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Humanities 1301: Introduction to Humanities (#61913)

Tuesday / Thursday – 9:30 – 11:00

Office Hours:

**8-9:30 M/W and 12:30-1:30 T/TH**

  

**I. Communication and Contact:**

ecause I firmly believe that **communication is vital**, both to your success and mine, please bring any concerns, questions, criticisms, suggestions, or comments in general to my attention **as soon as they arise**—regardless of how small or seemingly insignificant you might *think* they are! While I prefer that you talk to me in person about such concerns, please feel free to write an email or a handwritten note if you prefer. When it comes to communication, *never* feel as though you cannot talk to me! Beyond official office hours and formal appointments, the best time to raise your question or discuss a concern with me is during class time—either in our open-class setting for everyone to hear, or as a question directed at me individually.

I check my **email** frequently, and I usually try to reply to messages immediately after I read them unless I plan to write a lengthy response (in which case I will let you know of my plan in a quick reply). Some days certainly involve more frequent checking of email than others, but rest assured that I check my email a few times every day! On some occasions, especially if I receive an email within a short period of time before our class starts, I might determine that I can meet your needs more effectively if I address your email in class and/or in person as opposed to giving you a long written response. **NOTE:** I will **not** reply to messages requesting a repeat of all the information a student misses in the event of an absence, as doing so uses time and energy that is better spent addressing concerns or questions students (possibly you) have with their actual assignments or other particular issues. Therefore**, it is *your* responsibility to find out what *you* miss in the event of an absence by contacting one of your classmates and/or referring to the schedule.**

With that said, being part of a reliable group of peers (i.e. “study group”) goes a long way to ensure your success. Again, I will not reply to messages requesting information about what you miss in the event of an absence, so your study group becomes your list of contacts for such occasions if or when they arise. Also, **be sure to have your HCC email account activated and check it often. Whenever I have announcements for the class, I send them to everyone in group message format via HCC email**. If you prefer *not* to use an HCC email address to receive my messages, you need to contact Admissions and Records in order to change the email address they keep on record for you. One more thing regarding communication: be sure to have an active account established at Turnitin.com **well in advance** of an assignment due date, as I will not accept “account issues” and/or an inability to establish an account at Turnitin.com on the day an assignment is due as legitimate reasons for not submitting assignments on time.

**II. Course Definition, Description, Prerequisites, and Goal:**

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| **A. Course Definition and Description** |
| An interdisciplinary, multi-perspective assessment of cultural, political, philosophical, and aesthetic factors critical to the formulation of values and the historical development of the individual and of society. (Texas ACGM – Approval Number: 24.0103.51 12)  This course investigates connections between individual human lives and a broad range of culture, aesthetics, and philosophy. (HCCS Catalog). Fulfills HCCS CORE Multicultural Studies requirement; Workforce requirement for the Humanities; and HCC Elective. Global Studies Certificate course. |

**B. Expanded Definition and Description:**

An introduction to the arts and humanities. The course **investigates the relationship between individual human lives and works of imagination and thought. Students** **focus on the connections between their own lives and the ideas and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through inquiry into selected literature, philosophy, and the visual and performing arts, students will engage in critical thinking, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation of the arts and humanities and their pivotal role in the health and survival of any society.** Students will attend/respond to museum and gallery exhibitions and performances (live theater and film). They will be introduced to readings in several genres from a variety of cultures. Students will respond the to the work they study in a variety of ways including oral presentations, formal written assignments, and informal journal responses

**Prerequisites:** Must be placed into college-level reading (or take GUST 0342 as a co-requisite) and be placed into college-level writing (or take ENGL 0310/0349 as a co-requisite)

**Course Goal:** To develop student thinking, seeing, reading, writing, and listening skills and expand student knowledge of the human condition as portrayed in works of the human imagination and intellect.

