

Humanities 140 Syllabus

Spring 2014

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Required Materials:

Cunningham, Lawrence S., John J. Reich, and Lois Fichner-Rathus. *Culture & Values: A Survey of the Humanities*. 8th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2014. ISBN: 978-1-133-95125-4.

Adequate access to a computer which meets Distance Education's minimum standards. (Perform a browser check under Student Resources to assure that your browser meets the standards.)

Beyond the textbook, there are a number of websites and short videos that are required material for the class. A list of the assigned materials is found in the "Assigned Reading and Viewing" document for each chapter.

Some of the films used in the class require a login. Here is the login and password:

Login: **mcc.disted@gmail.com**
password: **videoonline**

Course Overview:

"Humanities" is most often associated with the study of the arts (art, music, literature, dance, film, etc.) but in essence it is a quest for self-knowledge and an effort to understand how other people have sought to express the meaning(s) of life.

This course is not only a study of the artistic and intellectual (i.e. cultural) history of the past 600 years, but also an examination of themes relevant to all people in all times and places (themes like: love, death, family, war, peace, freedom, truth, individual vs. society). Humanities is humankind's response to fundamental questions about the human condition:

- Who are we?
- What does it mean to be a "human being"?
- How did we get to be this way?
- Where are we headed?

- What is our place in the world? In life? In the "bigger picture"?
- What should the value of the individual be?
- What are the meanings of "beauty," "good," "truth," "freedom," and "happiness"?
- What responsibilities do we have towards other human beings, the environment, and the future?
- How can we live more humanely with each other?

Humanities 140 is an opportunity to examine these questions (and others) through arts, history, philosophy, and the social sciences.

Course Objectives:

- Evaluate works of art based on their social, historic, and political foundations as well as the artistic techniques, methods, and merit of individual works.
- Employ historical, economic, political, and social perspectives when encountering or evaluating such works and relate these perspectives to present day ideas and works of art.
- Analyze, interpret, and discuss ideas expressed through representative works of art up to the present.

Course Requirements:

- Active Discussion Board participation
- Chapter quizzes
- Three exams
- Three Unit Papers

Discussion Boards:

Each chapter, I will provide you with reflection topics to write on. These are informal writings where I am looking more for engagement and thought than polished prose. These will be posted to the bulletin board on Blackboard and are due as specified in the assignment. Past-due postings will be penalized. Egregiously past-due postings will not count. Typically, I start grade discussion boards about a week after they are due. Once I grade a discussion board forum, it is closed, and you will be unable to continue to post to that forum.

Basically, you will be required to post **four times per chapter** (at least 2 of these need to be responses to others). For more information about the discussion boards, see the Discussion Board Rubric.

Chapter Quizzes:

For each chapter, there is a 20 multiple-choice question quiz. Each question is worth 1/2 point (for a total of 10 points). These quizzes mainly serve to make sure that you are reading the chapters and to assure that you do not fall behind in the class. You may use your textbook on the quizzes. You are also able to retake the quiz as often as you wish. Your highest score will be recorded.

These quizzes are due, however, by the date that I listed. (See the schedule for deadline). After the deadline is past, the quiz will disappear. Only under extreme circumstances (such as your hospitalization), will I re-release a quiz once the deadline has passed. Otherwise, I encourage you to take the quizzes early. Quizzes will appear a week before they are due.

Exams:

There will be a total of three exams this semester (one after each unit). These exams will consist of two parts. Part one consists of 50 multiple choice questions. Part two is a developed essay. Unlike the quizzes, these exams will be timed. You will have an hour for each of the parts. If you go over the allotted time, I will impose a grade penalty of one point per minute over.

You may use your textbook on the exams, but that is the only "resource" that you are permitted. **You may not use other texts, other people, or websites for your exam.** If I see any evidence that you have done so, you will receive a 0 for the exam.

Last, since you are permitted to use your textbook, I am turning off backtracking for the exams. In this way, you gain the ability to double-check answers in the text, but you lose the ability to go back and change answers once you have moved on.

With most exams and graded work, it generally takes me about a week for grading. Also, I provide comments for the essay portion of the exams. These comments are designed to help you improve your essays throughout the course of the semester. To view these comments, click on the score in the gradebook. From here, you should be able to view my comments.

