FIFTH EDITION

GLORIA K. FIERO

# THE HEMANISTIC THADITION

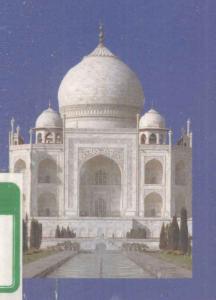
VOLUME

THE EARLY

MODERN

WORLD TO

THE PRESENT









#### FIFTH EDITION

# The Humanistic Tradition

# Volume 2

The Early Modern World to the Present

Gloria K. Fiero





# THE HUMANISTIC TRADITION, VOLUME 2 THE EARLY MODERN WORLD TO THE PRESENT

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(bottom left): Detail of Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Le Moulin de la Galette, 1876. Oil on canvas, 4 ft. 3½ in. × 5 ft. 9 in. Musée d'Orsay, Paris. © Photo Josse.

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(bottom right): Detail of Cai Guo-Qiang, Inopportune, stage 1 16, 2005. Mixed media. Location: Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Photo Courtesy Cai Guo Qiang Studio

Frontispieces, p. ii: Edgar Degas, The Little Dancer, ca. 1880–1881 (cast ca. 1919–32). Bronze with net tutu and hair ribbon, 3ft 2½ in. × 14½ in. × 14½ in. Virginia Museum of Funds and the Art Lover's Society Fund. Photo: Katherine Wetzel. © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

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Oil on canvas,
4 ft. 3 in. × 6 ft. 4 in. Louvre, Paris.
© Gérard Blot.

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p. 808: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Hom Players, 1983. Acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 8 ft. × 6 ft. 3 in. Courtesy the Eli Broad Family Foundation, Santa Monica, California. © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2005.

## FIFTH EDITION

# The Humanistic Tradition

# Volume 2

The Early Modern World to the Present



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# Preface

"It's the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life!" exclaimed Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, as she watched the Cheshire Cat slowly disappear, leaving only the outline of a broad smile. "I've often seen a cat without a grin, but a grin without a cat!" A student who encounters an ancient Greek epic, a Yoruba mask, or a Mozart opera—lacking any context for these works—might be equally baffled. It may be helpful, therefore, to begin by explaining how the artifacts (the "grin") of the humanistic tradition relate to the larger and more elusive phenomenon (the "cat") of human culture.

# The Humanistic Tradition and the Humanities

In its broadest sense, the term humanistic tradition refers to humankind's cultural legacy—the sum total of the significant ideas and achievements handed down from generation to generation. This tradition is the product of responses to conditions that have confronted all people throughout history. Since the beginnings of life on earth, human beings have tried to ensure their own survival by achieving harmony with nature. They have attempted to come to terms with the inevitable realities of disease and death. They have endeavored to establish ways of living collectively and communally. And they have persisted in the desire to understand themselves and their place in the universe. In response to these ever-present and universal challenges—survival, communality, and self-knowledgehuman beings have created and transmitted the tools of science and technology, social and cultural institutions, religious and philosophic systems, and various forms of personal expression, the sum total of which we call culture.

Even the most ambitious survey cannot assess all manifestations of the humanistic tradition. This book therefore focuses on the creative legacy referred to collectively as the humanities: literature, philosophy, history (in its literary dimension), architecture, the visual arts (including photography and film), music, and dance. Selected examples from each of these disciplines constitute our primary sources. Primary sources (that is, works original to the age that produced them) provide first-hand evidence of human inventiveness and ingenuity. The primary sources in this text have been chosen on the basis of their authority, their beauty, and their enduring value. They are, simply stated, the great works of their time and, in some cases, of all time. Universal in their appeal, they have been transmitted from generation to generation.

Such works are, as well, the landmark examples of a specific time and place: they offer insight into the ideas and values of the society in which they were produced. *The Humanistic Tradition* joins "the grin" to "the cat" by examining them within their political, economic, and social contexts.

The humanities are the legacy of a given culture's values, ambitions, and beliefs. Poetry, painting, philosophy, and music are not, generally speaking, products of unstructured leisure or indulgent individuality; rather, they are tangible expressions of the human quest for the good (one might even say the "complete") life. Throughout history, these forms of expression have served the domains of the sacred, the ceremonial, and the communal. And even in the early days of the twenty-first century, as many time-honored traditions come under assault, the arts retain their power to awaken our imagination in the quest for survival, communality, and self-knowledge.

