

Mid-19th Century to the Present
Summer Session II (July 6-August 6, 2020)
HUMN 2043/4043 X40

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This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to the cultures of the United States, Europe, China, Japan, Africa, and Latin America from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. The emphasis will be on Western cultures, including the major movements in the arts in literature that have shaped our culture, such as Impressionism, Modernism, and Postmodernism. We will look at all aspects of culture, including history, art, literature, philosophy, and music. Students will thus acquire an understanding of world cultures and how they have developed during this time period; encounter different ways of viewing the world; learn to analyze, interpret, and think critically about diverse works of art, literature, and music; experiment with interdisciplinary approaches to the material; and learn to identify, describe, and discuss major themes, works, movements, and historical events. They will also develop critical thinking and writing skills in short essays, evaluating individual works and synthesizing the knowledge they have gained. Participation in class discussion and activities will help them to express themselves and support their ideas at an advanced level. In exploring these different cultures, students will hopefully wish to continue to learn about them after the end of the semester, and even visit some of the countries we will discuss.

Note: Once you have read and understood this syllabus, please take the ungraded self-assessment quiz on it on D2L by clicking on Assessments > Self-Assessments. You will not be able to submit the assignment for tomorrow until you have successfully completed the Syllabus Quiz.

Course Schedule

Chapter 18: Impressionism and Post-Impressionism

July 6 Introduction; Impressionism
Reading: 238-43

7 Art; Symbolist Literature; Music; Opera
Reading: 244-46; 258-59
Writing: Response to Charles Baudelaire or Stéphane Mallarmé

8 Naturalist Literature; Post-Impressionism
Reading: 246-51; 259-64
Writing: Response to Kate Chopin or Henrik Ibsen

9 Art; Sculpture; Architecture; Philosophy
Reading: 252-56; 264-71

Writing: Response to Friedrich Nietzsche or Sigmund Freud
Quiz 1 on Chapter 18

Chapter 19: Later Chinese Civilization

13 History, Painting; Calligraphy; Ceramics; Literature

Reading: 274-85; 290-92

Writing: Response to Yuan Hong-Dao, Yuan Zhong-Dao, Cao Xueqin, or Zhang Ting-Yu

14 Architecture; Music; Literature

Reading: 285-88; 292-93

Writing: Response to Lu Xun, Bei Dao, or Li-Young Lee

Quiz 2 on Chapter 18

Chapter 20: Later Japanese Civilization

15 History; Painting; Woodblock Prints; Gardens; Literature

Reading: 296-300; 302-7; 312-15

Writing: Response to Saikaku Ihara, Hakuin Ekaku, or Yosano Akiko

16 Architecture; Theater; Music; Literature

Reading: 301-2; 307-10; 315-17

Writing: Response to Ryunosuke Akutagawa or Yukio Mishima

Quiz on Chapter 19

Chapter 21: Later Africa and Latin America

20 African History; Sculpture; Music; Literature

Reading: 320-28; 336-37; 344-47

Writing: Response to Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, or J. M. Coetzee

21 Latin American History; Painting; Music; Literature

Reading: 328-34; 337-44

Writing: Response to Jorge Luis Borges, Pablo Neruda, Julio Cortázar, Gabriel García Márquez, or Rosario Castellanos

Quiz on Chapter 20

Chapter 22: Early Twentieth Century

22 Art Before World War I; Music; Literature

Reading: 350-56; 364-69; 384-87

Writing: Response to Franz Kafka or T. S. Eliot

23 Art; Literature

Reading: 356-61; 392-93

Writing: William Butler Yeats or Rainer Maria Rilke

Quiz on Chapter 21

27 Sculpture; Architecture; Literature

Reading: 361-64; 387-88; 390-92

Writing: Response to Virginia Woolf or James Joyce

28 Film; Music; History; Literature

Reading: 369-73; 384-85

Writing: Response to Anna Akhmatova or Osip Mandelstam

Quiz 1 on Chapter 22

29 American Art and Literature

Reading: 373-82; 387-90

Writing: Response to Ernest Hemingway or Langston Hughes

Chapter 23: Mid-Twentieth Century and Later

30 History; Philosophy; Art

Reading: 396-404; 418-20

Writing: Response to Sartre

Aug. 3 Architecture; Drama; Sculpture; Artists of the Everyday

Reading: 404-11; 421-24

Writing: Response to Eugene Ionesco

Quiz 2 on Chapter 22

4 Minimal and Conceptual Art; Architecture; Literature; Music

Reading: 411-16; 420-21; 424-25

Writing: Response to Allen Ginsburg or Wislawa Szymborska

5 Twenty-First Century; Postmodernism

Reading and Writing: Response to Eric Chevillard (D2L)

Quiz on Chapter 23

6 Final Essay Exam Due

Course Requirements:

1. Participation (2043, 30% total; 4043, 25% total). It is essential that you participate in the online discussion forums. To do so, from the main course page in D2L, click on Communications, then scroll down and click on Discussions.

D2L tells me whether you have engaged with each forum and how many posts you have made. You should perform every activity (such as watching videos or looking at artworks) in every forum for the day, and respond as follows:

1) First, post a response as a reply to my prompt in the thread that relates to the work you did your daily assignment on. You should post what you think is most interesting in your response. Please don't post the entire response, because discussion posts that appear too long tend to get skipped. In general, you should post about 4-6 sentences, but those are not strict numbers.

