

# HUM 1020: Introduction to Humanities

## Summer B 2023

Class Meetings Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Class Meetings Time: 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Instructor: Jacqueline Merveille, M.A.

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm or  
by appointment

Classroom: BSN 2205

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Gustav Klimt, *The Kiss*, 1907-1908

## I. Welcome!

Welcome to Intro to Humanities! This course will expose students to various forms of art pertaining to different time periods sharing the overarching theme of **Love in Western Culture**. During our journey through time, we will discuss the different conceptions of love by observing, analyzing, and comparing works of painting, sculpture, photography, and film. Our exploration will help students acquire tools to describe pieces of art from various media, while different readings will complement our analysis to better understand how social and historical-cultural contexts shape the phenomena called "love."

## II. University Course Description

This course aims to expose students to the analysis of selected works of literature, music, film, and visual art, representing artists of diverse periods, cultures, genders, and races. This course is especially recommended for students who later take 4000-level Humanities courses.

## III. Course Prerequisites

Students who participate in this course must possess technical competencies that enable them to use several digital tools successfully and have regular, dependable access to the internet. Students must be able to independently navigate our online platform (Canvas) and regularly update their computer systems to ensure software and application compatibility.

#### IV. Learning Outcomes

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the humanities through the common thread of the concept of love. Our discussions will encompass a variety of themes related to love, such as gender, race, sexuality, class, place, and power. Through understanding the cultural influence on artistic productions, students will sharpen their ability to practice critical engagement with the arts and discover connections between creative expression, ideas, history, and society.

This course does not intend to cover all time periods or all creative or humanistic media and disciplines. Instead, the course provides an in-depth analysis of examples of creative works drawn from the Western culture at different times. The primary goal of this course is to gain an understanding of the cultural influence of these works. We will discuss the **social and historical context** in which they are made, the role they play in cultural life, their **social meanings**, and the **formal techniques** employed in their production.

**Important Note:** Some of the materials in this course contain content intended for mature adult readers or viewers. Some materials include explicit content, including discussions or depictions of sexual violence, racial violence, racial slurs, graphic and vulgar language, and nudity. In discussing such sensitive material, students are expected to speak and listen respectfully, purposefully, and open-mindedly. Students who believe they will be adversely affected by such material should either drop the course or communicate with the instructor during the first week of class to determine the best course of action.

#### V. How to Succeed in This Course

- **Participate regularly in class.** Make sure you keep up with course material and readings. Ask questions and participate meaningfully in course activities.
- **Take notes.** Taking and organizing notes is an essential element in the success of this course. Taking notes is an efficient way to remember class content better, allowing you to return to important information.
- **Read and watch thoroughly.** While reading, observing an artwork, or watching a film, be thorough and attentive to nuances. Take notes! Be attentive to the specifics of any given text.

- **Be organized and plan ahead.** For assigned readings and assignments, work in advance of the deadline.
- **Come and meet your instructor during office hours.** Attending office hours is an excellent way to process or further understand course content. I also offer students the opportunity to review drafts of papers to improve their final work.

## VI. Texts

There are no required books for this course.

This course has REQUIRED readings: articles, excerpts, and chapters that will be posted to CANVAS or available online. You will need to PRINT the readings in order to read and study them carefully. It is strongly recommended that you print out the posted readings when we begin each module to have what you need ahead of schedule.

Viewing films is a REQUIRED and essential part of this course. You are responsible for viewing the movie independently; they will not be screened during class time. You may need to purchase some films to view them multiple times. Please note that the cost of access to the movies is offset because there are no books to buy.

## VII. Assignments

### **Participation (10%)**

Most of your work in the course will take place in the form of in-class discussions and exercises. Your participation grade for the semester reflects your performance in the following criteria:

- Attendance: Did you attend class, show up on time, and have the necessary materials?
- Discussions: Did you participate in class discussions, group activities, or other exercises?
- In-class exercises: Occasionally, we will do short in-class writings or other activities to spur student involvement. While many of these will be un-graded, effort and grasp of materials will be partly assessed from these materials.

### **Unit Quizzes (30%)**

After each unit, students will take a quiz testing their comprehension of course information and concepts. These quizzes will contain multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in blanks questions. Multiple-choice and true/false questions will cover the fundamental

understanding of course information, while short answer questions will ask for elaborations of course concepts or for you to analyze an artwork using the skills developed in the unit.

Quizzes may be checked using the plagiarism detection service used by USF. **To succeed on the quizzes, your only resources are your lecture notes, course hand-outs or files posted to the modules, and assigned course texts (books, articles, films). Do not consult online sources, as they may well mislead you unless authorized by your instructor. Taking ideas, content, or writing from other sources without correct citations (MLA format) will constitute academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism.**

Your point score on all quizzes will be calculated at the end of the semester. Together, they will comprise 30% of your course grade.

### **Midterm Exam (30%)**

The midterm exam will address all the material covered prior to the exam. The exam must demonstrate attention to *both* the lectures and the assigned texts/films. Quality essays will be able to situate the text/film in its socio-historic context, offer details to support the claims, discuss central themes, and explain the formal features of the text/film. Quotations and citations from texts are necessary. Any plagiarized responses or answers taken from sources not assigned in this course will receive a failing grade.

