

Introduction to the Humanities

Course and Learning Objectives

The object of HUM 1020 is to provide you with a broad introduction to the varied products of human creativity. Students will finish this course knowing:

- About the range of media in which human creativity finds expression;
- About various topics artists address in their work;
- About relationship between art and society.

Students in addition will gain competence in their ability:

- To think critically in their interpretations via cultural literacy;
- To critically reflect upon the human condition.

This course fulfills the State of Florida General Education Core for Humanities. Students will confirm the ability to think critically through demonstrating interpretive ability and cultural literacy. Students will acquire competence in reflecting critically upon the human condition.

Course Structure

In each unit we will explore art by analyzing and contrasting two works of art within the same medium. The primary artworks, listed below, will be presented in various formats, available to you on Canvas (either through websites, pdfs, or image files).

1. Epic Poetry: Storytelling, Myth, and Community

- *The Epic of Sundiata*
- *The Tale of Sinuhe*

2. Painting: Cosmology, Humanity, and Representations of the Land

- Wang Ximeng 1113, *A Thousand Li of Rivers and Mountains*
- Frederic Edwin Church 1859, *Heart of the Andes*

3. Dance: Bodies and Embodiment

- Tony Duncan (2011), Hoop Dance
- Victor vs Kleju (2015), Undisputed World B-Boy Masters

4. Architecture: Religion, Symbolism, and Culture

- Arnolfo di Cambio / Filippo Brunelleschi (1296-1436), *Florence Cathedral*
- Ustad Ali Akbar Isfahani, Ustad Fereydun Naini, Ustad Shoja Isfahani (1611-1629), *Shah Mosque*

5. Music: Capitalism and Socialism

- Travis McCoy (2010), *Billionaire*
- The Coup (1993), *Dig it*

6. Film Poems: Meaning and Form

- Stan Brakhage (1963), *Mothlight*
- Nono Ayuso (2019), *The heartbeats of memory*

Online Learning

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our class will happen online. There are a few important components to making this online class a success:

1. ***Make sure to attend the synchronous lectures IF YOU CAN, or make sure to watch the uploaded lecture videos.*** Each module has two lectures where we will meet as a class--these will help us build our learning community, as well as allow a more traditional lecture format with the ability to ask questions and get feedback in real time. You will receive an invite to a conference (on ZOOM) on your Canvas email. You just click the link and will be prompted to log into the conference--make sure to DISABLE your audio--we will communicate via chat (otherwise it gets too crazy!). ***ALTERNATE SYSTEMS MAY BE USED IF THERE ARE TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS--PLEASE MONITOR YOUR EMAIL AT ALL TIMES!*** If you cannot make the synchronous lecture that's ok! **But please make sure to watch the uploaded video!**

2. **The schedule of online attendance is as follows (subject to change!)**

- **Module 0: TUES JAN 11**
- **Module 1: TUES JAN 18**
- **Module 1: TUES JAN 25**
- **Module 2: TUES FEB 1**
- **Module 2: TUES FEB 8**
- **Module 3: TUES FEB 15**
- **Module 3: TUES FEB 22**
- **Module 4: TUES MAR 1**
- **Module 5: TUES MAR 8**
- ***SPRING BREAK: MAR 14-20***
- **Module 5: TUES MAR 22**
- **Module 6: TUES MAR 29**
- **Module 6: TUES APR 5**
- **Module 7: TUES APR 12**
- **Module 7: TUES APR 19**
- **NO CLASS TUES APR 26**

3. ***Make sure to follow along each module.*** Each module contains two basic sorts of assignments.

- a. First, there are videos, readings, and audio recordings relating to the theme of each unit. Each student must read, listen, and watch these. If you have any issues accessing this material, please don't hesitate to get in touch!
- b. Second, there are discussion assignments--these require each student to come up with discussion questions relating to the theme of the module, as well as reply to other student's questions. I have posted an initial question for each discussion topic to get us started--feel free to reply to this question or to your own!

4. ***Make sure to stay in touch!*** If you are confused, or have ANY questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch! Please email me at big@usf.edu or contact me via Canvas email. I will reply ASAP! There are also many resources if you need help with technology, disability issues, or any other academic issue. Here are some helpful links:

- a. Disability Services: <http://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/student-disabilities-services/>

- b. CANVAS help:
 - i. Quickstart Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2036>
 - ii. Student Video Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-3891>
 - iii. Student Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121>
- c. Technical Problems: For technical questions and support, contact the IT Help Desk at (813) 974-1222 or help@usf.edu.
 - i. To resolve your issue quicker, please include the following information:
 - ii. Course ID if the problem occurred within a course.
 - iii. What you were trying to do when the problem occurred.
 - iv. The exact wording of any error you received.
- d. Academic Support Services: <http://www.usf.edu/student-success/undergrads/>
- e. The Library has many helpful resources as well: <http://www.lib.usf.edu/>
- f. LinkedIn Learning has a suite of learning tutorials for a variety of software applications and topics.
 - i. To access, login to MyUSF and go to the Learning and Teaching Tools menu.
 - ii. Select Online Training (LinkedIn Learning).