2) Second, respond to a video posted by me or to somebody else's comment in the same forum (on the reading for the day).

3) Third, watch all of the videos and study any artistic works assigned for the day, and post at least three comments of your own as a response to the relevant thread. These may be replies to me or to any other student.

General rules for comments: Your comment should add something interesting to the conversation, which means it should be at least one full, complex sentence. If you merely say, "I completely agree with you," your post will not count. That is, you can agree with someone or disagree, but you must also briefly explain why, adding something new (e.g., "I completely agree with you, and I would like to add that xxx"). D2L will tell me how many posts you have made each day, so I can check that you have done at least the minimum (quantity), but I will also read your comments and take general notes on how insightful they are (quality). Both quantity and quality will be considered when I give you your final participation grade. I will be reading your discussions as you are writing, while grading your daily responses. I will pop in from time to time to respond to individual posts, ask important questions, and help to guide the discussion as necessary.

If you have questions for me that are relevant to the discussion, you may post a question addressed to me ("Professor") as a reply to a thread and I will respond. This will count as one of your posts. If you have a more personal question for me, you may email me either directly or through D2L.

Try to start posting comments early in the day, or even the evening before. Obviously, if everyone tries to post comments toward the end of the day, the discussion will not be as productive. You will have until 6 p.m. on the day of the class to post your comments. At that time I will finish evaluating your comments and have D2L calculate how many posts you made. I will then post the forum for the following day, so you can start doing the work for it, including watching videos introducing the works you will be reading next. If you wish to see a forum from a previous day, simply scroll down. It will still be visible and you may read through it and consult it, if you wish, for quizzes and tests.

2. Reflective Quizzes (2023, 15% total; 4043, 10% total). You will have a total of eight short, open-book reflective quizzes, as indicated in the course schedule. These quizzes are designed to help you apply abstract ideas to particular works of art or literature.

3. Critical Writing Assignments (2013, 30% total; 4043, 25% total). You will write short critical responses of about one double-spaced page (c. 250 words) to the primary readings in the textbook as indicated in the syllabus. Note: these are the readings at the back of each chapter in the textbook, as indicated by the last set of page numbers. Your response should 1) briefly demonstrate your understanding of the text; 2) offer an interpretation or commentary; 3) briefly situate it within the context we are studying and/or compare and contrast it with other primary texts. One way to situate the text within the context is to do the background reading on it in the textbook and at least say who the author is, what they were known for, or something similar. Another way to put the text in context is to compare it with texts or artworks we have already discussed, or even with works you have encountered in other classes or on your own. The quality of your writing (grammar, spelling, and organization) will also be counted for these assignments, which should be considered “mini-essays.” Under Content > Important Course Documents, you will find the rubric I use to grade your daily assignments.

Please submit your daily assignment by 11 a.m. on the day it is due through Dropbox. To submit, either click on the assignment on the course homepage calendar or access it through Assessments > Assignments. The Dropbox has already been prepared for all of your assignments, so you may work ahead if you choose to.

4. Final Exam (2033, 25%; 4043, 20%). The final exam will consist of a critical thinking essay that will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the course material as a whole.

5. Research-Based Presentation (4043, 10%). Upper-level students must choose a topic for a presentation (if you were giving the presentation in class, it would be about 10 minutes long). The topic should complement the textbook, not repeat what it says. You will be expected to consult at least three scholarly sources, and give me an outline of the presentation and a bibliography in MLA or APA style on the day of your presentation. You should look through the textbook and submit a topic proposal to me by **July 12**, and we will set a date for your presentation. You should send your presentation and a transcript of what you would say if you were showing it in class directly to me by email, and I will post in online for the rest of the class to comment and ask questions.

6. Research Paper (4043, 10%). Upper-level students will write a 5-page research paper on a topic of their choice, **but not on the same topic as their presentation. The paper must be in MLA or APA format, including in-text citations.** Please submit a brief paper proposal by **July 19**. The paper is due by the day of the final exam. If it is late, your grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (e.g., A > A-) per day, including weekends.

Course Policies:

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism will not be tolerated, including on the daily assignments and in the discussion boards. If you *deliberately* plagiarize on any assignments (daily assignments, quizzes, tests, discussion posts), or engage in any other

form of academic dishonesty as defined by the MSU Student Handbook and the course Academic Dishonesty Policy (available on D2L under Content > Important Course Documents), **you will get an F in the course. There will be no second chances.** Other notable forms of academic dishonesty include, for instance, forging doctor's notes and lying to the professor.

Communication: I will communicate with you through the Announcements on our D2L course homepage. You are responsible for checking the Announcements daily for any reminders, clarifications, or other communications from me.

Safe Zone Statement: This online classroom is a "safe zone" in which all students will be treated and will treat one another equally, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is encouraged.

PowerPoint Presentations and Online Videos: I will provide links under Content on D2L to all PowerPoint presentations and online videos posted in class so that you may review them without going back through all the discussions. Additional required and recommended materials will occasionally be posted on D2L.

Office Hours: If you have any questions or would like some extra assistance in the class, please email me. If you would like, we can use an online platform for a face-to-face discussion.

Required Book (at the bookstore and on reserve at the library): Benton, Janetta and Robert DiYanni. *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities*. Vol. 2. 4th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2012.