

January 2010

Dear Clemente Student:

Welcome to the 2010 Jefferson County Clemente Course in the Humanities! We are very pleased you will be part of the class, and we look forward to working with such an engaged group of students and faculty this year.

As you know, seats in the Clemente classroom are limited. You were selected to participate because you demonstrate the open-mindedness, intellectual curiosity and commitment necessary to make the most of this opportunity. By joining the Course, you are also joining a community of like-minded peers, and so are stepping into a very special community for the next five months.

In order for you to enjoy the greatest benefits of the Course, we have established some specific guidelines to ensure your success. Outlined below are basic expectations for students, as well as our commitments as your faculty and Course Director. Students and faculty are asked to take the terms of this agreement seriously. It is designed to benefit each individual student, as well as the Clemente classroom community as a whole. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

As a Clemente student, you agree to:

- **ATTEND:** Attendance is critical to academic success, and for developing a strong class community. Class discussions are driven by students' questions and ideas, and by everyone's -- faculty and students alike -- commitment to supporting an engaged and prepared classroom.

An attendance sheet will circulate at the beginning of each class. It is your responsibility to sign in, even if you arrive late. In the event of an absence, you are expected to phone the Course Director at least 4 hours in advance to rearrange deadlines and learn what will be covered that evening.

Credit for this class requires satisfactory attendance and completed assignments. If you miss too many classes, you may not be eligible to receive Academic Credit for your participation. If you expect to have a prolonged absence from the class, it is best to arrange any make up work with the Course Director in advance, if you plan to receive full credit.

More importantly, absences prevent you from fully participating in the class community. It is also difficult for the classroom as a whole to be as engaged as possible if students are regularly absent. We all want you to be there!

- **PARTICIPATE:** It's important that you're an active participant in class. We expect you will have completed the assigned reading before class, and will come prepared to actively listen, and share your own ideas, questions and reactions. While we understand that not everyone is comfortable speaking in class regularly, we hope that Clemente challenges you to try. We hope your listening skills will be enhanced as well, and that you will be open to hearing other people's opinions and interpretations, even though they may disagree with yours.

- **COMPLETE ASSIGNED WORK:** Assignments are due on the day they are due! If you anticipate not being able to turn in a paper when it is due, or if you're really struggling with a paper topic, please contact the Course Director or the faculty member who has given the assignment. We are more than happy to help. If you can't complete a paper on time, please attend class anyway. It's much better to attend than avoid class because of a late paper.
- **SEEK SUPPORT:** Finally, we hope you'll let us know of your concerns, questions and suggestions. As the Course Director for Clemente, my aim is to help you succeed, whether arranging transportation, brainstorming for paper topics, or helping to effectively budget your time. You should also feel free to approach any of us, in confidence, if you have any issues with which we may help. The success of the program as a whole depends upon each individual's success. This course is here for and because of you!

By the same token, you can expect that the Clement Course Director and faculty will:

- √ **APPROACH YOUR IDEAS AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT OPENLY AND WITH RESPECT.** Discussion and debate are hallmarks of a vibrant intellectual community. You should expect the faculty and your peers to thoughtfully consider unique ideas, welcome your questions and insight, and often respectfully disagree. We will challenge each other as critical thinkers, not with the aim of reaching final agreement, but to more fully understand the complexity of questions we explore.
- √ **OFFER SUPPORT.** We are available to help you problem solve, brainstorm about paper topics, and discuss solutions to obstacles in your participation in the Clemente Course. If we are unable to assist you with a particular concern, we can often put you in touch with the appropriate support services.
- √ **PROVIDE ACCESS TO RESOURCES.** We will provide you with all classroom materials as needed. We offer a light meal each class. You will also have access to the WSU computer lab during regular office hours. If there are any other resources that will help you achieve your goals for the Clemente Course, please let us know!

My signature represents the commitment of the Clemente faculty and staff to meet your expectations for support, feedback, and resources. If you have any questions, or if you do not feel you are able to meet the student expectations described above, please let me know as soon as possible. Above all, I hope you enjoy yourself in this exciting and challenging program. You are part of 100's of Clemente students all over the world, and we are thrilled that you are part of the class of 2008!

Warm Regards,

Lela Hilton, Academic Director

Date

Student

Date