## The Scope of the Humanistic Tradition

The humanistic tradition is not the exclusive achievement of any one geographic region, race, or class. For that reason, this text assumes a global and multicultural rather than exclusively Western perspective. At the same time, Western contributions are emphasized, first, because the audience for these books is predominantly Western, but also because in recent centuries the West has exercised a dominant influence on the course and character of global history. Since, the humanistic tradition belongs to all of humankind, the best way to understand the Western contribution to that tradition is to examine it in the arena of world culture.

As a survey, The Humanistic Tradition cannot provide an exhaustive analysis of our creative legacy. The critical reader will discover many gaps. Some aspects of culture that receive extended examination in traditional Western humanities surveys have been pared down to make room for the too often neglected contributions of Islam, Africa, and Asia. This book is necessarily selective—it omits many major figures and treats others only briefly. Primary sources are arranged, for the most part, chronologically, but they are presented as manifestations of the informing ideas of the age in which they were produced. The intent is to examine the evidence of the humanistic tradition thematically and topically, rather than to compile a series of mini-histories of the individual arts.

# Studying the Humanistic Tradition

To study the creative record is to engage in a dialogue with the past, one that brings us face to face with the values of our ancestors, and, ultimately, with our own. This dialogue is (or should be) a source of personal revelation and delight; like Alice in Wonderland, our strange, new encounters will be enriched according to the degree of curiosity and patience we bring to them. Just as lasting friendships with special people are cultivated by extended familiarity, so our appreciation of a painting, a play, or a symphony depends on close attention and repeated contact. There are no shortcuts to the study of the humanistic tradition, but there are some techniques that may be helpful. It is useful, for instance, to approach each primary source from the triple perspective of its text, its context, and its subtext.

#### **TEXT**

The *text* of any primary source refers to its *medium* (that is, what it is made of), its *form* (its outward shape), and its *content* (the subject it describes).

LITERATURE Whether intended to be spoken or lead, literature depends on the medium of words—the American poet Robert Frost once defined literature as "performance in words." Literary form varies according to the manner in which words are arranged. So poetry, which shares with music and dance rhythmic organization, may be distinguished from prose, which normally lacks regular rhythmic pattern. The main purpose of prose is to convey information, to narrate, and to describe; poetry, by its freedom from conventional patterns of grammar, provides unique opportunities for the expression of intense emotions. Philosophy (the search for truth through reasoned analysis) and history (the record of the past) make use of prose to analyze and communicate ideas and information. In literature, as in most kinds of expression, content and form are usually interrelated. The subject matter or the form of a literary work determines its genre. For instance, a long narrative poem recounting the adventures of a hero constitutes an epic, while a formal, dignified speech in praise of a person or thing constitutes a eulogy.

**THE VISUAL ARTS** The *visual arts*—painting, sculpture, architecture, and photography—employ a wide variety of media, such as wood, clay, colored pigments, marble, granite, steel, and (more recently) plastic, neon, film, and computers. The form or outward shape of a work of art depends on the manner in which the artist manipulates the formal elements of color, line, texture, and space. Unlike words, these formal elements lack denotative meaning. The artist may manipulate form to describe and interpret the visible world (as in such genres as portraiture and landscape painting); to generate fantastic and imaginative kinds of imagery; or to create imagery that is non-representational—without identifiable subject matter. In general, however, the visual arts are spatial; that is, they operate and are apprehended in space.

MUSIC AND DANCE The medium of music is sound. Like literature, music is durational: it unfolds over the period of time in which it occurs. The formal elements of music are melody, rhythm, harmony, and tone color—elements that also characterize the oral life of literature. As with the visual arts, the formal elements of music are without symbolic content: literature, painting, and sculpture may imitate or describe nature, but music is almost always nonrepresentational—it rarely has meaning beyond the sound itself. For that reason, music is the most difficult of the arts to describe in words. It is also (in the view of some) the most affective of the arts. Dance, the artform that makes the human body itself a medium of expression, resembles music in that it is temporal and performance-oriented. Like music, dance exploits rhythm as a formal tool, but, like painting and sculpture, it unfolds in space as well as time.

