



HUM 2020: Encountering the Humanities
Section 2. Course #18859
TR 10:30-11:45. NSC-108
Spring 2018
Dr. Claudia Schippert
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Office Hours: T R 3:00-4:00pm.
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Course Description: This course introduces the range of ideas, research methods and approaches to scholarship, critical reflection, and creative work in the Humanities. Intentionally interdisciplinary in its focus on contemporary approaches to the Humanities, this course explores how human cultures produce meaning. Reflecting critically on these productions, students will learn to evaluate and author their own meaningful interpretations that contribute to responsible engagement with the many different cultural expressions we encounter today. Students will also learn about critical reading and thinking, persuasive writing and speaking, and how to engage in relevant research in the Humanities.

As a General Education Course, the course has the following objectives:

- Identify and deepen appreciation of common human themes and the richness of diverse cultures.
- Be able to analyze and discuss meaning of an artwork, performance, or text in diverse aesthetic, historical and cultural contexts.
- Be able to gather, synthesize, and analyze information from appropriate resources and be able to critically evaluate information and sources for accuracy and credibility.

Additional course objectives are:

- Think critically about the world we live in
- Understand the production of meaning by human cultures
- Examine how meaning is generated, disseminated, and produced in social, political and economic spheres within a given culture
- Identify particular cultural or critical areas for more sustained study and applications
- Combine historical, literary, artistic, philosophical, and related critical approaches in interdisciplinary study in the Humanities
- Be prepared to engage research effectively

Required Texts and Other Resources:

- All assigned class readings will be made available through webcourses.
- Top Hat - paid subscription (see “attendance and participation” below)
- Additional completion of two cultural events or activities (see “fieldwork” below)

Top Hat (required)

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if you don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/913770>

Note: our Course Join Code is 913770.

Top Hat will **require a paid subscription**, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Requirements and Grading (percentage of final grade):

20% Attendance

10% Class Participation (includes preparation for class by completion of assigned readings and quality of participation)

10% Active Participation in Work Groups (quality of participation in assigned groups)

10% Fieldwork

25% Midterm Exam

25% Final Exam

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and important. You must be present and participate in class in order to succeed in this course. Top Hat will be used to record attendance and the quality of your engagement with class discussion and questions based on assigned readings. Absence from class will result in a lower grade. Possible exceptions regarding absences include university business and religious holidays. Please discuss any absence in this category with me *in advance*. In general, there will be no make-up exams, except in verified cases as noted above or in cases of documented illness or documented family death or illness. You need to notify me of such cases with documentation *within one week of return to class*.

Class Participation: Active participation need not mean constant vocal involvement, although students are encouraged to engage classroom discussion. Active listening, paying attention, and thinking in the classroom, including involvement in class exercises are appropriate and important participation. Top Hat will be used to record attendance

and the quality of your engagement with class discussion and questions based on assigned readings. Please note that you may be called upon (and/or prompted through TopHat) in any given class to discuss aspects of the assigned reading. Please note that *you must complete the assigned readings or related tasks before the start of each class* to be prepared for class discussion and relevant quiz questions or related classroom exercises.

No make-up exams, no extra credit, but 5 points technical difficulties-bonus

Except as noted above, there will be no opportunity for extra credit work or to make up missed exams or quizzes. Prepare well for the assigned work and you will not need it! In recognition of occasional potential technical difficulties with TopHat or potential confusions with particular quiz questions, every student will receive a 5-point bonus up front. Should a student wish to retake an exam or quiz because of demonstrated technical difficulties or justifiable confusion about a test question, the retaken test/quiz grade will be recorded, but the -point bonus will disappear from the student's grade record.

Quizzes, Exams, and other graded exercises: Throughout the semester, students take various announced and unannounced quizzes on material reviewed in class or material assigned in preparation for class. Some of these will be conducted via the Tophat app, others require students to take the quiz online or in class. Please check the schedule regularly to be aware of due-dates and upcoming tests.

- You have to take the “**Are you here?**”- **quiz** in the first week of classes.
- **Midterm** (further instructions given in class)
- **Final** (conducted during the final examination period as determined by UCF.)

Work-Groups

Each student will be part of a “work-group” that will periodically engage in specific exercises or work collectively on a problem or task. Active participation and the quality of contributions to the work-group is evaluated and counts toward the final grade. More information about the groups and about specific assignments will be given in class early in the semester.

Fieldwork

In addition to students preparing for and discussing material in the classroom, students will also encounter the Humanities through direct experiences outside the classroom, e.g. by visiting a museum, attending a cultural performance, watching a culturally significant or intellectually interesting movie, participating in another cultural event or engaging in addition reading outside of class. The students' work-groups will collectively reflect on fieldwork experiences. More information about the groups and about specific fieldwork opportunities will be given in class early in the semester.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grading Points
A	93.5 - 100 %	234 - 250
A -	90.0 - 93.4 %	225 - 233
B +	86.5 - 89.9 %	217 - 224
B	83.5 - 86.4 %	209 - 216
B -	80.0 - 83.4 %	200 - 208
C+	76.5 - 79.9 %	192 - 199
C	73.5 - 76.4 %	184 - 191
C -	70.0 - 73.4 %	175 - 183
D+	66.5 - 69.9 %	167 - 174
D	63.5 - 66.4 %	159 - 166
D -	60.0 - 63.4 %	150 - 158
F	Less than 60 %	Less than 150

POLICIES

Class Room Academic Behavior: Class starts and ends on time. Please be there from the beginning of class and stay until class is finished. Coming late or leaving early is very disruptive. Please be respectful of your peers and your instructor. Consult the golden rule and especially the sections about conduct and academic behavior. The use of laptops and similar electronic devices is only permitted for tasks relevant to the class. You may not use a laptop for any other purpose in class. You may not send or receive unrelated text messages during class time. Please note that I will enforce this rule. Please note that in this course we are engaged in studying many diverse cultures and topics. You are expected to learn critical thinking skills that will enable you to more critically and effectively engage a diverse world in a scholarly way. Speech or behavior that is discriminatory or singles out students or groups for negative personal comments is not acceptable.

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. If you have even the smallest doubt that you are familiar with these rules, please see the UCF Golden Rule for further information. 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, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Responsibility: It is each student's responsibility to come to class prepared. That means that you are expected to have read all the assigned readings prior to class. You may be prompted to answer quiz questions or be called upon in class to discuss your understanding of the material. Class discussions will assume that you have read the assigned material and have spent some time with critical reflection of it. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what happened and what assignments need to be turned in.

Communication with the Instructor: The best way to reach me is in person during my office hours. (Please note: Mostly I will not spend class time discussing test scores or other basic 'housekeeping' issues. I am happy to discuss these with you outside of class. Please make sure that you have read the syllabus carefully as it contains a lot, possibly most, relevant information.) If you wish to email me with a concern, please note that I cannot discuss grades with you over email. I consider 48 hours a reasonable turnaround time for responses to student emails. I read and send email during the hours of 9am- 5pm.

Disability Statement: Each student should have the opportunity to learn and participate in class. Should a student have any hearing, visual, physical, or other condition that needs to be considered in enabling their learning process, please let me know. I will make every effort to facilitate student learning. Please contact SDS, and arrange for assistance, at the beginning of the semester.

Change: The syllabus and course schedule may be changed at any time by the instructor. Students must check the webcourse schedule regularly in order to be aware of any new information or assignments.