**III. Student Learning Outcomes, Objectives, and Instructional Methods** 

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Describe representative themes and developments in the humanities-

2. Interpret representative terms, works, figures and artists in philosophy, literature and the visual and performing arts-

3. Compare and contrast representative terms, works, figures and artists in philosophy, literature and the visual and

performing arts.

4. Evaluate cultural creations in the humanities

**Learning Objectives:**

***In This Course, Students Will….***

1. Define/identify representative themes and developments in the humanities.

2. Identify representative themes and developments in the humanities.

3. Discuss representative terms, works, artists and figures in philosophy, literature and the visual and performing arts.

4. Review representative terms, artists, works, figures, and artists in philosophy, literature and the visual and

performing arts.

5. Analyze representative terms, works, artists and figures in philosophy, literature and the visual and performing

arts.

6. Relate representative terms, artists, works, and figures in philosophy, literature and the visual and performing

arts.

7. Assess cultural creations (works) in the humanities.

8. Critique cultural creations (works) in the humanities

**Instructional methods**: This course will incorporate reading, lecture, class discussions and debates, in-class analysis in small groups, essay writing (in class and out), research process, short writings of various kinds, student presentations in class, a midterm examination and a final examination.



**IV: Assignments, Etc.**

**4 Group Projects and Presentations:** These will involve content (objects/subjects/exhibits) within the humanities. They

will involve collaborative investigation, written/typed responses to particular questions, and a group “Prezi” that will be

presented to the class. Group grades assigned to these, meaning everyone in each group earns the same grade. I will collect

two things when each group presents their project: 1. A copy of the group members’ answers to questions—compiled

together into one clean document with members’ names; 2. An email from someone in each group that contains an active

link to their Prezi.

**4 Critical Analysis Essays:** Approximately 400-500 words each, these critical, analytical, and interpretive essays will

be ***written in class*** (handwritten). The focus of these analyses will be single or combined humanities-centered material,

as assigned, and will primarily be media-based from a wide range of video content in my “Humanities” playlist.

**15 Short, Typed, Out-of-Class Writings**: Approximately 200-300 words each. You will write 15 of these short assignments,

which will involve responding critically to a variety of media and/or visiting/attending any number of arts-related venues

in the city of Houston. Hard copies of these writings will be brought to class and receive a stamp as they are completed in

order to verify they were done on time. Expect them to be read/shared by others, even though such may not be the case for

all of them. You will need to keep the electronic versions, along with your stamped versions, because near the end of the

semester you will be required to submit them to me at *turnitin.com* as one document.

**Late Paper Policy:** Out-of-class Papers are due at the start of the class session on the designated date. Do not skip class to

turn in papers "on time." No papers may be submitted by email.

**Assessments (grade values of assignments)**: Unless the professor makes changes and announces otherwise, the overall breakdown of graded assignments and their corresponding values will be calculated as follows:

Note Changes in Red . . . .

**400 Points** *Group* *Project 1*  100 (from 75)

*Group Project 2*  100 “

*Group Project 3*  100 “

*Group Project 4*   100 “

**100 Points** Individual Critical Analysis Essays 2 @ 50 points (from 4 @25)

**100 Points** ***Midterm Exam*** (In-Class)

**300 Points** “Humanities Squared” Typed Terms Assignment (replaces previous assignment; same point value)

**100 Points** ***Final Exam*** (In-Class) Reduced point value from 200 to 100 (replaced by an additional 25 points added

to each presentation)

**1,000 Points**

**Grading scale**: 900 – 1,000 = **A**, 800 - 899 = **B**, 700 - 799 = **C**, 600 - 699 = **D**, 0 - 599 = **F**. FX is awarded to those students who make an F and stop attending.