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the foundation of the University of South Florida’s commitment to the academic honesty and personal integrity of its university community. Academic integrity is grounded in certain fundamental values, which include honesty, respect, and fairness. Broadly defined, academic honesty is the completion of all academic endeavors and claims of scholarly knowledge as representative of one’s own efforts. The process for faculty reporting of academic misconduct, as well as the student’s options for appeal, are outlined in detail in [**USF Regulation 3.027**](#).

Academic Grievance Procedure

The purpose of these procedures is to provide all undergraduate and graduate students taking courses at the University of South Florida an opportunity for objective review of facts and events pertinent to the cause of the academic grievance. An “academic grievance” is a claim that a specific academic decision or action that affects that student’s academic record or status has violated published policies and procedures, or has been applied to the grievant in a manner different from that used for other students.

Disability Access

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students Accessibility Services (SAS) (SVC 1133) in order to receive academic accommodations. SAS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation needs at least five (5) business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SAS must accompany this request.

Disruption to Academic Progress

Disruptive students in the academic setting hinder the educational process. Disruption of the academic process ([**USF Regulation 3.025**](#)) is defined as the act, words, or general conduct of a student in a classroom or other academic environment which in the reasonable estimation of the instructor: (a) directs attention away from the academic matters at hand, such as noisy distractions, persistent, disrespectful or abusive interruption of lecture, exam, academic discussion, or general University operations, or (b) presents a danger to the health, safety, or well-being of self or other persons.

Food and Housing Insecurity

We recognize that student facing financial difficulty in securing a stable place to live and/or in affording sufficient groceries may be at risk of these financial issues affecting their performance in classes. Students with these needs are urged to contact Feed-A-Bull (feedabull@usf.edu or [their website](#)), or Student Outreach and Support (socat@usf.edu or [their website](#)).

Religious Observances

All students have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices and beliefs ([USF Policy 10-045](#)). The University of South Florida, through its faculty, will make every attempt to schedule required classes and examinations in view of customarily observed religious holidays of those religious groups or communities comprising USF's constituency. Students are expected to attend classes and take examinations as determined by the university. No student shall be compelled to attend class or sit for an examination at a day or time prohibited by his or her religious belief. However, students should review the course requirements and meeting days and times to avoid foreseeable conflicts, as excessive absences in a given term may prevent a student from completing the academic requirements of a specific course. Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination, in accordance with this Policy.

Sexual Misconduct / Sexual Harassment

USF is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence ([USF Policy 0-004](#)). The USF Center for Victim Advocacy is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) (OSSR) or the [Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity](#) (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report. Please be aware that in compliance with Title IX and under the USF Policy, educators must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or personally to an educator, he or she is required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. Contact the USF [Center for Victim Advocacy](#): 813-974-5757.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to: Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor the Learning Management System for each class for course-specific communication, and the main USF, College, and Department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information ([USF Policy 6-010](#)). For additional guidance on emergency protective actions and hazards that affect the University, please visit www.usf.edu/em

Grades

100-95% A	<94-90% A-	<90-87% B+	<87-84% B	<84-80% B-
<80-77% C+	<77-74% C	<74-70% C-	<70-67% D+	<67-64% D
<64-60% D-	< 60% F			

In this course, [turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) will be utilized. Turnitin is an automated system which instructors may use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment.

For a more detailed look at this process visit <http://www.turnitin.com>.

First Day Attendance: 10%

Within the first week, you must reply to the 'First Day Attendance and Learner Introductions' discussion by responding with your name, where you are from, what you hope to get out of this course, and your favorite film.

You must complete this assignment within the first week of class!

Class Participation via online discussions: 60%

Poetry: 10%; Painting: 10%; Dance: 10%; Architecture: 10%; Music: 10%; Film: 10%

In each module, there will be 2 discussion sections, one for each of the artworks we look at. For each of these discussion sections, every student must post **ONE DISCUSSION QUESTION** and must post **ONE REPLY**. It cannot be to your own question!

Because of the online nature of our discussion, you will have until the start of the next module to make your posts.

Discussion questions should be thoughtful, and not answerable with an easy 'yes' or 'no', but they can ask for clarification about some aspect of the artwork.

Writing Assignment: 30% (Due MAY 2 before midnight)

The goal of this assignment is to respond to a piece related to something we have encountered so far in class through a close reading of that piece. Each student must write one essay. The paper should be written for an academic audience, with proper citations and style, and turned in through Canvas. Papers should be **NO LONGER THAN 5 PAGES** (no minimum length). Each paper should include the following:

Part I

1. A description of the historical CONTEXT of the piece chosen (when and by whom it was made, what was going on in the place and time, etc.
2. A brief analysis of the work according to its TEXT (according to genre: paintings should be analyzed in terms of style and theme, brushstrokes, etc.; architecture in terms of building style, layout, etc.; music in terms of lyrics and sound).
3. A brief analysis of its SUBTEXT (so you must state what you think the goal or meaning of the piece, what its hidden or deeper meaning might be, what can this piece tell us about the culture that created it? making sure to cite various aspects of the piece (a particular part of the painting or some piece of the story, etc) which supports your interpretation. You must USE the context and text in your discussion of the subtext!

