

LIBE 110
Critical Perspectives on Humanity
2026 SPRING - Syllabus



Landscape with the Fall of Icarus,
Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1526/1530–1569) circa. 1555.
Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Description

(3+0+0) 3 Credits / 5 ECTS

Prerequisites: None; yet students must be committed to completing readings and improving critical thinking.

Course Overview

This course explores questions and issues that have shaped human history, aiming to foster a self-reflective, critical, and analytical understanding of human experiences. We will examine what it means to be human through various issues in history and modern day society, with an emphasis on concepts like justice, education, happiness, love, and the meaning of life. Students will engage with short primary and secondary texts, video materials, group discussions, and critical thinking assignments.

Central Question: The course will explore the central question: *What does it mean to be human?*

We will examine the continuities, differences, and similarities in the human experience, considering how historical shifts in history, education, culture, and society shape our understanding of what it means to be human. Key questions include:

- What defines humanity across time and cultures?
 - How do historical shifts and societal changes influence our conception of human nature?
 - What makes life meaningful in personal and societal contexts?
- You are also encouraged to propose your own questions to deepen the exploration.

Course Objectives

- Explore the concept of humanity and human experience from various historical, philosophical, educational, and ethical perspectives.
- Engage in critical discussions and evaluate the relevance of these ideas today.
- Compare different approaches to key issues like survival, order in society, individual well-being, etc.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify different historical, ethical, and philosophical approaches to the main questions, issues, and challenges humanity and human beings have had to face pertaining to conceptions such as “survival in nature,” “order/disorder in society,” “individual wellbeing,” and so on;
- appraise in an analytical and critical manner how and why these differing historical, ethical, educational, and philosophical approaches have emerged due to different historical contexts;
- formulate informed personal, intellectual, and critical viewpoints and ideas on historical and contemporary developments pertaining to humanity and humans.

Course Materials

- Weekly readings and videos (provided via LMS).
- Supplementary materials, including online video sources for historical background.
- You must complete all readings and videos before class to actively participate.

Student Workload

- The course will emphasize regular readings, discussions, and critical engagement.
- Expect assignments like journals, quizzes, and participation in group activities.

Planned In-Class Activities

- Lectures, brainstorming, Q&A sessions, case studies, in-class quizzes, debates, and group discussions.
- Group work will be an essential part of participation.

Class Readings and Office Hours

Students must

- regularly complete and think over the assigned readings and videos before each week's classes through the LIBE 110 SecAll LMS site. Additionally, section-specific announcements and activities will be conducted through the section-based LMS site.

Students are welcome to

- regularly refer to the AI chatbot tool specifically designed for this course on our LIBE 110 SecAll LMS site when they have questions on the assigned readings, videos and topics covered in this course material.
- make appointments for weekly office hours to discuss questions and ideas about the course material whenever necessary.

Assessment Methods

1. Attendance

- Regular attendance and participation are recommended. Regular attendance above %80 will be awarded with an extra 5 points.

2. Active Participation (15%)

- Active participation in class discussions, debates, and activities (%10).
- Weekly critical class notes documenting active attendance and critical reflections on class discussions/debates and course readings. (%5)

Only handwritten notes taken during class time periods will be accepted, digital submissions before final exams, 5 points)

3. Quizzes (20%)

- Two quiz-like pop checkpoints during the semester (10 points each).

4. Exams

- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (40%)

GRADING

Active Participation: 15%

Quizzes: 20%

Midterm: 25%

Final Exam: 40%

Total: 100%

Course Policies

Punctuality and Professionalism: Please be in class sessions on time so as not to negatively affect each other's benefit from the course. Please also attend classes regularly, complete reading and viewing assignments on time, and aim to participate in course sessions actively.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism or copying others' work or submitting AI-generated output directly as your own will not be tolerated.

Generative AI: We will together employ different AI tools and sources in our class sessions. Generative AI may be used in this course with proper attribution. You are permitted to use Generative AI tools to enhance your learning. In class, we will explore how Generative AI is applied within this discipline, including its potential benefits and risks, appropriate attribution practices, and other emerging topics. Proper attribution for AI-generated content is required. Never submit AI outputs in graded course work and examinations.

STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION

- **Specialized Support and Students with Disabilities**

Students who may require specialized support due to a disability affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, mental or physical health should consult with Specialized Support and Disability Coordinator, Assoc. Prof. Emrah Keser E-mail:

emrah.keser@tedu.edu.tr, or visit the website

at <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/tr/main/engelsiz-tedu>

- **Student Counseling Center and TEDU COPeS**

The Student Counseling Center is a service mandated with providing crisis intervention and supportive listening services to the campus community. A major part of fulfilling that mandate is raising awareness of our service so that students know they are never alone in dealing with problems. For further information and/or questions, you can contact Sila Deniz Beyarlan, sdeniz.beyarlan@tedu.edu.tr, Office 165, or visit SCC website at <http://csc.tedu.edu.tr/>

TEDU COPeS also helps students deal with stress and anxiety during times of crisis. Please visit <https://copes.tedu.edu.tr/en>