This course introduces students to “Humanities and Cultural Studies” as an academic field of study. Engaging a range of concepts, research methods and approaches to scholarship, critical reflection, and creative work in the humanities, students will learn about and practice working within the interdisciplinary study of cultures and meanings. Required for all students pursuing the B.A in Humanities and Cultural Studies (but open to other students as well), this course teaches and practices skills to study the production of meaning by human cultures and to focus on particular cultural or critical areas for more sustained study and applications. Students will improve their ability to read and think critically, write and argue persuasively, and engage in relevant research in the Humanities while developing their skills of critical evaluation and constructive engagement.

No Prerequisites. The course is required for Humanities and Cultural Studies majors, but open to all undergraduates.

Required Texts:
- Strunk and White. *Elements of Style*. (Available in most bookstores and online)
- One other book chosen by the student later in the semester.
- Various other texts will be available online or through reserve in the library.

Other Resource Requirements (more information provided in class):
- Students will be required to attend one performance event during the semester.
- Students will be required to attend one visual arts event during the semester.
- Students will be required to read one additional book during the semester.
- Students will be required to watch an additional movie during the semester.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING
• Attendance and active participation, including completion of all assigned readings and related tasks prior to class, including in class quizzes (30%)
• Weekly Submission of “Topics for Intellectually Interesting Conversations” (instructions given in class), including occasional presentation in class (30%)
• Three “Critical Field Reports” (further instructions given in class) (30%)
• Final Examination (10%)
GRADING SCALE

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ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (30%)
As a significant part of learning in this course grows out of in-class discussions, attendance and active participation are very important. Three absences are allowed; after the third absence, each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by three percentage points. Students should come to class prepared to participate actively in our class discussions; this includes having read all the assigned readings prior to the beginning of class and having completed all other assigned tasks. Failure to participate in class can likewise lower your final grade by three percentage points.

To encourage attendance and class participation, frequent quizzes and in-class writing assignments will be given. If missed, these quizzes and miscellaneous in-class writing assignments or exercises cannot be made up, but each student is given ten bonus points at the beginning of the semester to offset the penalties for missing one class. If a student fails to show up for an examination, she/he fails the test. If you anticipate a scheduling conflict with an examination, you must consult the instructors at least two weeks prior to the exam.

Of course, you should also arrive to class on time; after two late arrivals, each subsequent late arrival penalizes your final grade by two percentage points. Students who need accommodation for a religious holiday occurring at any time during the semester should notify the instructors during the first week of class; otherwise, they will be held fully accountable for the class period missed. Also, be advised that we will often cover materials in class that are not included on the syllabus; you are responsible for all material covered during your absence.

Topics for Intellectually Interesting Conversations (weekly assignment) (30%)
Most Friday classes we will have “intellectually interesting conversations” in which we develop and then practice relevant skills including critical reading, thinking, writing, and coherent persuasive expression. The specific guidelines for these weekly assignments are further introduced within the first two weeks of the semester.

“Field Reports” (Three papers of appr. 1500 words each) (30%)
As Humanities and Cultural Studies actively and critically engages the production of meaning in various disciplinary fields, students are required to attend, observe, and critically reflect on events in several categories (performance, visual art, cultural or political activism, etc.), read additional material/books, and write papers in which they reflect critically on their observations. Further instructions will be given in class.

Final Examination (10%)
Scheduled according to UCF’s final exam schedule.
Verification of class participation (the “Are you here?” Test)
As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students’ academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the “Are you here - Test” (in Webcourses) by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 27. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

MAKE-UP WORK / EXTRA CREDIT
As a rule, no make-up assignments or extra credit will be given. Plan to do the necessary work to succeed on your assignments, rather than relying on special assignments to improve your grade.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS
Hand your work in on time, please. The final grade of an assignment is lowered five points for each day (including week-ends) that it is not turned in on time.

WEBCOURSE-SITE
The Webcourse site contains links to reserved readings, the most recent version of the syllabus and schedule, and additional announcements. It also provides the opportunity for students to discuss course related topics. Students should check the Webcourse site frequently to be well informed about any changes or additional material relevant to the course.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
All work that you submit for this class must be your own, and it must be written exclusively for this course. Also, any sources consulted for your writing must be properly documented. “Rewriting,” in which a student consults a source, changes a few words, and presents the ideas as his/her own, is plagiarism. All of the following activities constitute plagiarism:

• turning in someone else’s work as your own
• copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
• failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
• giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
• changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
• copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not
• Note: it is even possible to plagiarize yourself if you turn in work that you have written previously, or that you are using for another class, as if it is original for this class. If you want to use work for more than one class, you should always discuss this with both professors before you submit the work.

The standard punishment for plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment is an “F” for the assignment or even for the entire course. Plagiarism and cheating subjects a student to referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/). I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic
integrity. In other words, do not cheat by giving answers to others or by taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so do not expect me to change your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

The resource of turnitin.com may be used for certain assignments in this class.

**UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER**
The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC’s purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due date to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you’d like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. This service is free, so you should take advantage of it. 407-823-2197  http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

**SYLLABUS AMENDMENT**
This syllabus may be amended or modified in any way upon notice; most such changes will affect the Schedule, so be sure that you know if any due dates change.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**
Proper classroom behavior is expected at all times. Students must follow UCF standards for personal and academic conduct as outlined in The Golden Rule. As a matter of common courtesy, please arrive on time prepared to stay for the entire class, and do not engage in conversation other than the classroom critical discussions we will be having about the texts on hand. Proper classroom conduct also entails creating a positive learning experience for all students, regardless of sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, social class, or any other feature of personal identification; therefore, sexist, racist, prejudicial, homophobic, or other derogatory remarks will not be tolerated.
ELECTRONICS, COMPUTERS, AND CELL PHONES
Please turn off cell phones before coming to class. Laptop computers are unnecessary for this class and, therefore, need not be brought to class. Unless you are on call for an emergency, there is also no need to read or send text messages.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY
Food and drink are discouraged, but not forbidden, in the classroom. However, if it is necessary for you to eat or drink during class, please remember the “X 20” rule: if everyone in the class does what you are doing, how great of a disruption would it be? That is to say, a doughnut is much quieter to eat than potato chips; a drink with ice and a straw is much louder than a drink in a can. It is inappropriate to eat a meal during class.

E-MAIL ETIQUETTE
When communicating with e-mail, please use good manners. Include a greeting (e.g., “Dear Dr. Schippert”) and a closing (“Sincerely”). Use proper spelling and punctuation. Although e-mail in some ways encourages informal communications, do not forget that your correspondence for coursework requires attention to detail so that you can present yourself in a professional manner.