Video Assignment 1.1 - Griot Singing
Audio Assignment 1.1 - Griot Tradition

Sundiata Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other post (which can be your own discussion question). These questions can concern any of the material related to Sundiata.

TUES JAN 25

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– *Link will be sent via CANVAS*

Lecture: the history of Medieval Mali and Griots; the history of Ancient Egypt and Religion

THURS JAN 27

SINUHE Independent work

Reading Assignment 1.2 - Sinuhe
Audio Assignment 1.2 - Tale of Sinuhe Podcast
Video Assignment 1.2 - Ancient Egyptian Poetry

Sinuhe Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

2. LANDSCAPE PAINTING

TUES FEB 1

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– *Link will be sent via CANVAS*

Lecture: Chinese Landscape Painting

THURS FEB 3

A THOUSAND LI OF RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS Independent work

Image Assignment 2.1 - Wang Ximeng Painting
Reading Assignment 2.1 - Chinese Landscape Painting
Video Assignment 2.1 - Chinese Landscapes

Wang Ximeng Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

TUES FEB 8

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– *Link will be sent via CANVAS*

Lecture: English, and American Landscape Painting

THURS FEB 10

HEART OF THE ANDES Independent work

Image Assignment 2.2 - Frederic Church Painting
Reading Assignment 2.2 - History of English Landscape Painting
Reading Assignment 2.3 - Mark Twain and Frederic Church

Frederic Church Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

3. DANCE

TUES FEB 15

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– *Link will be sent via CANVAS*

Lecture: The history of Hooping

THRUS FEB 17

HOOPING Independent work

Video Assignment 3.1 - Hoop Dance

Reading Assignment 3.1 - Dance and Embodiment

Reading Assignment 3.2 - History of the Hoop Dance

Hoop Dance Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

TUES FEB 22

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– *Link will be sent via CANVAS*

Lecture: The history Breaking

THURS FEB 24

BREAKING Independent work

Video Assignment 3.2 - Breakdance Championship

Video Assignment 3.3 - The History of Breaking

Break Dance Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

4. WRITING ASSIGNMENT

TUES MAR 1

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DISCUSSION AND RUBRIC

Please read over the posted rubric, and feel free to ask any questions you have about the writing assignment—I will reply ASAP!

5. ARCHITECTURE

TUES MAR 8

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– *Link will be sent via CANVAS*

Lecture: Religious Architecture in Italy

THURS MAR 10

FLORENCE CATHEDRAL Independent work

Image Assignment 5.1 - Florence Cathedral

Video Assignment 5.1 - The Dome

Video Assignment 5.2 - Brunelleschi

Il Duomo Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

SPRING BREAK: MAR 14-20

TUES MAR 22

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– Link will be sent via CANVAS

Lecture: Religious Architecture in Persia

THURS MAR 24

SHAH MOSQUE Independent work

Image Assignment 5.2 - Shah Mosque

Video Assignment 5.3 - Video of Mosque

Video Assignment 5.4 - History of Isfahan

Shah Mosque Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

6. MUSIC

TUES MAR 29

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– Link will be sent via CANVAS

Lecture: Economics and Musical Analysis

THURS MAR 31

BILLIONAIRE Independent work

Video Assignment 6.1 - Billionaire Video

Video Assignment 6.2 - Value and Commodity Fetishism

Billionaire Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

TUES APR 5

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– Link will be sent via CANVAS

Lecture: Economics and Musical Analysis

THURS APR 7

DIG IT Independent work

Video Assignment 6.3 - Dig It Video

Video Assignment 6.4 - A brief introduction to Capitalism

Dig It Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

7. FILM POEMS

TUES APR 12

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– Link will be sent via CANVAS

Lecture: Form and Meaning in Experimental Cinema

THURS APR 14

MOTHLIGHT Independent work

Video Assignment 7.1 - Mothlight Video

Reading Assignment 7.1 - Intro to Brakhage

Mothlight Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1

other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

TUES APR 19

ONLINE ATTENDANCE ENCOURAGED

– Link will be sent via CANVAS

Lecture: Digital Cinema and Disposability

THURS APR 21

THE HEARTBEATS OF MEMORY Independent work

Video Assignment 7.2 - Heartbeats of Memory Video

Reading Assignment 7.2 - Film Poetry Historical Analysis

Heartbeats of Memory Discussion – Post 1 discussion question, and reply to at least 1 other Post (which can be your own discussion question).

***** NO CLASS TUES APR 26 – THURS APR 28 *****

*****PAPER DUE MAY 2, THRU CANVAS*****