HUM 2020: Introduction to Humanities

CRN: 51910
Three Semester Credits
Prerequisite: ENC1101 with a minimum grade of "C." (Meets Philosophy/Religion Humanities requirement.)

Summer 2026, Term A: 5/15/2026 – 7/31/2026

Instructor: Dr. Jason Wenzel, PhD

Professor Contact Information

Office Email: jhamilton@gulfcoast.edu
Office Hours: No in-person office hours during the summer. Please email to set up a Zoom meeting appointment

Email policy: I check email daily, Monday through Friday, and respond to emails within two days, barring illness or emergency. I do not check or respond to email on the weekend. Emails sent on Friday may not receive a response until Tuesday morning. If you choose to email me through my gulfcoast.edu address, you must clearly identify who you are and which class you attend.

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn about the creative ideas and accomplishments of various cultures in various fields of the humanities that may include art, architecture, drama, history, music, literature, philosophy, and religion. The course will include cultural expressions from the Western canon and may also include expressions from around the globe. This is a course for which students will produce extensive college-level writing and which requires completion with a minimum grade of "C."

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of arts and ideas and synthesize information from various sources.
- Students will analyze and interpret selected expressions of arts and ideas.
- Students will compare and contrast selected expressions of arts and ideas.
- Students will identify contextual influences on the development of interdisciplinary arts and ideas.

Course Goals

What does it mean to live a meaningful life, and how have religions, philosophies, and historical narratives shaped our understanding of the human condition? This course explores essential questions—identity, purpose, mortality, love, beauty, and faith—through the lens of religion, history, and the arts. By examining works that span film, literature, philosophy, music, painting, and sculpture, students will consider how different cultures and epochs have grappled with the complexities of being human.

Through an interdisciplinary approach, students will learn to analyze and synthesize insights across disciplines, with particular emphasis on the role of religious thought and historical contexts in shaping expressions of human experience. Each work will serve as a touchpoint for exploring how art and ideas have provided humanity with tools for resilience, self-reflection, and connection. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper appreciation for the humanities as a way to navigate and enrich the complex journey of being human.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy (AI): See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Limited Assistive Use Only: Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus); however, the use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) for generating, rewriting, or enhancing content is not permitted. All work must reflect the student's original ideas and writing. Representing work created by AI as one's own is a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

Course Requirements

1. Attend lecture and take notes, participate in class discussions.
2. Read and/or view assigned materials, available through Canvas, and/or the GCSC Main Campus Library, or a streaming platform like YouTube in a timely manner to be prepared for class. There is no assigned textbook to purchase for the class.
3. Take and pass a midterm and final examination. These examinations will require a blue book and blue or black ink pens. The final exam will include one comprehensive essay question.
4. Produce original essays, including small reflective and/or analytical essays as well as a major research paper. Guidelines for writing assignments can be found on Canvas.
5. Produce one creative project.

       Grade Breakdown:
- Bi-weekly Reflective Writing, 1-2 pages analyzing the readings and artworks: 20%
- Examinations -- Midterm and a Final: 30%
- Research Paper: 20%
- Creative Project: 10%
- Participation: 20 %

       Grade Scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (0-59)

GCSC Social Sciences Policies
AY 2025-2026

Academic Integrity Policy - Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion in the student's records.

- "**Cheating**" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework.
- "**Plagiarism**" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of another person's published or unpublished work without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects.
- "**Self-plagiarism**" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.
- **The use of AI software** in any form to create class assignments may violate GCSC's Academic Integrity Policy. Before employing AI technology in any manner and to any degree, students should consult with their professors for all courses offered through the Social Sciences Division.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Student Accessibility Statement - Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If aspects of this course's instruction or design hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Before receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - Under federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the student(s) paying damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf

Email & Voicemail Response Time - Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may or may not check email during holidays or weekends. This

policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Attendance - Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as the submission of complete written assignments before their posted deadline.

Withdrawals - Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals - Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grades - Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:
- Submit a written request to the instructor before the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse.

Division Contact Information			
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