

Humanities 131: Cultural Connections

HUM 131.I51 Fall 2016

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Main Office: Language, Literature, and the Arts Department, Second Floor Burt Walker Hall, 517.787.0800 ext. 8285

Classroom Location: Online (JetNet and Pearson REVEL)

Class Meeting Time: Twice a week (minimum), once between 12:00am Sunday and 11:59pm on Wednesday, then one between 12:00am Wednesday and 11:59pm Sunday (a minimum of 9 hours of login time per week is expected)

Office Hours and Location: The Sandbox in Burt Walker Hall (2nd floor overlooking the quad) Monday and Wednesday from 2:30pm to 3:45pm, also on Skype jb_office_hours and by appointment

Course Description: HUM 131 CULTURAL CONNECTIONS (3 CR) This interdisciplinary course examines contemporary issues, their human and technological components, and their historical precedents through art, music, literature and philosophy.

Prerequisites: ENG 085* and ENG 090* (You may meet this prerequisite based on your course placement, ACT score or successful college coursework.)

Required Texts: *Discovering the Humanities*, 3rd edition by Henry M. Sayre with REVEL access (NOTE: students are responsible for maintaining *only one* REVEL account), *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare (lines numbered; paper copy preferred but link to free online ebook is on JetNet)

Attendance: Attendance twice a week is mandatory, any absences (not logging in once between 12:00am Sunday and 12:00pm on Wednesday, then one between 12:00pm Wednesday and 12:00am Sunday) will lower your final grade by 0.2 for each day you miss. *If you miss five or more class periods, you automatically fail the course.* The internet is ubiquitous and accessible in many locations including the JC campus, the public library, and many coffee shops and restaurants. You are responsible for obtaining internet access even if you have computer or internet issues at home.

Absence Protocol: If you happen to miss a class for whatever reason, please send me an email or call the office as soon as you can. The class is cumulative, so missing a day can adversely affect your grade for the rest of the semester. Therefore, it is critical that you get in contact with me. If you miss a viewing or posting deadline, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If some kind of emergency occurs (hospitalization, acute illness, etc.), evidence will be required (hospital discharge papers, doctor's note, etc.).

Late Assignments: REVEL assignments and JETNET assignments will close the day an assignment is due at the start of class. Late assignments will not be accepted. Failure to turn in an assignment will result in a zero for that assignment.

Methodology: Humanities is the study of what it means to be human, and this class is all about exploring the various expressions of identity, culture, values, politics, etc. through a variety of mediums. This course will be cumulative as each lesson, assignment, and unit builds on one another. By the end of the course, you will have a “toolbox” of specific terminology and methodologies to analyze cultural artifacts throughout the humanities. You will learn how ideas dating back hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years have shaped who we are in our Western society and how some of these ideas continue to influence our identities, arts, and even politics. Have you ever wondered how a story that is thousands of years old still echoes through our court systems? Or perhaps just how much you have in common with those living 400 years ago? Or even what you might have in common with people living now but on the other side of the world? We will be exploring ideas like these and more through novels, poems, sculptures, music, plays, operas, etc. Every unit is designed for the book to give you the critical context needed in order to understand and analyze the humanities. You are expected to read the assignment material, look at the assigned images, watch the assigned videos, or listen to the assigned music. (Take notes by hand; studies show that writing notes on paper helps with retention.) You will complete online assignments (open book and open note) to help you learn and retain the terms you will need in your forthcoming analyses.

Writing is part of active reading, thinking, and synthesis. This course will require you to think and take risks in the online classroom. There are no exams. Rather, your mastery of the material will be measured by discussion activities, REVEL assignments, and larger assessments. You do not have to have any kind of background in the humanities to do well in this course. You do not need to have a strong understanding of theology, technology/science, or history either, even though these will also be addressed in our discussions. Rather, you have to be willing to show up twice a week, do the work as directed, and be curious. Stay curious above all else. The more curious you are about who you are and who your fellow humans know themselves to be, the more engaging this class will be for you. Ask questions. Make connections.

JetNet and JC Email: Students are expected to check their email daily and to check in on JetNet regularly throughout the course. Your JC email is how your instructor and college communicate with you, so you are responsible for keeping that line of communication open. Your grades are kept on JetNet and REVEL. REVEL grades will be transferred at midterms and at the end of the course to JETNET.

Grade Distribution:

REVEL and Online Quizzes: 40%

JetNet group discussions and journals (participation): 40%

Gallery Analysis: 10%

Humanities Experience Analysis: 10%

Brief Assignment Descriptions (see full assignment pages and rubrics for all requirements and procedures):

Online REVEL assignments and quizzes: REVEL-generated comprehension assessments to be completed as you read. Open book quizzes will test you on unit vocabulary and concepts. Auto-scored. This is an individual learning tool.

JetNet Group Discussions and Journals: This is a comprehension, communication, collaboration, and synthesis tool. Because we do not meet face-to-face, participation in these activities are vital to your understanding of the material and the interactive experience of your classmates. Discussion posts and responses will be scored using a provided rubric, as will journal entries. This is also an active learning tool.

Gallery Analysis: A written analysis of an only “gallery” viewing (to be posted on JetNet). This will be 3 to 5 pages long and provide evidence of the comprehension and synthesis of the entire course curriculum. This is a curriculum mastery assessment tool.

