

Jackson College
Humanities 131: Cultural Connections

Instructor: Thomas W. Howard

Location: 300 Building, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility

Day & Time: Wednesdays 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Course Text: *Handbook for the Humanities* by Janetta Rebold Benton and Robert DiYanni

Course Materials:

1. pens
2. notepad for notes and writing
3. two-pocket folder

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course examines contemporary issues, their human and technological components, and their historical precedents through art, music, literature, and philosophy. During this semester, we will focus on and learn how to ‘read’ the creative expressions that stem from human beings living in the fourteenth through the twentieth centuries as they describe the world in which they—and we—live.

General Education Outcomes:

GEO 6: Understanding and appreciating aesthetic experience and artistic creativity
Learners will demonstrate proficiency:

- Explaining historical, cultural, and social context of selected works of Western art, music, literature.
- Applying methods of analysis and interpretation, using discipline-specific language.
- Initiating and sustaining a discussion of the creative contexts within which artists and authors work.
- Articulating personal critique of artistic works based on aesthetic standards.
- Approaching works of creative expression with openness and interest; appreciating the world of creative imagination as a form of knowledge.

GEO 7: Appreciating diversity. Learners will demonstrate proficiency:

- Articulating and evaluating literary and artistic contributions of individuals from groups with which they identify.
- Articulating and evaluating the cultural contributions of individuals from groups other than one's own, recognizing and evaluating stereotypes.
- Identifying examples of ethnocentrism, oppression, and dominant group privilege; challenging barriers to understanding diversity; articulating benefits of interacting with individuals from groups other than one's own.
- Relating personal experiences that have led to embracing diversity.

Major Assignments

- Quizzes & Tests:** There will be weekly quizzes consisting of multiple choice and essay questions. These are to ensure that you have read the assignment and paid attention during discussion.
- Journals:** Each week, you must write 1-2 pages in your notebook reflecting on the material from that week. This should sprout from your ideas and responses during the reading homework and from discussion.
- Research Paper:** You will write a 3-5 page research paper exploring deeper into any of the topics from class. You may also choose a different topic as long as I approve it. More details will come later in the semester.
- Participation:** Much like in English literature classes, a majority of the “work” done in class is via discussion. This is a time when we can all reflect on the assigned reading and explore different ideas. I expect *everyone* to contribute (your ideas are always valuable, even if you don’t think so). This includes any group work or independent in-class assignments that occur during the semester—just contribute in class and you will do well on this grade.

Grading Procedure:

Quizzes & Tests	300 points	30%
Journals (Reflective Writing)	200 points	20%
Research Paper	200 points	20%
Participation & Miscellaneous	300 points	30%
Total:	1000 points	100%

JC Standardized Grading Scale:	4.0 = 95-100 (A)
	3.5 = 89-94 (B+)
	3.0 = 84-88 (B)
	2.5 = 78-83 (C+)
	2.0 = 72-77 (C)
	1.5 = 66-71 (D+)
	1.0 = 60-65 (D)
	0.5 = 55-59 (D-)
0.0 = 0-54	
0.0 = 0-54	

The Incomplete Grade:

In accordance with JC 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.

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 www.jccmi.edu/policies/Academics/

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and presenting them as if it is your own. We will discuss how to avoid plagiarism throughout the course, and it is expected that you know this and practice it throughout your writing. ***Any violation will likely earn you a zero on the assignment***, but it may include an "F" in the course and referral to the Office of the Academic Dean for further disciplinary action.

Missed/Late Assignments

In general, you cannot submit late assignments because the course does not allow for it. Extenuating circumstances notwithstanding, you cannot make up any quizzes that you miss. Similarly, your research paper will be due the last week of class, so it is impossible to submit it late.

Tentative Calendar:

**NOTE: journal entries due weekly from Week 2 to Week 11*

**NOTE: supplementary reading material may be supplied later in the course*

Week 1 - 09.28	Introduction to Course / Classical Era
Week 2 - 10.05	Middle Ages DUE: skim chapters 2 and 3 DUE: read chapter 5: "Middle Ages"
Week 3 - 10.12	Early Renaissance & Humanism DUE: chapter 6: "Early Renaissance" DUE: appendix: "An Approach to Writing about the Humanities"
Week 4 - 10.19	The High Renaissance DUE: read chapter 7: "Later Renaissance"
Week 5 - 10.26	Reformation, Counter-Reformation, & Baroque Expression DUE: read chapter 8: "Seventeenth Century (Baroque)"
Week 6 - 11.02	The Enlightenment DUE: read chapter 9: "Eighteenth Century (Enlightenment)"
Week 7 - 11.09	Romanticism DUE: read chapter 10: "Early Nineteenth Century"
Week 8 - 11.16	Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism DUE: read chapter 11: "Later Nineteenth Century" DUE: Research Paper outline
Week 9 - 11.30	Early 20th Century, WWI, and Modernism DUE: read chapter 12: "Early Twentieth Century" DUE: Research Paper rough draft
Week 10 - 12.07	Mid-20th Century Pop Art DUE: read chapter 13: "Later Twentieth Century"
Week 11 - 12.14	Postmodernism DUE: read chapter 14: "Twenty-First Century"
Week 12 - 12.21	Presentations & Class Debriefing DUE: Research Paper (end of class)

The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this syllabus as needed.