In analyzing the text of a work of literature, art, or music, we ask how its formal elements contribute to its meaning and affective power. We examine the ways in which the artist manipulates medium and form to achieve a characteristic manner of execution and expression that we call *style*. And we try to determine the extent to which a style reflects the personal vision of the artist and the spirit of his or her time and place. Comparing the styles of various artworks from a single era, we may discover that they share certain defining features and characteristics. Similarities (both formal and stylistic) between, for instance, golden age Greek temples and Greek tragedies, between Chinese lyric poems and landscape paintings, and between postmodern fiction and pop sculpture, prompt us to seek the unifying moral and aesthetic values of the cultures in which they were produced.

#### CONTEXT

We use the word context to describe the historical and cultural environment. To determine the context, we ask: in what time and place did the artifact originate? How did it function within the society in which it was created? Was the purpose of the piece decorative, didactic, magical, propagandistic? Did it serve the religious or political needs of the community? Sometimes our answers to these questions are mere guesses. Nevertheless, understanding the function of an artifact often serves to clarify the nature of its form (and vice versa). For instance, much of the literature produced prior to the fifteenth century was spoken or sung rather than read; for that reason, such literature tends to feature repetition and rhyme, devices that facilitate memorization. We can assume that literary works embellished with frequent repetitions, such as the Epic of Gilgamesh and the Hebrew Bible, were products of an oral tradition. Determining the original function of an artwork also permits us to assess its significance in its own time and place: the paintings on the walls of Paleolithic caves, which are among the most compelling animal illustrations in the history of world art, are not "artworks" in the modern sense of the term but, rather, magical signs that accompanied hunting rituals, the performance of which was essential to the survival of the community. Understanding the relationship between text and context is one of the principal concerns of any inquiry into the humanistic tradition.

#### SUBTEXT

The *subtext* of the literary or artistic object refers to its secondary and implied meanings. The subtext embraces the emotional or intellectual messages embedded in, or implied by, a work of art. The epic poems of the ancient Greeks, for instance, which glorify prowess and physical courage in battle, suggest that such virtues are exclusively male. The state portraits of the seventeenth-century French ruler Louis XIV carry the subtext of unassailable and absolute power. In our own century, Andy Warhol's serial adaptations of soup cans and Coca-Cola bottles offer wry commentary on the supermarket mentality of postmodern American culture. Identifying the implicit message of an artwork helps us to determine the values and customs of the age in which it was produced and to assess those values against others.

# Beyond The Humanistic Tradition

This book offers only small, enticing samples from an enormous cultural buffet. To dine more fully, students are encouraged to go beyond the sampling presented at this table; and for the most sumptuous feasting, nothing can substitute for first-hand experience. Students, therefore, should make every effort to supplement this book with visits to art museums and galleries, concert halls, theaters, and libraries. The Humanistic Tradition is designed for students who may or may not be able to read music, but who surely are able to cultivate an appreciation of music in performance. The music logos & that appear in the margins of the text refer to the Music Listening Selections found on two accompanying compact discs, available from the publishers. Lists of suggestions for further reading are included at the end of each book, while a selected general bibliography of electronic humanities resources appears in the Online Learning Center at http://www.mhhe.com/fierotht5.

## The Fifth Edition

In the fifth edition of *The Humanistic Tradition*, Study Questions follow each primary source readings; thse are desinged to provoke thought and discussion. Chapter 37

