editions below are just suggestions; any edition will do.

*Bridgeport: Tales from the Park City*, Eric D. Lehman, The History Press.  
(ISBN#: 978-1596296169)

*O Pioneers!*, Willa Cather, Dover Thrift Edition. (ISBN#0-486-27785-2)

*Black Elk Speaks*, John G. Neihardt, Univ. of Nebraska Press  
(ISBN#0-8032-8359-8)

*The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Scribner Paperbacks.  
(ISBN#0-684-80152-3)

*Black Boy*, Richard Wright, HarperPerennial. (ISBN#0-06-092978-2)

*The Dharma Bums*, Jack Kerouac. Penguin Deluxe Edition.  
(ISBN# 0-14-303960-1)

## **Course Schedule**

Listed below are the assigned readings and suggested topics for the eight weeks of class. More instructions will be given as we proceed.

### Week 1

Read Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Self-Reliance." (found online) This will hopefully give some philosophical grounding for what becomes 'the American Dream' in the second half of the nineteenth century.

### Week 2

Read Bridgeport: Tales from the Park City. This history of our University's city includes a number of different paths to achieving the American Dream. How and why do they differ? Paper #1 due Sunday night at the end of this week.

### Week 3

Read O Pioneers! The wild, wild west and its effect on how Americans perceived opportunity. How is this dream different from any of those we read in Tales from the Park City?

### Week 4

Read Black Elk Speaks. Respond to the different perspective from last week. Do our dreams always come at the expense of others'? Paper #2 due Sunday night at the end of this week.

### Week 5

Read The Great Gatsby. Is the American Dream flawed? Your response could compare the characters and their different ideals and points of view.

### Week 6

Read Black Boy. Compare Wright's experience with the world of Ragged Dick. Is the dream for everyone? Note: This is the longest reading we have, so I

suggest starting early. Paper #3 due Sunday night at the end of this week.

## Week 7

Read *The Dharma Bums*. With this novelized autobiography, we will look at the counterculture's American Dream of the 20th century. In what ways is this dream similar and different to the "standard" one? What values does this particular dream champion?

## Week 8

Watch *The Muppet Movie* and respond to it. Discuss the American Dream today. Paper #4 due Sunday night at the end of this week. The essay final exam will also be available to take during this week.

## **ACADEMIC POLICIES**

### **Ethics Statement of Confidentiality**

An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

### **Attendance Policy**

Course attendance, especially in an online course, is an integral part of the academic experience; therefore, students are expected to be participative in all course activities and discussions. If you do not participate during the first week of the course, you will be dropped from the course. If you cannot participate in all the course activities you should consider dropping the course.

## Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the following web page:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp>

### Starting Fall 2012

- Drop a course after the start date.....\$30.00 per transaction
- Drop prior to the start date.....100% Tuition Refund
- Drop prior to the second week of the course.....75% Tuition Refund
- Drop prior to the third week of the course.....50% Tuition Refund
- Drop during/after the third week of the course.....0% Tuition Refund

**\*\*Please note students will not be automatically dropped for not participating during the first week. Lack of participation for one week will reduce the final grade by one letter grade. If you have to miss the first week of the online course, *you must contact your instructor* in writing before the first week. However, a grade reduction will apply.**

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Please review the Academic Calendar to see the fees for a drop and the impact on tuition. The Academic Calendar can be found at:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp>

## Academic Dishonesty

We are committed to intellectual integrity in our academic pursuits; therefore, the IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

Case #1: A student is enrolled in an introductory computer-programming course. He has co-workers who program in the same language as his final project. As the end of the term approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the project finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a disk with a complete program similar to the kind required for the course project. The student makes minor modifications to the program, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a religious studies course has never taken a humanities or history course, and is unsure about how to structure a research paper. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across a paper written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the document into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.

Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called “research papers” without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one’s own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet as well as in the library. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn’t have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own classes; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment

and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site:  
[http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism\\_test.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html)

## **ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER**

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at:

<http://myub.bridgeport.edu/academics/academicrescenter/Pages/default.aspx> The Center is located in the Wahlstrom Library, Room 506. Hours of operation are Mondays –Thursday 9am – 6pm and Fridays 9am – 1pm. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. **Online Tutoring** is available at: [www.etutoring.org](http://www.etutoring.org). To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

### **Obtaining a UBNet Account**

Every registered student should obtain a UBNet Account. The account allows you to access your grades, access library services, access online tutoring, access the computers in computer labs, and provides an email account in which the University sends out information. Go to: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet> - Click on “New UBNet Account” and follow the instructions.

The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your Bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other email account you use. Following the activation of your UBNet account (takes 24 hours), login at:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/email> and click on “forwards” at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

### **Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online**

The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. Information on WebAdvisor is password protected and requires you to use your UBNet username and password. To access WebAdvisor, go to:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/webadvisor>

1. Login in with your UBNet username and password.

2. Click on “Student Menu.”
3. Click on “My Grades.”

If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

### Using the Library

You can access the library through the library’s website:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/library>.

Research tools available:

- Search for books held at the library.
- Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
- Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy.

To access the online journals for research purposes, you will need a UBNet account (see above).

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Contact	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport Campus Security		(203) 576-4911	ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu
Bursar	Robinson Hernandez	(203) 576-4692	bursar@bridgeport.edu
Cashier	Lana Mistry	(203) 576-4682	cashier@bridgeport.edu
Financial Aid		(203) 576-4568	sfs@bridgeport.eud
Registrar		(203) 576-4642	registrar@bridgeport.edu
Emergency Notification Phone		(203) 576-4159	
Distance Education Office		(203) 576-4853	ubonline@bridgeport.edu
IDEAL Office		(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

## CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus	Address	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport	126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604	(203) 576- 4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
Stamford	5 Riverbend Drive Stamford, CT 06750	(203) 358- 0700	ubstamford@bridgeport.edu
Waterbury	84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705	(203) 573- 8501	ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu
Woodbridge	6 Lunar Drive Woodbridge, CT 06525	(203) 576- 4800	<a href="mailto:idealinfo@bridgeport.edu">idealinfo@bridgeport.edu</a>
IDEAL Office		(203) 576- 4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

<b>Directions to IDEAL Campus locations</b>	<a href="http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp">http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp</a>
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To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The school code for the University of Bridgeport is **001416**.

Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243.