Humanities Experience Analysis: A one and a half to two page written analysis of a humanities event attended outside of school. This is a synthesis assessment tool.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

12:00am 9/26 to 12:00 pm 9/29: Introduction to Course and Unit 1

Obtain Required Texts, view introductory video, connect to REVEL, complete introduction discussion forum on JetNet, read and complete Chapter 4 on REVEL, read syllabus and submit syllabus statement on JetNet *(NOTE: The first week's due dates/times are different than the rest of the semester's)*

12:00pm 9/29 to 11:59pm 10/1 Unit 1: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing) and post cultural event project proposal

12:00am 10/2 to 11:59pm 10/5 Unit 1: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Read Chapter 5 and complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 10/6 to 11:59pm 10/8 Unit 2: Early Renaissance

Read Chapter 7, Complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 10/9 to 11:59pm 10/12 Unit 2: Early Renaissance

Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing), submit Cultural Experience on JetNet

12:00am 10/13 to 11:59pm 10/15 Unit 3 Later Renaissance:

Read Chapter 8, Complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 10/16 to 11:59pm 10/19 Unit 3 (cont'd):

Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing)

12:00am 10/20 to 11:59pm 10/22 Unit 3: Later Renaissance

Read Chapter 9, Complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 10/23 to 11:59pm 10/26 Special Unit: Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing

Read *Much Ado About Nothing*, ACTS I-III; complete quiz, view lecture, and complete discussion on JETNET

12:00am 10/27 to 11:59pm 10/29 Special Unit: Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing

Read *Much Ado About Nothing*, ACTS IV-V; complete quiz and discussions on JETNET

12:00am 10/30 to 11:59pm 11/2 Special Unit: Much Ado About Nothing and Cinema

Watch lecture on JetNet, View *Much Ado About Nothing* video on JetNet, complete discussion on JetNet

12:00am 11/3 to 11:59pm 11/5 Unit 4: Seventeenth Century

Read Chapter 11, Complete REVEL assignments, begin reading *Things Fall Apart*

12:00am 11/6 to 11:59pm 11/9 Unit 4 (cont'd):

Read/View contents of Unit 4 Materials folder (JetNet), Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing)

12:00am 11/10 to 11:59pm 11/12 Unit 5: Eighteenth Century

Read Chapter 12, Complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 11/13 to 11:59pm 11/16 Unit 5 (cont'd):

Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing)

12:00am 11/17 to 11:59pm 11/19 Unit 6: Early 19th Century

Read Chapter 13, Complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 11/20 to 11:59pm 11/22 Unit (cont'd):

Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing)

11/23 – 11/30 – Thanksgiving Break – No Class (a great time to visit your cultural event!)

12:00am 12/1 to 11:59pm 12/3 Unit 7: Early Twentieth Century

Read Chapter 14, Complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 12/4 to 11:59pm 12/7 Unit 7 (cont'd):

Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing)

12:00am 12/8 to 11:59pm 12/10 Unit 8: Later 20th Century and 21st Century

Read Chapter 15, Complete REVEL assignments

12:00am 12/11 to 11:59pm 12/14 Unit 8 (cont'd):

Complete JetNet assignments (reading, discussions, and video viewing), finish reading *Things Fall Apart*

12:00am 12/15 to 11:59pm 12/17 Special Unit: The African Novel – Things Fall Apart

Complete quiz on JETNET, view lecture, complete discussion on JetNet

12:00am 12/18 to 11:59pm 12/21 Gallery Viewing

View all contents in Gallery folder on JetNet, begin Gallery Analysis

12:00am 12/22 to 11:59pm 12/22 Gallery Analysis Due and Humanities Experience Analysis Due (JetNet)

This rubric is used to assess your posts in the discussion forums.

Criteria	Minimal and Non-performance Initial post: 0-41 Responses to others: 0-13	Basic Initial post: 42-47 Responses to others: 14-15	Proficient Initial post: 48-53 Responses to others: 16-17	Distinguished Initial post: 54-60 Responses to others: 18-20
Demonstrates understanding of aesthetic experience, artistic creativity, and diversity Applies relevant course concepts, theories, or materials correctly.	Does not explain relevant course concepts, theories, or materials.	Explains relevant course concepts, theories, or materials	Applies relevant course concepts, theories, or materials correctly	Analyzes course concepts, theories, or materials correctly, using examples or supporting evidence
Collaborates with fellow learners, relating the discussion to relevant course concepts.	Fails to employ balanced responding guidelines. Does not collaborate with fellow learners.	Collaborates with fellow learners without relating discussion to the relevant course concepts. Average use of balanced responding guidelines.	Collaborates with fellow learners, relating the discussion to relevant course concepts. Successfully applies balanced responding guidelines.	Collaborates with fellow learners, relating the discussion to relevant course concepts and extending the dialog. Successfully applies balanced responding guidelines and extends the discussion.
Applies relevant professional, personal, or other real-world experiences	Does not contribute professional, personal, or other real-world experiences.	Contributes professional, personal, or other real-world experiences, but lacks relevance.	Applies relevant professional, personal, or other real-world experiences.	Applies relevant professional, personal, or other real-world experiences to extend the dialog.
Supports position with applicable knowledge	Fails to establish and support relevant position.	Establishes relevant position.	Supports position with applicable knowledge.	Validates position with applicable knowledge.
Employs Standard English, and when required, academic essay forms and MLA rules for citation and documentation.	Fails to employ Standard English grammar and structures. Essay form and MLA compliance are not present.Errors distract reading and meaning is incomplete or convoluted.	Employs basic rules of grammar and structures. Errors are present and may distract the reader.Essay forms and MLA compliance are below average.	Employs rules of grammar and structures with few errors.Essay forms and MLA compliance are good, but may need corrections.	Employs grammar and structures with few, if any errors. Essay forms and MLA compliance demonstrate excellence.

