

HUMANITIES 131: CULTURAL CONNECTIONS (Winter 2018)

Instructor:

Class times:

Email Addresses:

Office Hours:

Required Textbooks:

Course Description: Humanities 131: Cultural Connections is an interdisciplinary course that examines contemporary issues, their human and technological components, and their historical precedents through art, music, literature, film, and philosophy. During this semester, we will focus on and learn how to “read” the creative expressions that stem from human beings describing the world in which they--and we--live and those expressions that stem from human beings-- and ourselves--searching for answers.

General Education Philosophy : A Message to Students from JC Faculty ~

General Education facilitates the development of an informed and educated person who recognizes and respects the diversity of communities, thinks critically, and is proficient at fundamental skills. General education engages students in active learning by providing opportunities to observe, analyze, evaluate, and critically apply these skills to problems. General education fosters the development of responsible, ethical human beings dedicated to improving their own lives and the lives of others through work, family life, social and political action, cultural awareness, and service to others.

General Education Outcomes (GEO) & Essential Competencies (EC) In coordination with JC’s General Education Committee, the humanities faculty have adopted GEO #6 and GEO #7 for HUM 131: Cultural Connections. These competencies are further articulated below:

Understand aesthetic experience and artistic creativity (GEO #6)

- *Meaning and Understanding---* Uses visual, musical, or literary vocabulary to identify works of art and organizes by basic historic and cultural influences.
- *Analysis and Interpretation---* Identifies methods of analysis and interpretation of works of art and uses genre-specific language to support critical reflection.
- *Engagement---* When prompted, engages in discussions of the creative, cultural, and historical contexts within which an artist works.
- *Evaluation---* Identifies the aesthetic standards used to make critical judgments in various artistic fields.
- *Approaches works of creative expression with a combination of resistance and interest, disinterest and interest expressed in formal discussion or writing.*

Understand and respect the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures (GEO #7)

- *Knowledge of and regard for groups with which one identifies – Identifies characteristics, values, and hallmarks of the groups to which one belongs.*
- *Knowledge of and regard for individuals from groups other than one’s own-- Identifies characteristics, values, and hallmarks of the groups other than one’s own and articulates benefits of interacting with individuals from groups other than one’s own*

- *Knowledge of the importance of diversity – Defines various institutional systems and personal barriers that inhibit diversity such as racism, sexism, classism, ethnocentrism, privilege, etc.; Classifies behaviors and structures that promote diversity and encourage global thinking; Recognizes the ways in which, historically, cultures have mutually informed and enriched each other*
- *Cultural Sensitivity – Utilizes vocabulary, behaviors, and practices that are culturally appropriate*

Demonstration of competencies

Quizzes on readings (online in REVEL). There will be reading quizzes every week (except when noted) online in REVEL. These quizzes come during and/or after the assigned reading in the textbook. Each online quiz can be taken 3 times, but you lose a point for each attempt. The quizzes are essentially “open book” and are in place to help you actively engage with the readings. Regular internet access is required. Quizzes cannot be made up. Plan ahead to give yourself time to be successful. The reading quizzes count for **50% of total grade.**

Exams. There will be a mid-semester exam and a final exam. The mid-semester exam will be in class on **March 8th**, and the final exam will be a take-home exam distributed on April 26th and due on **May 3rd**. The exams count for **25% of total grade.**

Cultural Event Assignment. You are required to attend one artistic cultural event – a concert, a theater production, a museum tour, a dance performance, a poetry reading, just to name a few examples -- of your choosing and on your own time. After you attend the event, I ask that you compose a formal paper 3-5 typed pages (about 1000-1500 words) discussing aspects of the event. A separate document detailing specific instructions for this assignment will be posted on JetNet. Due on **May 1st**. The assignment counts for **15% of total grade.**

Through-Line Project. This assignment will allow you to connect concepts learned in this class to your personal ideology through reflection. Separate directions will be posted on JetNet. Due on **May 4th** by 5:00pm on JetNet. The assignment counts for **10% of total grade.**

Investment. This course is designed for active learning. This means 1) completing readings when outside of class and 2) participating (listening, thinking, and sharing) when in class. As your instructor, I am here to help you succeed; as many different students exist, many different versions of success also exist. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you as you get to know me and each other.

Late Work Policy: Assignments not submitted on time on the specified due date will receive no credit. Quizzes must be completed before class time on the due dates.

Academic Honesty Policy

JC has an academic honesty policy which will be adhered to in this class. This means zero tolerance on plagiarism and cheating. See <https://www.jccmi.edu/wp-content/uploads/1004.pdf> for more specific information.

Course Calendar

(Subject to change with ample advance notice)

Jan 16	Intro to the course
Jan 18	Prehistory and Early Civilizations
Jan 23	The Greek World Chapter 2 (REVEL readings and quiz)
Jan 25	Plato's Allegory of the Cave and <i>The Matrix</i>
Jan 30	Fiefdom and Monastery... Chapter 5 (REVEL readings and quiz)
Feb 1	The Gothic Chapter 6 (REVEL readings and quiz), <i>Dante's Inferno</i>
Feb 6	Renaissance Chapter 7 (REVEL readings and quiz)
Feb 8	Renaissance Thought and "The Great Chain of Being"
Feb 13	Renaissance and Reformation Chapter 8 (REVEL readings and quiz)
Feb 15	Shakespeare: "To be, or not to be" So... what is the question?
Feb 20	The Baroque Chapter 10 (REVEL readings and quiz)
Feb 22	Vivaldi and the Birth of Classical Music
Feb 27	Enlightenment Chapter 11 (REVEL readings and quiz)
Mar 1	<i>A Modest Proposal</i> : why we should eat children (sounds reasonable to me)
Mar 6	Review for midterm exam
Mar 8	Midterm exam
Mar 13	NO CLASS: Mid-Semester Break
Mar 15	NO CLASS: Mid-Semester Break
Mar 20	Age of Revolution Chapter 12 (REVEL readings and quiz)
Mar 22	Romanticism: Poetry and Music
Mar 27	Neoclassicism and Romanticism continued
Mar 29	NO CLASS: Professor at conference. Enjoy the afternoon!
April 3	Working Class and Bourgeoisie Chapter 13 (REVEL readings and quiz)
April 5	Baudelaire's <i>flaneur</i> and creating meaning through walking
April 10	Modernist World Chapter 14 (REVEL readings and quiz)
April 12	"Isms", Freud, and Fun
April 17	Film Editing: <i>Battleship Potemkin</i> (start reading <i>Things Fall Apart</i>)
April 19	Decades of Change Chapter 15 (REVEL readings and quiz)
April 24	Discussion of <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (have the novel completed)
April 26	Discussion of <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (continued), course wrap-up
May 1	NO CLASS <u>Cultural Event Assignment DUE by 5:00pm</u> on JetNet
May 3	Final Exam due on JetNet, no class meeting.
May 4	<u>Through-Line Project DUE by 5:00pm</u> on JetNet