Unit Paper:

For each unit, there is a unit paper assignment. This paper will require you to do something other than the chapter assignments, such as go to an arts venue or view a production. While the unit papers are not research essays per se, these are formal papers and should follow the MLA standards:

(<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

The Unit Paper assignment will open the day that the unit opens and will close the day of the last chapter in that unit. Late papers will not be accepted. More information can be found on the Unit Paper assignment sheet.

**Textbook
Website:**

The textbook website includes several different types of materials: pronunciation flashcards, videos, art works, and study aids. The access code is **optional**. The digital versions of the art are useful as these give more information about the work and, more importantly, can be resized to allow you to see certain things in more detail. There is also supplemental material that will help you quiz yourself and/or gain a greater understanding of the material.

**Contacting the
Instructor:**

I prefer contact with me through the course Messages (rather than e-mail). During the week, you can generally expect that I will reply to a Message sent during the week within 24 hours (frequently sooner). For messages sent on the weekend, I will reply no later than Monday.

It is also a good idea to check Messages and Announcements on a daily basis. If I have something that I need to communicate to you, I will send you a Message (and failure to check Messages is not an excuse). I expect that you will reply to a Message that I send to you also within 24 hours (or on Monday for messages sent on the weekend).

If I have something that pertains to the entire class, I will post an Announcement.

**Participation
&
Attendance:**

While this class does not meet face-to-face, it is not a completely self-paced, self-study, correspondence course. Interacting with your fellow students through the discussion board is key to making this class a class, and is key to making this a more rewarding experience for you.

As such, I expect that you will be logging in several times a week to participate on the discussion boards. Any student who goes two weeks without participating through quizzes, exams or discussion board posts will be dropped (up to the last date to drop without assessment).

Withdrawals: If you wish to withdraw from the course, you are encouraged to meet with me first. If you determine that this is the best option, *it is your responsibility* to fill out the necessary paperwork for withdrawal. Do not assume that withdrawals will be done for you. If you stop attending class after the last day for official withdrawal March 28, and have not officially withdrawn, you will receive an F for the course.

Vacations & other obligations: One of the advantages of an online class is that one can take the class without the requirement of having to physically attend the college. As such, I do not consider vacations or other activities an excuse for missing deadlines. I will not adjust deadlines nor will I reopen missed assignments in order to simply accommodate an individual's schedule.

Online Etiquette: When corresponding online, it is often easy to forget that there is a real, live human being receiving those messages. As a result "flaming," rude or insulting statements can be made. Such statements are not conducive to the sort of open exchange of ideas that I hope to see established in this class. Whether it is responding to a peer on the discussion board or sending the instructor a message, we need to show respect for others.

Cheating & Plagiarism: I believe that the purpose of college is to learn. Cheating and intentional plagiarism undermine that goal and I cannot think of many things that are, academically, more despicable. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, an exam, a report or any other work that you submit to the class, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. In addition, at the discretion of the instructor, you may face more severe reprimands, including a required meeting with the Dean of Students and/or failure for the course.

Disability Disclosure Statement: *If you need an accommodation due to a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your campus Disability Support Services Coordinator. Advance notice may be necessary for some accommodations to be provided in a timely manner. Accommodations must be supported by adequate documentation and are determined on an individualized basis*

Sexual Harassment:

Sexual harassment is prohibited by Federal and State law, and by MCC Board of Trustees policy. If you feel that you, as a student, have been subjected to sexual harassment, please discuss this with the Dean of Students.

Grievance Procedure:

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please see me first so that we can work together to resolve any problems that may exist. In the unlikely event that we cannot resolve the problem, the next step is for you to make an appointment with Deanna Snyder, 604-4507.

Grading:

Discussion Board (15 pts each)	195	pts
Chapter Quizzes (10 pts each)	130	pts
Exams (150 pts each)	450	pts
Unit Papers (75 pts each)	225	pts
Total	1000	pts

Grade Scale:

900-1000 pts:	A
800-899 pts:	B
700-799 pts:	C
600-699 pts:	D
Less than 599 pts:	F