POST-SOVIET REGION

NORTH
AMERICA

MESO-AMERICA

AFRICA

SOUTH
ASIA

SOUTH
ASIA

SOUTH
ASIA

OCEANIA

has been reorganized and expanded to explore a number of important global themes, such as ethnic identity and ecology. There is a reading selection from the Book of Psalms, a new modern translation of the Quran, and excerpts from the writings of Annie Dillard, E.O Wilson, Sandra Cisneros, Mahmoud Darwish, and Yehuda Amichai. Content has been expanded to a number of topics, including the life of Muhammad (Chapter 10), the Columbian Exchange (Chapter 18), artists' optical aids (Chapters 17 and 23), Islam since 1500 (Chapters 21, 35, 37), the training of female artists (Chapters 20 and 23, and the Middle Passage (Chapter 25). Among the new color illustrations for the fifth edition are Zoser's Pyramid, Nok sculpture, London's new Globe Theater, Bernini's David, Steen's Drawing Lesson, Hick's Peaceable Kingdom, Monet's Japanese Bridge, and Beardon's Empress of the Blues. This edition also updates the contemporary scene to include significant developments in architecture, photography, and film (Chapter 38). Two new Sony Music Listening CDs illustrate the muscial works discussed in the text, and new Music Listening Guides provide helpful analyses of these selections. Revised and expanded Timelines and Glossaries, along with Science and Technology boxes, locator maps, and pedagogical resources provide useful study aids (see the "Guided Tour" on page xii). Updated suggestions for additional reading appear at the end of each book, rather than by chapter.

## A Note to Instructors

The key to successful classroom use of *The Humanistic Tradition* is *selectivity*. Although students may be assigned to read whole chapters that focus on a topic or theme, as well as complete works that supplement the abridged readings, the classroom should be the stage for a selective treatment of a single example or a set of examples. The organization of this textbook is designed to emphasize themes that cut across geographic boundaries—themes whose universal significance prompts students to evaluate and compare rather than simply memorize and repeat lists of names and places. To assist readers in achieving global cultural literacy, every effort has been made to resist

isolating (or "ghettoizing") individual cultures and to avoid the inevitable biases we bring to our evaluation of relatively unfamiliar cultures.

Key Map Indicating Areas Shown as White Highlights on the Locator Maps

## Acknowledgments

Writing *The Humanistic Tradition* has been an exercise in humility. Without the assistance of learned friends and colleagues, assembling a book of this breadth would have been an impossible task. James H. Dormon read all parts of the manuscript and made extensive and substantive editorial suggestions; as his colleague, best friend, and wife, I am most deeply indebted to him.

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## A Guided Tour of *The Humanistic Tradition*, FIFTH EDITION



Illustrated part-opening **TIMELINES** provide a chronological overview of major historical events, as well as key works of literature, art, and music featured in each part.

#### Science and Technology

**2650 B.C.E.** Pharaoh Khufu (or Cheops) orders construction of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh'

**1500 B.C.E.** Egyptians employ a simple form of the sundial **1450 B.C.E.** the water clock is devised in Egypt

**1400 B.C.E.** glass in produced in Egypt and Mesopotamia
'All dates in this chapter are approximate

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BOXES** offer a chronology of key scientific and technological developments.

#### READING 4.7 From Donne's Meditation 17 (1623)

All mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated. God employs several translators; some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice; but God's hand is in every translation, and his hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again for that library where every book shall lie open to one another. As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon calls not upon the preacher only but upon the congregation to come, so this bell calls us all. . . . No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were. Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send 15 know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.



What three metaphors are invoked in Meditation 17?

**PRIMARY SOURCE READINGS** from a variety of genres provide a wealth of important and influential writings. New to the fifth edition, study questions designed to provoke thought and discussion follow each primary source reading.

#### GLOSSARY

asceticism strict self-denial and self-discipline bodhisattva (Sanskrit,

bodhisattva (Sanskrit, "one whose essence is enlightenment") a being who has postponed his or her own entry into nirvana in order to assist others in reaching that goal; worshiped as a deity in Mahayana Buddhism

Messiah Anointed One, or Savior; in Greek, *Christos* rabbi a teacher and master

trained in the Jewish law

sutra (Sanskrit, "thread") an
instructional chapter or
discourse in any of the sacred

books of Buddhism

Terms marked in bold are defined in a **GLOSSARY** at the end of each chapter.



**MUSICAL LOGOS** in the margins refer to the Music Listening Selections found on accompanying compact disks, available separately from the publisher.



**LOCATOR MAPS** give readers their geographical bearings, alerting them to where events discussed in the section to follow took place.

