



HUM 2210: Humanistic Tradition I

Department of Philosophy
College of Arts and Humanities, University of Central Florida

Instructor:	Dr. Jeffrey Nall	Term:	Spring 2018
Office:	TBA	Class Meeting Days:	M/W/F
E-Mail:	Jeffrey.Nall@ucf.edu	Class Meeting Hours:	9:30am-10:20am
Office Hours:	By appointment	Class Location:	BA1 0147
		Course Number:	10827
		Section Number:	0001

About the Professor

Dr. Jeffrey Nall earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Studies from Florida Atlantic University (FAU). He has a Master of Liberal Studies from Rollins College and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from FAU. Dr. Nall has taught a range of courses in philosophy, humanities, and women, gender, and sexuality studies at institutions including Indian River State College and Florida Atlantic University.

University Course Catalog Description

An interdisciplinary, multicultural study of the arts and sciences contributed by diverse human traditions to world civilization. Focus is on ancient civilizations and the cultural heritage stemming from them. Primary sources (in translation) are emphasized. (3 credits)

Course Overview

In Humanistic Traditions we will explore the humanities in a chronological and thematic manner. Our primary though not exclusive focus will on the beginnings of culture and the rise of human civilization preceding the Reformation. Though this is a survey course we will engage in in-depth study and discussion of a handful of significant works in the fields of religious studies, history, and philosophy. This course will also introduce students to what precisely the humanities are, why they are worth studying, and how they impact us in the present on a personal and social level. The course seeks to demonstrate the relevance of the humanities to students' contemporary lives, and also to develop students' critical thinking and communication skills.

Important: Note that Humanistic Traditions I is a "Gordon Rule" course requiring students to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple writing assignments. Furthermore, in order for the completed course to count toward GEP requirements you must earn a minimum of a C-.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of "Humanistic Traditions I," students will have:

1. Demonstrated knowledge of significant cultural artifacts (such as text, art, music, and performance), ideas (such as can be found in religious and philosophical thought), and events in various cultural eras.
2. Identified the basic components of critical and creative thinking.
3. Accurately identified and expressed the basic meaning and scope of the humanities.

4. Demonstrated clear, precise, and reasonable written communication examining distinguished primary sources and/or scholarly works in the humanities.
5. Authored several written critical reflections contemplated the merits and significance of diverse humanistic representations and theories of the human condition.
6. Engaged their peers in considerate, open-minded discussion about philosophical theories, such as stoicism, mythology, the status of women in ancient civilizations, and the beginnings of contemporary religions, such as Christianity and Buddhism.
7. Through regular reflection and discussion, students will have demonstrated awareness of the role of culture in shaping the individual and society, as well as the potential for individuals to contribute in the shaping of culture.

FINANCIAL AID ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENT

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 short syllabus quiz available via the webcourse site. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Texts and Materials

Required Texts

1. Sayre, Henry M. *Discovering the Humanities*. Boston: Pearson, 2016. 3rd edition (ISBN-13: 978-0133877700)
 - o [Note: previous editions are allowable but may be missing updates relevant to the course; aim to purchase at least the second edition if not the third]
2. Lerner, Gerda. *The Creation of Patriarchy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. (ISBN: 9780195051858)
3. Ehrman, Bart. *Lost Christianities*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. (ISBN: 9780195182491)
4. Campbell, Joseph. *Myths to Live By*. New York: Penguin Books, 1993. (ISBN: 9780140194616)
5. Aurelius, Marcus. *Meditations*. Dover, 1997. (9780486298238) [Any edition will do]

Webcourse-Site

- The Webcourse site contains links to readings, the most recent version of the syllabus and schedule, and additional announcements. Students should check the Webcourse site frequently to be well informed about any changes or additional material relevant to the course.

Basis for Final Grade

Final grades will be calculated on the basis of successful completion of the following assessments:

Assessment	Percent of Grade
(About) Midterm Journal	10pts/ 5%
Midterm Exam	50pts/ 25%
Term Paper	40pts/ 20%
(Final) Humanities Journal	50pts/ 25%
Final Exam	50pts/ 25%
Total	200pts/ 100%

(About) Midterm Journal

About half-way through the semester students will submit all assigned in and out of class writing assignments in a single word-document to receive feedback on their progress. This feedback will aid the student in successfully

*Note: Students must be present in class on the scheduled exam date; make-ups are rarely permitted, and are only allowed under the most severe, well-documented scenarios.

