

College of Arts and Letters
Department of Humanities, Arts, and Religion
HUM 101: Introduction to the Humanities

General Information

Spring 2006
MW, 3:00-4:15
LA 214
#1180
3 credits

Prof. Gioia Woods
Riles 104E
523-8168
Gioia.Woods@nau.edu
Office hours: M 1:30-2:30
T 12:30-2:00, or by
appointment

Course description

This course is an introduction to the field of Integrative Humanities. In this course we will bring together three important aspects of studying the humanities:

1. Thinking critically about the humanities
2. Expanding our knowledge of disciplinary content within the humanities (art, literature, and music)
3. Applying humanistic themes to understand content

Liberal studies

This course fulfills the thematic focus *valuing the diversity of human experience*, and the distribution block *aesthetic and humanistic inquiry*. The essential skills we will develop in Hum 101 are *critical thinking* and *critical reading*.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Think critically and communicate historical and contemporary ideas about what it means to be “fully human”
2. Read critically a variety of “texts” in the visual arts, literature, and music
3. Analyze, comprehend, and apply the meaning and significance of humanities themes and content

Course structure and approach

This course will utilize lecture and discussion to accomplish the learning outcomes. We will view (and hear) a variety of texts in class, including visual art, poetry, film clips, and music. You will be required to take two virtual museum tours.

Required texts

The Art of Being Human, 8th edition, 2006, Richard Janaro

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Article handouts made available online at the Cline Library electronic reserves page, <http://www.nau.edu/library/>; click on “course reserves for students.”

Course policies

- **No late work is accepted.** If you are having trouble meeting a deadline, consult your instructor before work is due.
- Attendance in a discussion class such as this is crucial! Your presence enriches our classroom community and enhances the quality of your own learning. In the humanities, the exchange of ideas has always been central in developing knowledge and debating arts, ideas, and values. In order to participate in this powerful process of making meaning, you need to attend class regularly. More than four absences will result in a lower course grade for the class.
- Plagiarism, the intentional or unintentional representation of another’s ideas as your own, is prohibited. In extreme cases, it will result in a failing course grade.

Assignments and exams

I. Quizzes. We will have short quizzes over much of the reading assignments. The quizzes are designed to ascertain your comprehension, help you understand the material, and prepare for class discussion. Quizzes CANNOT be made up. 5 points each. Total: 50 points.

II. Response essays. To respond to our ongoing study of disciplines, themes, trends and ideas important in the humanities, you are required to write four response essays. These essays are designed to help you synthesize class material and prepare for class discussions. Essays should be 2-3-pages, typed, double-spaced. You will be given a question or prompt that will guide each essay. The prompt will serve as the basis for your thesis statement, that main idea you will “prove” and unfold with specific examples.

1. Essay 1, due 2/15.
2. Essay 2, due 3/6.
3. Essay 3, due 4/3.
4. Essay 4, due 4/24.

Papers are worth 25 points each. Total: 100 points.

III. Final exam. The final exam will be administered in two parts during week 16 of the semester. Part one will be a cumulative short-answer exam, and part two will be an essay exam. Total: 50 points

IV. Participation. Meaning is made in collaboration, and your thoughtful participation is essential to the success of our course. You will be invited to participate in large group discussions, small group discussions, freewriting, and short homework assignments. Please pay particular attention to days marked “Writing & discussion,” as these days represent your opportunity to earn participation credit. Total: 50 points.

Total points possible: 250

All written assignments will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Clarity of communication
- Thoughtful organization
- Depth and detail of thought
- Control of mechanics, spelling, and usage

CLASS CALENDAR

Week 1

W 1/18 Course introductions
Humanities disciplines and themes
Lecture & discussion

Week 2

M 1/23 Reading: *Art of Being Human*, ch. 1 “You and the Humanities”
Quiz 1
Critical thinking
W 1/25 Classicism & Romanticism
Writing & discussion

Week 3

M 1/30 Reading: *Art of Being Human*, ch. 2 “Myth and the Origin of the Humanities”
Quiz 2
W 2/1 Myth
Writing & discussion

Week 4

M 2/6 Myth, continued
W 2/8 The Frontier Myth
Writing & discussion

Week 5

M 2/13 Reading due: *Art of Being Human*, ch. 3 “Struggles of the Humanities”
Quiz 3
W 2/15 Controversy in the arts
Writing & discussion
Due: Response essay 1

Week 6

M 2/20 Reading due: *Art of Being Human*, ch 5 “Art”
Quiz 4
W 2/22 Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance innovations
Writing & discussion

Week 7

M 2/27 Impressionism and beyond
W 2/29 Art, continued
Due: visit the 1913 Armory Show:
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MUSEUM/Armory/armoryshow.html>
Quiz 5

Week 8

M 3/6 Reading due: *Art of Being Human*, ch. 4 “Literature”
Quiz 6
History of literature
Due: Response essay 2
W 3/8 Poetry
Writing & discussion

Week 9

M 3/13

Lecture & discussion: the short story

W 3/15

Reading due: "Cathedral," Raymond Carver, "The Lesson," Toni Cade Bambara, & "The Toughest Indian in the World" Sherman Alexie. Cline library electronic reserve

Quiz 7

Week 10

3/20-3/26

SPRING BREAK

Week 11

M 3/27

Lecture & discussion: the novel

Reading due: *The Great Gatsby*, ch. 1-4

W 3/29

Reading due: *The Great Gatsby*, ch. 5-9

Quiz 8

Week 12

M 4/3

Reading due: *The Art of Being Human*, ch. 6 "Music"

Quiz 9

Due: Response essay 3

W 4/5

Music, writing & discussion

Week 13

M 4/10

Music, continued.

Lecture & discussion: jazz & blues

W 4/12

Film: *Jazz*, Ken Burns

Week 14

M 4/17

Reading due: *Art of Being Human*, ch. 15 "Freedom"

Quiz 10

W 4/19

Freedom, cont.

Writing & discussion

Week 15

M 4/24

Film

Due: Response essay 4

W 4/26

Review

Week 16

M 5/1

Final exam, part 1

W 5/3

Final exam, part 2

Finals week begins May 8