



Cultural Connections

HUM131PCI1

Spring 2020

Number of Credits: 3

Days Class Meets: Sunday, Tuesday, Saturday

SEMESTER DATES: July 6-Aug. 22

Instructor: [Scott Cress](#)

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Required Textbooks: **Benton & DiYanni, *Handbook for the Humanities***

Course Description: 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.

General Education Outcomes (GEO) & Essential Competencies (EC) In coordination with JC’s General Education Committee, the humanities faculty have adopted GEO #6, Understand aesthetic experiences and artistic creativity, and GEO #7, Understand and respect the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures. These competencies are further articulated in the chart 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*

Grading Procedure

You will be responsible for completing the assessment portions of this course in their entirety. They are listed below:

- **Journals.** For each unit, you will be assigned a journal prompt. You are to respond to this prompt with an answer of approximately 275-300 words (one page). Upon completing your journal, you are to discuss your response with your classmates, using the allotted class time. Seven total. **15% of final grade.**
- **Quizzes.** For six of the units, you will complete the reading and then complete a twenty-question multiple choice and short answer quiz. You may use your materials. Six total. **30% of final grade.**
- **SOAR Lesson.** You will select one chapter from the text which is NOT covered in class. You will complete a SOAR lesson outline for the reading. An instruction sheet is included. **10% of final grade.**
- **Academic Paper Summary.** You will read a selected paper taken from a peer-reviewed academic journal. You will complete the attached worksheet. Instructions are included in this packet. **10% of final grade.**
- **Classwork.** You must complete all course videos and participate in class activities as time allows. **10% of final grade.**
- **Cultural Events Project.** You are required to attend *one* artistic cultural event — a concert, a theater production, a museum tour, a dance performance, a symphony concert -- of your choosing and on your own time. After you attend the event, we ask that you compose a *formal* paper discussing

prescribed aspects of the event. A separate document details the specific instructions. For PCI1, an event has been chosen for you and all required materials for your project can be found at the end of this packet. **25% of final grade.**

Late Work Policy: Assignments not submitted before the specified due date will receive no credit.

GradingScale

GPA	GRADE RANGE
4.0	92-100%
3.5	87-91%
3.0	82-86%
2.5	77-81%
2.0	72-76%
1.5	66-71%
1.0	60-65%
0.5	55-59%
0.0	0-54%

Grading: I use a standard grading scale of 4.0 for excellent work, 3.0 for above average work, 2.5 for work just above average, 2.0 for average, and lower scores for below average.

COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICY: The JC Catalog states, “Academic honesty . . . is the ethical behavior that includes producing their own work and not representing others’ work as their own, either by plagiarism, by cheating, or by helping others to do so. Faculty members who suspect a student of dishonesty may penalize the student by assigning a failing grade for the paper, project, report, exam or the course itself. The academic dean will be notified of the situation, and this information becomes a part of your academic record. This academic honesty policy 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.

Plagiarism, the submission of someone else's writing, whether purchased, borrowed, 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.*

Course Calendar and Readings

Unit 1 – Intro to Culture

- July 5th - July 11th
- Read through course packet.

Unit 2 – The Classical Age

- July 12th - July 18th
- Read Handbook chs. 2-3 (23-70).
- **SOAR lesson completed.**

Unit 3 – The Abrahamic Faiths

- July 19th - July 25th
- Read Handbook ch. 4 (73-93).

Unit 4 – The Medieval Era

- July 26th - Aug. 1st
- Read Handbook ch. 5 (96-124).
- **Academic paper summary completed.**

Unit 5 – Renaissance and Reformation

- Aug. 2nd - Aug. 8th
- Read Handbook chs. 6-7 (127-173).

Unit 6 - African Cultures

- Aug. 9th - Aug. 15th
- Read Kris Pursell's essay (in packet).
- Skim chapter from *Art and Life in Africa* (in packet).

Unit 7 – Moving Towards the Modern

- Aug. 16th - Aug. 22nd
- Read Handbook chs. 11&12 (244-286).
- **Cultural even paper completed.**

Assignment Pickup Dates

July 15th

- Journal 1

July 29th

- Journals 2&3
- Quizzes 1&2
- SOAR lesson

August 10th

- Journals 4&5
- Quizzes 3&4
- Academic paper summary

August 22nd

- Journals 6&7
- Quizzes 5&6
- Cultural event paper