### **Final Exam (30%)**

The final exam will emphasize all the material covered after the midterm; however, some themes, terms, and ideas have overarching importance. The final exam may require students to draw connections from across the semester, including material covered before the midterm. Essays must demonstrate attention to *both* the lectures and the assigned texts/films. Quality essays will be able to situate the text/film in its socio-historic context, offer details to support the claims, discuss central themes, and explain the formal features of the text/film. Quotation and citation from texts are necessary. Any plagiarized responses or answers taken from sources not assigned in this course will receive a failing grade.

Your final is currently scheduled for **TBD**. No final exams will be administered earlier or later without special documentation for medical or disability reasons.

## **VIII. Grades**

Final grades are calculated by the overall percentage you earn on each assignment, totaled into a percentage out of 100. Grades may be rounded to the next bracket if above the .5 decimal (so 89.5 is an A-) at the instructor's discretion. Any grades below 60 are an F.

Grading Scale (%)			
94-100	A	74-76	C
90-93	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	0 - 59	F

## IX. Course Schedule

Please note that the course's content selection can change according to time and class interest. The instructor will announce and email students with any changes.

### Before we start

Summer semesters are very short. Course material will be covered at a swift pace.

We will dedicate our first day of class to getting to know each other, overviewing the class structure, reviewing the course syllabus, and discussing what "Humanities" encompasses while introducing students to painting analysis.

**For the first class, please read David Behling's article "On Studying the Humanities."**

You will also be required to post a brief introduction of yourself on the discussion board and answer to two of your classmates' presentations.

Students will need to complete the quiz on the syllabus content.

**UNIT 1** – Introduction to Our Course: What are the Humanities and a Timeline of the Concept of Love

- Reading:
  - Article by David Behling: "On Studying the Humanities"
- Complete:
  - Quiz 1

**UNIT 2** - Romantic Love in the 1980s: Toward Changing Gender Norms

- Reading:

- Excerpt from bell hooks: "Introduction: Making Movie Magic."
  - Excerpt from Suzanna Danuta Walters: "Postfeminism and Popular Culture."
  - Article by Chloe Angyal: "Sex, Money and Knee-High Boots: A Cultural History of *Pretty Woman*."
  - Article "Film Analysis – Basic Terms"
  - Film Terminology
  - "What Are the Formal Elements of Film Analysis"
- Watch:
    - Movie *Pretty Woman* by Garry Marshall
  - Formal Analysis
    - Postfeminist movie
  - Complete:
    - Quiz 2

**UNIT 3:** - The Concept of Love in the Ancient World

- Reading:
  - Article by Ed Whelan: "Plato's *Symposium*: Love and Philosophy"
  - *Plato on Love* book excerpt – Introduction (Plato)
  - Excerpt from Plato's "Symposium" – Aristophanes' speech
  - "Elements of Sculpture Formal Analysis"
- Watch
  - Video "Plato's Symposium – Brief Introduction"
  - Video "Greek Sculpture"
  - Video "Greek Sculpture: Painted Marble, not White!"
- Formal Analysis
  - Ancient Greek sculptures
- Complete
  - Quiz 3

#### **UNIT 4:** - Love as a Political Force

- Reading:
  - Article by Rebecca Mead: "The Power of 'Love' in Politics"
  - Khan Academy article: "Introduction to the Civil Rights Movements."
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. speech, "An Experiment in Love" (1958)
  - "Intro to Photography" ("Reality Through the Arts")
  - Article by Philip Mowbray: "Understanding the 7 Formal Elements of Photography"
  
- Watch
  - Video "Love and Power"
  - Video "Martin Luther King jr.: Risked Life for Civil Rights Movements"
  - Video "Composition in Photography"
  
- Formal Analysis
  - Photographs of students' choices featuring MLK's "Agape" concept of love
  
- Complete
  - Quiz 4

#### **UNIT 5:** - Romantic Love in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Reading:
  - Article by Polly Young-Eisendrath: "Why Love in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is So Difficult"
  - Liv Strömquist comic book excerpt: "The Reddest Rose."
  
- Watch:
  - Video "Can Social Media Actually Harm Relationships."
  - Video "Social Media, Social Life: Teens Reveal Their Experiences."
  
- Complete
  - Quiz 5

#### X. Important Dates

- TBD

## XI. Course Policies

### 1. Attendance:

- First-day attendance is mandatory. You will automatically be dropped from the course if you are absent from the first class meeting. This is a USF policy, and the professor has no flexibility here.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Students are permitted TWO unexcused absences for the duration of the course (an excused absence is EITHER an absence approved by the instructor prior to the class in question OR an absence justified by documentation such as a doctor's note after the fact). Student Attendance & Participation grades are lowered by FIVE points for each additional unexcused absence. Habitual tardiness is not tolerated. For this reason, THREE tardies = ONE unexcused absence.
- Reading articles and book excerpts posted on Canvas and watching films are necessary to learn the material and pass the exams.

