

## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS SYLLABUS

HUM 131.01

Winter 2016

**Instructor:** Professor Martha Petry  
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**JCC Office** William Atkinson Hall (WA) 226 Main Campus  
**Office Hours:** Main Campus: MW 2-6 pm; R 11:30-1; Before and After Class,  
and by Appointment

**Lecture/Discussion** Mondays, 6-8:54 pm, Whiting Hall 203

**Textbooks:** *Discovering the Humanities*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, ISBN-13: 978-0134174044  
*Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe ISBN 10-0385474547

**The Course:** Humanities 131 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.

**Associate Degree Outcomes.** The Board of Trustees has determined that all JCC graduates should develop or enhance certain essential skills while enrolled in the college. Several of these Associate Degree Outcomes are addressed in this class--- -aesthetic understanding and appreciation and cultural diversity. Each of these are explained below. Particular skills or attitudes will be measured through large and small group discussions, your reflective journals; quizzes and essay exams; collaborative presentations and the cultural events project,, and/or course evaluations

### ***Understanding and appreciating aesthetic experience and artistic creativity (ADO 6)***

- *Meaning and Understanding---* -explains the historical, cultural, and social contexts of selected works of visual art, music, literature from Western and Non-Western cultures,
- *Analysis and Interpretation---* applies methods of analysis and interpretation, using discipline specific language to support critical reflection
- *Engagement---* -initiates and sustains a discussion of the creative contexts within which artists’ work and the artists’ resulting creative choices
- *Evaluation---* -articulates a personal critique of artistic works, based upon aesthetic standards
- *Approaches works of creative expression with openness and interest; appreciates the world of the creative imagination as a form of knowledge*

### ***Understanding and respecting the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures (ADO 10)***

- *Articulates and evaluates the literary and artistic contributions of individuals from groups with which one identifies*
- *Articulates and evaluates the cultural contributions of individuals from groups other than one’s own; recognizes and evaluates stereotypes*
- *Identifies examples of ethnocentrism, oppression, and dominant group privilege*
- *Relates personal experiences that have led to embracing diversity*

## **Coursework:**

**Readings:** You are responsible for reading and engaging the content of course. Good study habits include a preliminary reading in which you skim and scan the written material once. In the initial reading, take note of headings, color plate images, maps, time lines, and text box materials; focus in on the first and last sentences of longer paragraphs to grasp main ideas. Look for things you understand. Try not to bog down in difficult material. Focus on ideas you connect with in your first reading. In your second reading, highlight pivotal passages or controlling ideas and make margin notes using key words and brief summary statements. Record questions raised for you by the materials. See if you can answer them by re-reading and/or bring the questions to our discussion boards. Look up unfamiliar vocabulary in the glossary or dictionary. Feel free to use the Internet to gain background information in areas that you find interesting or confusing, but be careful to use only websites with good authority such as those posted by Universities or Colleges; avoid personal websites and dot coms in general. Summarize your notes for yourself prior to moving to the online discussion. You will be asked to demonstrate knowledge of the texts (art, music, history, architecture, etc.) in your reflective journal writings, in discussion, and of course in the exams.

**Visual Images:** We will spend much time with visual images. Consider the color plates, videos, panoramas, and power point slides to be as important as the written materials. Look at images carefully, read about them, and discuss them. As you spend time with the art, you will learn to 'read' it. Refer regularly to the text's Preface, "What are the Humanities and Why Study the Humanities" to help you develop a vocabulary for talking about art. MyArtsLab and other resources will help expand your experience with the class. Of course, there are countless websites for the material we cover in the class. If you choose to surf the web to find information, be careful to spend time only with credible web sources. Three useful websites for art are [www.artcyclopedia.com](http://www.artcyclopedia.com) <https://www.khanacademy.org> and [www.greatbuildings.com](http://www.greatbuildings.com)

**Music:** When you listen to the music selections, listen to them at least two times and listen for the characteristics that my lectures and the text chapters emphasize. Musical selections are linked through YouTube; you need not purchase them. These links are posted in the calendar of assignments.