- Question: Which scantron do I need?
- Answer: pink/raspberry scantron form with the Pegasus UCF logo. This is the only option for the exams. [The form may be filled out with a pencil or with blue or black ink]
- Question: What do I have to put on the form?
- Answer: In addition to your name, you must bubble in your correct UCF ID number (formerly called their PID) on the answer form in order for it to be graded.

Term Paper

Students must author an analytical paper, a minimum of 1,300 words but should not exceed 2,000, responding to one of the following prompts. All papers must significantly engage assigned course materials in order to receive better than an F.

The purpose of this paper is to engage ideas and works presented in course materials to foster critical-creative and hopefully illuminating introspection. All papers must consider ideas that challenge as well as confirm the author's own thinking. Be sure to thoughtfully organize and develop the paper. Papers must also adhere to basic academic standards (see MLA or Chicago style writing guidelines).

Keys to a successful paper:

- Identify and articulate the key questions your paper is considering and seeking to answer or at least clarify.
- Draw on and implement a variety of ideas and thinkers from course materials to critically examine the features of your life and beliefs.
- Use good form: introduction, body paragraphs complete with engaging and informative topic sentences, a conclusion; adhere to MLA or Chicago writing style; use in-text citations and provide a work's cited page.
- Do not be afraid of acknowledging ambiguity or uncertainty.
- Avoid making sweeping and unsubstantiated statements.
- Support your claims with relevant reasons. You may draw on personal experience, research, and of course relevant course materials.
- Be sure that you do not simply "drop" a quote into your work; that does not count as sufficient engagement with course materials. Instead, enter into dialogue with key readings and authors; or perhaps bring them in to support your own insights.
- Papers may include personal experiences and perspectives but must engage course materials, providing all relevant in-text citations.

Option 1: Self-Examination

Author a critical analysis of your present values, beliefs, commitments and/or actions in the light of course readings.

Examples of topics and lines of questioning include but are not limited to:

- How does Joseph Campbell's thinking about religion and myth challenge your own thinking on these topics?
- What does Gerda Lerner's analysis of patriarchal history mean for your assumptions about what is "natural" to men and women in society? How have you misunderstood history, and what impact has that had on your worldview?

- What does Bart Ehrman’s work mean for your beliefs about Christianity and the New Testament? Should you change your thinking on key questions, in light of his scholarship, or is he mistaken? If so, how so?
- How do Aurelius’ ideas contrast with your own, and how might he counsel you to think and live differently? Would you object to his advice? Why?

Option 2: Applied Analysis

Apply key insights from assigned course material to critically examine a relevant current event. Questions to consider include:

- What insight does Ehrman’s text on Christianity, Aurelius’ approach to a good life, Campbell’s understanding of myth, or Lerner’s understanding of patriarchy, provide insights with which to better understand what is happening in the present? How does the past inform the present?

