

HUM 1400 – Introduction to Humanities

Cedarville University Department of Music & Art

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Section Teaching Assistants to be announced at the start of the course

Course Description

Cedarville's Introduction to the Humanities is designed to consider, from the unique standpoint of a Christian worldview, the relationship of the visual arts, architecture, and music of Western civilization to the dominant cultural, religious and philosophical movements through the centuries. **Cedarville's Introduction to the Humanities is designed to consider, from the unique standpoint of a Christian worldview, the relationship of the visual arts, architecture, theatre, and music of Western civilization to the dominant cultural, religious and philosophical movements through the centuries. Due to the extensive and pervasive biblical worldview component, this course is not transferable, and may not be satisfied with CLEP or AP credit.** The timeframe is from ancient Greece to the present. This is a hybrid-delivery course, with the large enrollment being divided up into 9 sections; each section is broken down into 4- or 5-person "study teams," whose discussions are moderated by highly qualified teaching assistants. The course content and all measurements are delivered online. Some sections of the course are conducted in the hybrid format, which includes a once-weekly meeting on campus, while other sections are offered completely online.

NOTE: This course is an overview of the development of the arts of western civilization from a Biblical perspective. Qualified high school students are welcome to take the course; however, parents should understand that the course will treat some mature subjects in the arts (such as nudity in art, pagan religious activities and secular philosophy) analytically at a college level of discussion. Parents of high-school age academy students are advised to weigh carefully whether their teens are ready for this level of discussion; we encourage parents to take an active role in engaging and advising their children as we deal with such delicate subjects in a Christian context.

Purpose of the Course

The primary purpose of this course is to equip you to better understand your world through the lens of the creative arts. To that end, we will acquaint you with the historical development of the fine and performing arts, in order that you may be prepared to assess the arts as a "conversation" across time, which is sometimes being spoken more from a Graeco-Roman perspective and sometimes more from a Christian worldview. A corollary purpose is to increase the range of enjoyment and stimulation the student may derive from an intensified aesthetic experience.

Course Objectives

1. Explain the “spirit of the time” for each era of art history, and explore its influence on how works of art are perceived
2. Identify and explain the “artistic conversation” throughout the development of the arts in western civilization
3. Identify works of art and their place in the “artistic conversation,” and be able to evaluate a work of art based on its merits rather than on personal opinion
4. Develop a philosophical treatment of the arts and the “artistic conversation” from a Biblical Perspective
5. Demonstrate a growing appreciation for the arts.

Department Objectives

While housed in the Department of Music, Art, and Worship, the general-education course HUM 1400 Introduction to the Humanities is aimed at students across the university; it is designed to give you a few touchstones concerning what to look and listen for in works of art, music and literature, and a basic familiarity with the philosophical climate, major artistic styles, and artists/thinkers/composers of western culture. Thus the course addresses objectives 2, 3, and 5 of the Department’s stated objectives for our own majors during the academic year 2009-10, which are:

2. Students will articulate a Biblical philosophy of the fine and performing arts which reveals an understanding of the integration of faith and learning.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of historical as well as new styles of music and art.
5. Students will participate in performances or presentations which contribute to the artistic culture of the University and the community.

Texts

Cunningham, Lawrence and Reich, John. *Introduction to the Humanities*. 6th Edition, Alternate Volume. Orlando, FL: Cengage Learning, c.2006.

NOTE: This book is a custom-built edition for Cedarville University. This makes it distinct from any version you might find online. You must purchase the textbook from the University Bookstore, or buy it used from a student who has taken the course in the past year. Students taking the course from remote locations must order the textbook ahead of time in order to complete required readings on time.

Other readings are embedded in the course from a variety of sources.

Assignment Details

Content Gallery and Quizzes

The course consists of eleven units, each lasting 1 week. Each week you will begin by working individually to complete all the items in a unit’s “Content Gallery”. The Content Gallery may include readings from your textbook, online videos, and additional online readings. You will take a quiz for each of the textbook readings, and one unit quiz, which covers the readings AND the videos in a unit. The

exact nature of this quiz differs for fully online students and face-to-face students, so make sure to read the appropriate instructions in the Online Classroom.

Group Activity

Next there will be a group activity of some sort to guide you to bring the unit's issues and developments to bear on life in the 21st century. More instructions on this component are available in the Online Classroom.

Journal

Each unit of the course you will write a journal reflecting on what you have learned in the unit. You will be given a specific question, or prompt, asking you to reflect on the unit's big idea or Biblical tensions which arise therein. More instructions on this component are available in the Online Classroom.

Arts Experiences

Throughout the semester you will be required to complete three Arts Experience Assignments. For these assignments, you must attend and react to fine arts events. These include one fine art concert (music), one professional theater production (drama), and one art gallery or museum (visual arts). There may be some cost to attending these events, although most communities offer a number of free concerts which may count for the requirement. If you feel that this causes a financial hardship, we encourage you to redirect money you would ordinarily spend on entertainment (concerts, movies, ball games, mindless fun, etc.) to use for these fine-arts experiences. It will cost about the same, and you will be enriched and educated by the events you attend – which is, after all, one of the primary goals of this course.

If you have any questions about whether an event will fulfill the course requirement, you must ask your TA well in advance of the assignment deadline. Before you attend any of these assigned events, you must print a check sheet that will give you some guidance on how to interact with what you are seeing or hearing; take the check sheet with you to the event, and use it to take notes at the event. After attending the event, use your check sheet to enter your responses in the online form we have provided. This will be evaluated as a part of your grade for the course. You will also have access to a list of recommended events in the Cedarville, Ohio area. Students outside of the Cedarville area should submit ideas for each assignment to their TA for approval before attending.

Capstone Project

At the end of the course you will turn in your capstone project; this project summarizes all you have learned throughout the course. This is a group project that you will compile from pieces you complete during the last few units of the course. The exact nature of this project will be explained in a separate assignment sheet available in the Online Classroom.

Grading

At the conclusion of the term, your final letter grade will be earned on the basis of the completion of the following items:

For hybrid sections:

1. **Reading Quizzes (15%)**
2. **Unit Quizzes (15%)**
3. **Class/Group Participation (15%)**
4. **Arts Experiences (15% overall) – Three experiences, each worth 5%)**
5. **Journal (20%)**
6. **Capstone Project (20%)**

The Letter grades for the term are approximately as follows:

A	92-100	C	72-77
A-	90-91	C-	70-71
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	82-87	D	62-67
B-	80-81	D-	60-61
C+	78-79	F	59 or below

Attendance/Participation

Hybrid Sections Students: Students enrolled in hybrid sections of the class are required to attend all 12 class meetings. You may miss only one class session without a grade penalty. Each absence beyond this will result in 10-point reduction to your final grade. Participation in class activities is also expected. Lack of significant contribution in class will result in points deducted from your class participation score for the course.

Online Only Students: Students enrolled in fully online sections of Humanities are not required to attend live meetings, and thus do not have attendance requirements. Instead, timeliness for submitting assignments is stressed. Demonstrate your attentiveness in this course by submitting assignments early. Absolutely no assignments will be accepted late. However, you may receive full credit for one missed quiz or journal entry. Grace credit does not apply to arts experiences of the Capstone Project. It is your responsibility to arrange your one grace credit with your TA.

Disability Services

If you believe you may need support in managing the impact of a disability, please contact Amy Frey, afrey@cedarville.edu, (Disability Services). Faculty rely on Disability Services to verify the need for academic accommodations and to identify reasonable and appropriate accommodation strategies. Disability Services is part of the Academic Enrichment Center-The Cove located in the BTS building.