### 2. Course Etiquette:

- All communications for this course should demonstrate **professional respect** for your instructor. This applies to verbal, visual, and written communications.
- Communication with fellow students should demonstrate **respect and sensitivity**. We will sometimes discuss provocative and complex ideas and issues. You should strive to keep an open mind and enter dialogue in productive ways. **Abusive, racist, sexist, or demeaning comments or language will not be tolerated.**
- Questions and comments submitted to Discussion forums should be relevant to the topic and specific to the course materials.
- This is a university course, not a casual text conversation or social media platform. Your communications should reflect this **seriousness of purpose**.
- Proofread and edit your work before submitting it. Do not use text abbreviations or emojis. Also, be aware that humor and sarcasm may not be perceived in the way you intend in your written comments. Use such comments with caution.
- Do not use the class discussion forums to raise issues or concerns of a personal nature or to inquire about assignments, grades, due dates, etc. Any such concerns or questions should be handled by communicating directly with the instructor via email.
- Although individual viewpoints are welcome in response to discussion questions, please note that there is a difference between your view and your personal



experience. Reflect carefully on what you reveal in this public forum. Once again, this is a university course centered on education, not a social media forum.

3. Assignments:

- You will be informed of assignments and due dates during class, via Canvas Announcements, and/or email. Always check Canvas for more information. If you need additional help, please email the instructor directly.

4. Tardiness

- While exceptions might be made on a case-by-case basis, late papers or assignments will face grade-related penalties.
- Discussions on the discussion board will not be accepted past the assigned due date/time for each post and cannot be made up after the deadline.
- Online tests will be due on Sundays at midnight. Be sure to give yourself enough time to complete the test, as students can be locked out of the test if they exceed the midnight deadline. Students will face grade-related penalties should they fail to meet this deadline.

5. Preparedness:

- You are expected to review the assigned reading prior to every discussion and class meeting. You are expected to read every assignment and view the required films before discussing them in lectures.

6. Policy on cell phones and other electronic devices:

- During class, please **silence extraneous electronic** devices before the lecture starts. I know this is a challenge, but I will ask you to set aside your phones or electronic devices during class. You will need to concentrate on following the lectures, which present complex ideas and information. Remember, participation during class is graded by your instructor. Being on your phone is a distraction for yourself and others and can be considered disrespectful by your instructor. Respect is essential in this class, so I expect students to be mindful of others.

7. Student recordings:

- Per recent Florida legislation, students are permitted to record class lectures. These lectures, and any other course materials, are for individual use only and cannot be published online without the permission of the instructor.

- Please note that the legislation sets limits on what may be recorded and how those recordings can be used:
  - Recordings of other students, class participation, or discussion will NOT BE PERMITTED
  - Students do not need advance permission or to provide notice to record. But students must monitor their recording so that it does not include participation by other students.
  - Students may not publish (post or share) the recordings except as provided by statute. In the event permission is requested to publish (post, or share, the student's request and instructor's consent must be in writing.
  - Students and instructors are responsible for compliance with the statute and related potential sanctions. Misuse of the recordings may result in referrals as possible violations of the student code of conduct or considered academic disruptions.

#### 8. Disabilities:

- Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with the office of Students with Disabilities Services. Students requesting accommodations must notify the instructor and provide the appropriate **documentation** from the USF Office of Students with Disabilities Services. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting accommodation.

#### 9. Academic Dishonesty and Disruption:

- I have no tolerance for academic dishonesty and disruption. You are expected to observe USF policies regarding academic dishonesty and disruption. There are serious penalties for violating university policies. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in this course, the *minimum* penalty will be an **F for your course grade**. For further information and to read USF policies, see the USF Undergraduate Catalog.
- Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. If you have any doubts about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism on any given assignment, you should consult me *before it is too late!*
- The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service that allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to 1) request that assignments be submitted to me as electronic files and 2) electronically submit assignments to a plagiarism detection service. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers.

#### 10. Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Reporting:

- USF is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.
- The USF Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (813) 974-5757 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 System 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 to me, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation.

## *XII. Campus Free Expression*

It is fundamental to the University of South Florida's mission to support an environment where divergent ideas, theories, and philosophies can be openly exchanged and critically evaluated. Consistent with these principles, this course may involve discussion of ideas that you find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even offensive.

In the instructional setting, ideas are intended to be presented objectively and not as an endorsement of what you should believe. Objective means that the idea(s) presented can be tested by critical peer review and rigorous debate and that the idea(s) is supported by credible research.

Not all ideas can be supported by objective methods or criteria. Regardless, you may decide that certain ideas are worthy of your personal belief. In this course, however, you may be asked to engage with complex concepts and demonstrate an understanding of these ideas. Understanding an idea does not mean that you are required to believe it or agree with it.

## *XIII. Contacting Me:*

The best way to reach me is to send me an e-mail. Write "**INTRO HUMANITIES in the subject line**". You are welcome to stop by my office during office hours or to schedule an appointment to speak to me at another time. Please allow me 48 hours for a response. [jmerveille@usf.edu](mailto:jmerveille@usf.edu)