#### EXPERIMENTAL FILM

influential abstract films in the history of motion pictures. Developed in collaboration with the American journalist Dudley Murphy, Ballet mécanique (Mechanical Ballet, 1923–1924) puts into motion a series of abstract shapes and mundane objects (such as bottles and kitchen utensils), which, interspersed with human elements, convey a playful but dehumanized sense of everyday experience. The rhythms and juxtapositions of the images suggest—without any narrative—the notion of modern life as mechanized, routine, standardized, and impersonal. The repeated image of a laundry woman, for instance, alternating with that of a rotating machine part, plays on the associative qualities of visual motifs in ways that would influence film-makers for decades.

Léger produced one of the earliest and most

**FILM ESSAYS** explore various aspects of this important, relatively new medium.

# Supplements for the Instructor and the Student

A number of useful supplements are available to instructors and students using *The Humanistic Tradition*. Please contact your sales representative to obtain these resources, or to ask for further details.

**ONLINE LEARNING CENTER** A complete set of web-based resources for *The Humanistic Tradition* can be found at www.mhhe.com/fierotht5.com. Materials for students include an audio pronunciation guide, self-tests, interactive maps, links to relevant images and complete primary source readings. Instructors will benefit from discussion and lecture suggestions, chapter summaries, music listening guides, and other resources. All resources from the Online Learning Center are also available in cartridges for WebCT and Blackboard course management systems.

**INSTRUCTOR'S RESOURCE CD-ROM** The Instructor's Resource CD-ROM (IRCD) is designed to assist instructors as they plan and prepare for classes. Chapter summaries emphasize key themes and topics that give focus to the primary source readings. Music listening guides provide instructors with ideas for integrating selections on the Music Listening CDs into their courses. Study questions for each chapter can be used for student discussion or written assignments. A list of suggested videos, DVDs, and recordings is also included. The CD-ROM also offers a Test Bank containing a comprehensive bank of multiple-choice questions for use in constructing student exams.

**EZ TEST** McGraw-Hill's EZ Test, also included on the IRCD, is a flexible and easy-to-use electronic testing program that allows instructors to create book-specific tests, drawing from a ready-made database and/or designing their own questions. Tests can be exported for use with course management systems such as WebCT, BlackBoard or PageOut. The program is available for use with Windows and Macintosh.

**CORE CONCEPTS** A groundbreaking *Core Concepts in the Humanities* DVD-ROM may be packaged free with every new copy of *The Humanistic Tradition* (ISBN 0073136433). The DVD-ROM augments students' understanding of the humanities through multimedia presentations on visual art, dance, theater, film, literature, and music. With over eighty interactive exercises, timelines, and extensive video clips, the DVD-ROM allows students to explore these disciplines in an exciting way. Study materials such as outlines,

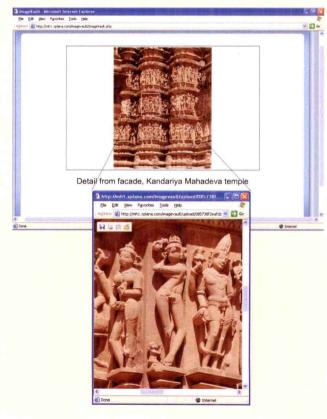


summaries, and self-correcting quizzes are provided for every chapter of the text. Contact your McGraw-Hill representative at www.mhhe.com/rep for information about packaging this program with the textbook.

**MUSIC LISTENING COMPACT DISCS** Two audio compact discs have been designed exclusively for use with The Humanistic Tradition. CD One corresponds to the music listening selections discussed in Books 1-3 (Volume I), and CD Two contains the music in Books 4-6 (Volume II). Instructors may obtain copies of the recordings for classroom use, and the CDs are also available for individual purchase by students. They can be packaged with any or all of the six books or two-volume versions of the text. Consult your local sales representative for details.

**SLIDE SETS** A set of book-specific slides is available to qualified adopters of *The Humanistic Tradition*. These slides have been especially selected to include many of the key images in the books. Additional slides are available for purchase directly from Universal Color Slides. For further information, consult our web site at www.mhhe.com/fierotht5.com.

**IMAGE VAULT** Selected images from *The Humanistic Tradition's* illustration program are available to adopting instructors in digital format in *The Image Vault*, McGraw-Hill's new web-based program. Instructors can incorporate images from *The Image Vault* in digital presentations that can be used in class offline, burned to CD-ROM, or embedded in course Web pages. See www.mhhe.com/theimage-vault for more details.



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