

# *Humanities 131: Cultural Connections*

**HUM 131.41 Spring 2018**

**Instructor:** Janet Bartholomew

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

**Classroom Location:** JNC (Maher) 101

**Class Meeting Time:** Wednesday, 6:00pm – 9:38pm

**Office Hours and Location:** Wednesdays, JNC (Maher) 108, after class (9:38pm-10:00pm); Tuesdays and Thursdays, JW 201 (Central Campus) 12:30pm - 1:00pm and 2:45pm-3:15pm; 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 and Technology:** *Discovering the Humanities*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Henry M. Sayre with REVEL access (NOTE: students are responsible for maintaining *only one* REVEL account), *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (lines numbered; a link to free online ebook is on JetNet), access to the internet for JetNet and REVEL assignments

**Attendance:** As this class only meets once a week, attendance is mandatory. Students will get one “free” day to use as a sick day or for an emergency before the attendance penalty is enacted. A second absence will result in lowering the final grade for the course by 0.5. Students who miss three or more classes (i.e. three weeks or more) will automatically fail the course with a 0.0. Students who miss two weeks or more in a row are assumed to have withdrawn from the course and will be formally dropped from the class. Students who have been dropped due to a lack of attendance (3 or more absences) cannot be readmitted to the class.

As many activities in class worth points cannot be made up (we will be doing lots of hands-on activities and group work), students who miss a class will not be able to make it up for full credit, but partial points will be given to students who make up work able to be sent home. All online assignments, such as reading quizzes and artifact analysis pages, are expected to be posted on time regardless of whether a student is absent that class period or not.

**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 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.).

If you miss an activity in class that can be made up, you will have one week to complete the assignment from the day we did it in class to get partial points for the missed day. (This means you must contact me ASAP to get the assignment.) You are still expected to get all homework assignments posted prior to the date and time the dropbox closes so do not wait until the last minute. *Students who miss two or more weeks in a row and do not contact me to explain the absence and get caught up will be dropped from the course.*

**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, and/or listen to the assigned music. (Take notes by hand if you can; 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 classroom. There are no exams. Rather, your mastery of the material will be measured by your participation in group activities, REVEL and artifact analysis assignments, and the capstone gallery walk assessment. 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 once 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 instructors and college communicate with you, so you are responsible for keeping that line of communication open. If you don't check your JC email regularly, then please forward it to the address you regularly check. Your grades are kept on JetNet and REVEL. Please check these often. REVEL grades will be transferred at midterms and at the end of the course to JETNET. If you accrued any additional grade penalties such as from excessive absences, these will be taken off in the final course grade sent to the registrar and will not be reflected in the JetNet gradebook.

### **Grade Distribution:**

REVEL and Online Quizzes: 35%

Artifact Analysis Assessments: 35%

Participation and Attendance: 10%

Gallery Walk Analysis: 10%

Humanities Event Report: 10%

Students are responsible for getting their work turned in on time and checking to see if it uploaded correctly. Students are also responsible for uploading work in the correct format. If I can't open or read the file because the wrong type was uploaded, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Please see the assignment sheets and JetNet resource page for details.

**Participation and Tardies:** Students are expected to participate in group discussions and activities. Note-taking is an active form of participation and is expected. Note-taking by hand is preferred. Students will have opportunities to use technology in the classroom such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops. Please note, however, that these must be used at appropriate times only. Students caught "zoning out" via technology are as good as absent and shall lose the attendance and/or participation points for the day. The class roll will be called at the start of class, so any students not present will be marked as absent. If a student is tardy, he or she must notify me after class so the roster can be amended. Students who do not do this the day of the tardy will remain absent on the roster. It is your responsibility to speak up. Students who leave class early will also have participation/attendance points taken away.

**Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to adhere to the code of student conduct as stipulated in the student handbook. Plagiarism, the academic theft of ideas without appropriately citing the source, is grounds for a zero on an assignment and possibly a 0.0 for the course. Students who plagiarize must be reported to the Academic Deans as per JC policy. If you don't know how to cite your sources, please see the Writing Center, ask your professor, or see the information provided on JetNet.

*Ignorance is no excuse for plagiarism.* To assess your skills, I need to see *your* work and *your* thoughts. I must assess how *you* are putting together the pieces. For this class, if you use the textbook in an assignment, you must cite it. Notes from class lectures can be treated as common knowledge and do not require citation. *Please do not use any other outside sources for your artifact analysis exercises.* I need to see how well you are understanding the reading, lectures, and activities in class.

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

**Online REVEL and JETNET quizzes:** REVEL-generated comprehension assessments and JETNET assessments to be completed as you read. Open book quizzes will test you on unit vocabulary and concepts. Auto-scored. REVEL grades will be transferred into the JetNet gradebook only twice: at midterms and at the end of the semester.