**V. Required Books, Materials, Access, and Accounts:**

1**.** **Course Text:** **The Humanities: Culture, Continuity, and Change** (Book 6: “Modernism and The Globalization of

Cultures: 1900 To The Present”) by Henry Sayre – 2nd Edition

2. **Access** to a computer and word processor (labs provide these); an **active email account with HCC**

3**. Access** to an established account with “**Turnitin.com**” (free) and **establish** an account with “**Prezi**” (free)

4**. Access** to downtown Houston to visit specific/selected arts-related venues, such as museums, exhibits, performances,

readings, etc. While the exact number is unknown at the beginning of the term, due to the fact that I begin pursuing

leads and possibilities once the class is underway, it might be safe to assume there might be 2 or 3 of these. In terms

of cost, I’m looking for free venues; however, if free is not possible, then expect a small admission fee.

**VI. Behavior**

**eneral Premise:** *Because you are all* ***adults*** *who are taking this* ***college course*** *by* ***choice****, it should go without saying that everyone will demonstrate* ***maturity, responsibility,*** *and an* ***eagerness to learn.*** *The following policies ensure that everyone experiences a rewarding learning environment.* ***NOTE: Disruptive behavior/activities which interfere with teaching and/or learning will not be tolerated, and may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund”***

**a. Attendance and Withdrawal Policies –** Missing class means missing opportunities to learn; therefore, in keeping with the HCC policy on attendance, “students may be dropped after missing more than 6 hours of class time.” Furthermore, **Students must attend class regularly and submit assignments on time to pass this course.** Attendance will be taken every day at the beginning of class.

In accordance with HCCS policy, students with more than 6 hours of absences (3 classes) may be dropped for excessive absence, and a daily record of attendance will be maintained throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to keep updated on course information if you miss class, so please make arrangements to contact other students should this become necessary. Refer to professionalism grade (see below).

**NOTICE: The State of Texas has begun to impose penalties on students who drop courses excessively . For example, if you take the same course more than two times, you have to pay extra tuition.** (Students who enroll for most credit CEU classes for a third or more times will be charged an additional $50.00 per semester credit hour and $3.00 per contact hours.) **In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed**.

Please ask me or your counselor about opportunities for tutoring or other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades. In consideration of the above law, I will not give “W” as a grade option unless you have submitted the withdrawal form yourself before the deadline for withdrawal. I will only give whatever grades you earn (A, B, C, D, or F). **If you stop attending the class, you need to officially withdraw yourself prior to the withdrawal deadline**. **If you do not do so and simply disappear from class, you will receive an “F” or “FX”in the course.**

***INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:*** Receiving a **W** in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course (after you have submitted a withdrawal form officially), it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

**b.** **Class Arrival/Departure** – **A pattern of arriving late to class is not only disruptive, it is disrespectful**–both to me and to the rest of the class. I understand that “life happens,” but the odd traffic jam, computer glitch, or request to stay late at work are clearly exceptions to the norm, and thus should only occur on a rare occasion. I generally have no tolerance for **patterns** of late arrival. However, if you are late, it is your responsibility to see me **after class** in order to change the recorded absence into a “late” in my record. **Be advised that a late arrival of more than 20 minutes will not be changed from an absence to a late; it will simply remain as an absence for the day**. I will also begin combining late arrivals into pairs of two *after* your second late arrival; I will then convert each pair of late arrivals into an absence. For those who acquire absences this way, the same policy regarding absences applies—namely, the potential of being dropped.

**I view premature departures from class, particularly when students believe they are doing so without my knowledge, as a behavioral issue**; doing so conflicts with the “general premise” of section V (see above). Anyone who departs from class this way will be counted absent, and he or she will lose all possible points that may have been earned in class for that day. If you have a necessary, rare obligation that requires you to leave early on a given day, simply talk to me beforehand and there shouldn’t be an issue with it. Furthermore, if an out-of-class assignment is due and/or collected on the day such a student leaves early, I will simply count it submitted on the following day (late submission policy imposed).

