



## Cultural Connections

HUM131PGI1

Fall 2020

Number of Credits: 3

SEMESTER DATES: 9/28/2020 - 12/19/2020

Instructor: **Scott Cress**

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Required Textbooks: **Benton & DiYanni, *Handbook for the Humanities***  
**Achebe, *Things Fall Apart***

**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 seven units, 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, if possible. Seven total. **15% of final grade.**
- **Quizzes.** For seven 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. Seven 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 with unit one materials. **10% of final grade.**
- **Things Fall Apart Reading Guide.** You will complete a reading guide (included in unit two materials) for your reading of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. **10% of final grade.**
- **Things Fall Apart Paper.** You will complete a 1 ½-2 page paper concerning Achebe's novel. The paper will take the form of a thematic analysis of the novel, comparing themes of the novel with themes from William Butler Yeats's poem "The Second Coming." **10% of final grade.**
- **Attendance/participation.** For each unit you will receive a question via JPAY. In order to be counted present for the week, you must send a short 2-3 sentence answer. You must also watch the video associated with each unit. **10% of final grade.**
- **Cultural Events Project.** You are required to attend *one* artistic cultural event. 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 (in unit two). For your class section, an event has been chosen for you and all required materials for your project can be found in this packet. **15% of final grade.**

**Late Work Policy:** Assignments should be turned in in an orderly fashion. All work will be collected until the final pick-up date. Nothing will be accepted beyond the final pick-up date.

### Grading Scale

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;*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*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, Readings, Assignments**

### Unit 1 – Intro to Culture/Course Overview

- Read through course packet.
- Complete journal #1.

### Unit 2 – *Things Fall Apart*/Cultural Event

- Skim TFA and begin reading.
- Review all materials for CE paper.

### Unit 3 – The Classical Era

- Read Handbook chs. 2-3 (23-70).
- Complete journal #2.
- Complete quiz #1.

### Unit 4 – The Abrahamic Religions

- Read Handbook ch. 4 (73-93).
- Complete journal #3.
- Complete quiz #2.
- Complete SOAR lesson.

### Unit 5 – The Medieval Era

- Read Handbook ch. 5 (96-124).
- Complete journal #4.
- Complete quiz #3.

### Unit 6 – The Renaissance and the Reformation

- Read Handbook chs. 6-7 (127-173).
- Complete journal #5.
- Complete quiz #4.
- Complete TFA reading guide (but don't turn in yet).

### Unit 7 – African Cultures

- Read Kris Pursell's essay (in packet).
- Skim chapter from *Art and Life in Africa* (in packet).
- Complete journal #6.
- Complete quiz #5.

### Unit 8 – Moving Towards the Modern

- Read Handbook chs. 11&12 (244-286).
- Complete quiz #6.
- Complete TFA paper (turn in reading guide).

### Unit 9 – Postmodernism and Beyond

- Read Handbook ch. 13 (288-309).
- Complete quiz #7.
- Complete journal #7.

### Unit 10 – Course Wrap-up

- Complete Cultural Event Paper.