**Artifact Analysis Assessments:** A homework assignment to practice analysis and critical thinking skills. These are graded manually online every two weeks. To see my comments, click on the dropbox and scroll down until you see the PDF by my name.

**Gallery Walk Analysis:** A written analysis of artifacts discovered on a “gallery walk” to be held in class on August 15. This open-book and open notebook analysis will assess how well you have mastered the skills in the course.

**Humanities Event Report:** A one and a half to two page written analysis of a humanities event attended outside of school. Students must attend one of the events on the approved list. Special permission is required in writing for any substitutions (this is very rare).

**Course Schedule (Subject to Change)**

All reading quizzes, artifact analysis sheets, and reports are due on JetNet by 6pm the night they are due. Dropboxes will close at this time. REVEL quizzes will also close at this time.

*No late submissions will be accepted.*

*All artifact analysis exercises and the humanities report MUST BE UPLOADED AS A PDF.*

*Failure to upload files in PDF format will result in a zero for the assignment;*

*the JetNet grading software only accepts this type of file.*

**5/23 Introduction to Course and Chapter 1**

Homework Due: (to be done in class) Register for REVEL, read chapter 1 of Sayre and complete REVEL quizzes, write and submit artifact analysis (if you are unable to do this in class, please do so by 5/30)

**5/30 Chapters 2 and 3**

Homework Due: Read chapters 2 & 3 of Sayre, complete REVEL quizzes, complete artifact 1 analysis and turn in on JetNet, begin reading *The Tempest*, turn in your Humanities Event Proposal on JetNet

**6/6 Chapters 4 and 5**

Homework Due: Read chapters 4 & 5 of Sayre, complete REVEL quizzes, continue reading *The Tempest*

**6/13 Chapters 6 and 7**

Homework Due: Read chapters 6 & 7 of Sayre, complete REVEL quizzes, complete artifact 2 analysis and turn in on JetNet, continue reading *The Tempest*

**6/20 Chapter 8 and Intro to Shakespeare**

Homework Due: Read chapter 8 of Sayre and complete REVEL quizzes, finish reading *The Tempest* and take the Tempest reading quiz on JetNet

**6/27 The Tempest**

Homework Due: Begin Reading *Things Fall Apart*, complete artifact 3 analysis and turn in on JetNet

**7/4 No Class**

Homework Due: Continue reading *Things Fall Apart*  
*If you haven't yet, be sure to go to your proposed humanities event and start your report.*

**7/11 Chapter 9 and 10**

Homework Due: Read chapters 9 and 10 in Sayre, complete REVEL quizzes, complete artifact 4 analysis and turn it in on JetNet, continue reading *Things Fall Apart*

**7/18 Chapter 11 and 12**

Homework Due: Read chapters 11 and 12 in Sayre, complete REVEL quizzes, continue reading *Things Fall Apart*

**7/25 Chapter 13 and 14**

Homework Due: Read chapters 13 and 14 in Sayre, complete REVEL quizzes, complete artifact 5 analysis and turn it in on JetNet, continue reading *Things Fall Apart*

**8/1 Chapter 15 and Post Colonialism**

Homework Due: Read chapter 15 in Sayre, complete REVEL quizzes, turn in Humanities Event Report PDF on JetNet, continue reading *Things Fall Apart*

**8/8 Things Fall Apart and Intro to Cinema**

Homework Due: Finish reading *Things Fall Apart*, complete *Things Fall Apart* reading quiz on JetNet

**8/15 Gallery Walk**

Homework Due: (to be done in class) Complete three artifact analysis sheets based on the gallery walk and turn in before the end of class.

## Textbook Zero

This course is Textbook Zero. All texts can be purchased in digital form or found for free on the internet.

*Discovering the Humanities*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Henry M. Sayre with REVEL access can be purchased from the bookstore or directly online at [revel.pearson.com](http://revel.pearson.com) (NOTE: students are responsible for maintaining *only one* REVEL account)

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe can be purchased as an ebook online at <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/55499/things-fall-apart/9780141393964/>

The Tempest (Folger etext edition) by William Shakespeare can be found online here <http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/html/Tmp.html>

## REVEL Access to Our Course

Here is how to access Revel Discovering the Humanities, 3e,  
And the course materials for HUM 131.41 Spring 2018:

1. Go to: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/7nveuu>
2. Sign in to your Pearson Account or create one.
3. Redeem your access code or purchase instant access online. (Temporary access option for financial aid is also available.)

Here's more information for your course section:

Course start date: May 23, 2018

Course end date: Aug 22, 2018

Meeting times:

Wed 6:00 PM-10:00 PM

Link to our course REVEL site:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/7nveuu>