**Discussions:** Putting your ideas in your own words and from your own perspective is crucial. Each of us bring a wealth of personal experience to this course. Your ideas about the readings and visual materials are the fuel for your reflective journals. **Participation** is necessary. This means reading, viewing, listening, and researching assigned "texts" (i.e., literature, art, music). Active and engaged participation means thinking about the ideas you find and expressing your own in class discussions.

You will also participate through writing. You will keep a **reflective journal** of your ideas and responses to the reading and lectures and hand it in at assigned times. Another important component of the class is the **cultural events project**. You will be asked to attend an artistic cultural event outside class (symphony concerts, plays, dance performances, museum visits, special film showings) and give your written response to the event you attended. The written paper must be the equivalent of 3 to 5 typed pages. There will also be 12 quizzes, consisting of multiple choice, matching, and short essay. Group projects that involve your critical analyses and insights will occur throughout the semester.

**Grading:** Your quizzes are 40% of the final grade.  
Your journals/reflective writings are 30%.  
The Cultural events project counts as 15%.  
Your active participation in small groups and attendance are 15%.

At JC, we record interim and final grades on a 4.0 scale, with 4.0 equating with outstanding work. To help you to see where you are in the course, I have provided the following grade equivalencies for this course:

Percent Score	Numerical Grade
94-100 %	4.0
88-93 %	3.5
80-87 %	3.0
75-79 %	2.5
70-74 %	2.0
65-69 %	1.5
60-64 %	1.0
55-59 %	0.5
0-59 %	0.0

### Other Grade Information:

#### ◆ **Intermediate Grading:**

To comply with college policy and federal regulations, I will assign a grade to you after approximately two weeks (1-26), five weeks (2-15), and eight weeks (3-21). The grades assigned are letters with the following meanings:

- **V:** Verifies that you are participating and your work so far has been acceptable.
- **H:** Means that you are participating, but your work shows that you may require Help in order to complete the class successfully. If you receive an H grade, you will be contacted by the center for student success and offered tutoring services.
- **Q:** means that you have effectively quit participating in the course. If you receive a Q grade, you will be automatically withdrawn from the course. I normally assign a Q grade if we have not received work from you for two classes in a row and you have not contacted me regarding your absences.

#### ◆ **Special Grading Situations:**

- **Instructor Withdrawal of Student.** Per College policy, instructors are required to remove students who are not active in the course for a period that equates with approximately five contact hours. I will withdraw you from the class, if you miss two sequential class periods. When a learner is removed from the course, reinstatement is not likely but may be possible after discussion with the instructor.
- **Withdrawal deadline** for this semester is 4-29-16. Although I am can withdraw you for non-participation before midterm, only you can initiate a withdrawal after midterm.
- **Incomplete Policy:** In accordance with JCC policy, an Incomplete or "I" grade is only issued to *students who have demonstrated good standing in the class and hold a passing grade at the time of an extenuating circumstance that precludes completion of the class.* Documentation validating the circumstance may be required.
- **Extra Credit Policy:** In order to foster a collegiate environment, maintain the integrity of grades, and provide for proper student placement and advancement through sequenced courses, extra credit will not be awarded.

### COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

JC has an academic honesty policy, which will be adhered to in this class. In essence, the policy requires that all work must be done by the student whose name it bears. The full policy can be accessed at <http://www.jccmi.edu/policies/Academics/>

Academic honesty is expected of all students. It is the ethical behavior that includes producing your own work and not representing others' work as your own, either by plagiarism, by cheating, or by helping others to do so. Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: Using data, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation; submitting others' work as your own, and, exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical. Plagiarism and/or submission of another's writing either directly copied or paraphrased may result in a failing grade and can be grounds for removal from class. Self-plagiarism, otherwise known as recycling a paper or work from another course is also punishable with a failing grade. Students must submit valid evidence of writing process for each assigned formal essay.

Cases of plagiarism are dealt with by the instructor on an individual basis; the instructor will make decisions regarding the student's ability to correct the problem. All cases of plagiarism are reported to the Office of the Academic Dean.

**Please let me know what I can do to help you in your learning or comfort.**