**c.** **Disruptive Talking** – Because I am a strong supporter of team learning in interactive groups, I provide ample opportunity throughout the semester to verbally engage in the learning process; I balance lectures with “workshops. ”**Therefore,** disruptive chatting when we are assembled as an entire class is completely unacceptable, regardless of what you may be chatting about. Such behavior is both disrespectful and immature; if necessary, I will resort to separating pairs/groups of talkers and assigning them seats on opposite sides of the room…*just like they do in the second grade!* I reserve the right to ask distractors, who have been warned at least once, to leave class for the day (which means receiving an absence for that day). Also, it is unacceptable at the end of workshops to talk as a group when other groups are presenting their ideas, as each group should demonstrate the same courtesy they expect from others when presenting their findings to the class. Individuals, or entire groups, who talk and/or distract the class, yet may or may not have been asked to leave, may nonetheless still lose credit on an assignment.

**d.** **Classroom** **Attitude –** How subtle it is, but ever so revealing of a student’s views towards his or her role in society, adulthood, higher education, future career goals, and general self-respect. A healthy outlook in these areas is characterized by a classroom behavior that reflects those qualities stated in the general premise above. A few examples of actions which reveal a negative attitude include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors: *chatting, ignoring deadlines without communicating with me, sleeping, working on unrelated material, being confrontational, excessively exiting class, or refusing to participate in group activities.* If you find yourself engaged in any of these behaviors, let me just ask you to honestly consider why you are in college at all. Really—ask yourself that question. I’m not being judgmental here, nor am I being sarcastic; I’m simply saying you need to ask that question because these behaviors are indicative of an attitude that is not conducive to success in college.

**e.** Academic Honesty, **Plagiarism, Collusion –** To plagiarize is to submit the words/ideas of another as one’s own

without giving them due credit. It is a form of theft, in addition to being academically dishonest and unethical. Like all other forms of cheating, plagiarism carries serious penalties that are not only enforced by me, but also by HCC administrators. Be advised that **all three of your formal papers must be submitted to turnitin.com** **for review before they are submitted to me.** HCC Policy: *“Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes copying from another student’s paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; collaborating with another student during a test without authority; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of an un-administered test; or bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered. ‘Plagiarism’ means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written work for credit. ‘Collusion’ means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.”* All work you submit must be your own. If you consult any sources, whether oral or written, you must clearly distinguish between your words/ideas and theirs at all times. Students who plagiarize, collude, or cheat may face disciplinary action including the grade of 0 for the assignment, an F for the course, and/or dismissal from the college (see on-line student handbook). For more on plagiarism, refer to *The New McGraw-Hill Handbook*, the HCC Library site (on the Northwest Writing Center site), or the HCC Student Handbook.

**f**. **Arriving to / Exiting The Room –** Because we are all adults, there is no need to ask “permission” to use a restroom or exit the class to make an important phone call on a rare occasion; however, I will address students individually who appear to exit the room “excessively,” *habitually* using the restroom as an excuse for frequent interruptions. Generally speaking, it is inappropriate to consistently designate class time on a regular basis to use such facilities. Also, it is poor etiquette to let doors slam behind you when you exit or enter a room, especially when the class is in the middle of writing, reading, discussion, or viewing a film; please make an effort to close doors as quietly as possible and demonstrate basic courtesy when you enter or exit the room.

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**VII.** **Where to Find Copies of Specific Assignments, Links, and Resources and for this Class:**

*On my* ***Learning Web*** *page for Humanities 1301; within the folder you will find all the resources for this class.*

**VIII. Helpful Information**

**Open Computer Labs:** Computers are available for word processing in open labs, the library, and elsewhere on campus. Check those sites for open hours.

**Services to students with disabilities**: Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange for reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the beginning of each semester. For more information, please contact the disability counselor on campus.

**EGLS3 -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System**: At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term. [www.hccs.edu/egls3](http://www.hccs.edu/egls3) .

**Changes in this document:** At his discretion, the professor may announce necessary changes in this syllabus and assignment calendar at any time during the term.