Term Paper Rubric		
Area of Evaluation	Criteria	Value
Content: Critical Analysis (64%)	✓ Meaningfully and fairly acknowledges, articulates, and engages key, relevant course concepts and thinkers	8%
	✓ Provides original analysis (does not simply summarize lectures and readings, but engages them, opening new lines of inquiry or contributing new ideas to the discourse)	8%
	✓ Justifies claims: provides <i>reasoned</i> support for claims	8%
	✓ Clearly explains the relationship between claims and supporting premises or reasons; clearly explains how premise A and premise B produce conclusion C.	8%
	✓ Avoids dogmatic thinking; recognizes that one’s views are not inherently or obviously true and that others’ ideas are not inherently or obviously false	8%
	✓ Avoids egocentric thinking; recognizes that one’s views or perspectives are not necessarily obvious or the same as others; Acknowledges, explains and engages alternative, contrasting, and/or opposing perspectives	8%
	✓ Avoids informal fallacies including unfounded appeals to cultural tradition, popular opinion, and power; avoids personal attacks, stereotyping, and hasty generalizations in analysis	8%
	✓ Showcases appropriate empathy and respect for others (This does not mean that you must agree with a viewpoint of an individual or group of people! Rather it simply means that you are expected to recognize and honor the dignity of others, including those you disagree with.)	8%
Form/ Organization (26%)	✓ Implements analytical writing: author does not simply tell a story or list facts but offers a critical analysis (though some narrative prose is acceptable the paper must emphasize analysis)	3%
	✓ Deploys appropriately formal tone; avoids inappropriately casual language, turns-of-phrase and the like (when appropriate the use of pronouns such as “I” is acceptable, but abbreviations and slang should not be included unless justifiable)	2%
	✓ Features introduction, body paragraphs developing one’s ideas, and a conclusion	3%
	✓ Formatted according to MLA, Chicago, Harvard or other designated scholarly guidelines	1%
	✓ Provides original title	1%
	✓ Enticing introduction (engaging the reader, inspiring them to read on)	1%
	✓ Includes specific thesis statement indicating not only the topic or subject matter but the central claim being advanced in the paper	3%
	✓ Logically structured paragraphs that support the stated thesis: purposeful paragraphs feature clear topic sentences, indicating the main idea of the paragraph and developing the thesis presented in the introduction, and development	4%
	✓ Provides all appropriate in-text citations indicating source of others’ ideas	5%
	✓ Provides works-cited page	1%
✓ Minimal direct quotes; summarizes others’ ideas in one’s own words rather than excessively relying on quoting	2%	
Grammar/ Mechanics	Very few if any grammatical errors	
	✓ Correct spelling	2%

(10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Correct punctuation ✓ Correct word-choice ✓ Complete sentences; no sentence fragments ✓ No run-on sentences 	2% 2% 2% 2% Total: 100%
Word-count penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Papers falling under 95% of the required word-count will be receive a penalty commensurate with the missing word-count percentage. ✓ For example, if the word-count requirement is 1,500 and the submitted paper is 1,000 words it will receive an automatic deduction of 33%, making a 67% the highest possible score. A 750 paper would receive an automatic deduction of 50% because 750 words is half of the required word-count. 	
Late penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assignments will receive a deduction of 5% for each day the assignment is late ✓ An assignment that is 5 days late will receive an automatic deduction of 25% ✓ An assignment that is 20 days late will receive an automatic deduction of 100%, meaning that the paper will receive an automatic zero ✓ When a student has a reasonable excuse for submitting a late assignment they should consult with the professor, and after doing so, leave a comment with their submitted work 	
Fails to follow instructions penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Papers failing to address the assigned term paper prompt will receive an automatic zero. ✓ Papers failing to engage the concepts, thinkers, and material the term paper is purposed to evaluate will receive an automatic zero. ✓ Be sure to follow the assignment instructions 	

(Final) Humanities Journal

Throughout the semester students will be assigned at least several in and out of class writing assignments. These reflections will be integral to in-class discussions, developing understanding of key course concepts, improving critical and ethical thinking, and aiding students for the midterm and final essay exams. Unless otherwise noted students are expected to complete out-of-class journal writing prior to the class period it accompanies. Students will sometimes be required to bring a copy of their out of class journal entry to the relevant class period. In such instances the submitted journal assignment will be used to verify the student's attendance in place of signing the roster sheet. The objective of doing so is to 1) ensure timely completion of the reflections and 2) promote informed student participation in class discussion or small group discussion.

Attendance and Keeping Track of Entries

Out-of-class journal prompts are found in the schedule of readings and assignments. In-class prompts are given in-class. To complete in-class journal assignments, students must be present the day of the class. Students are also responsible for keeping track of the number of assigned journal entries. Only students who present evidence of an excusable absence within three days of that absence, excepting extenuating circumstances, will be permitted to make-up missed in-class assignments.

Self-evaluation cover page

Upon completion of the final entry, students are to read over all journal entries and write a 250-300-word, single-spaced self-evaluation of their overall journal. Questions to consider include: Have you developed new insights about yourself? Has your thinking developed or changed in any way? Have you developed new understanding relevant to the course? Did you discover or perhaps simply clarified something about yourself or others? You might also consider the impact of the journal project on your writing skills and retention of key concepts: How did your journal entries change over the course of the semester? Did you develop greater intellectual independence in your written reflections? Did writing on a regular basis improve your ability to express yourself? Did writing about key ideas help you understand and retain them?

Formatting of Journal Project

The first page of the journal must include the self-evaluation, a tally of the total number of entries, and the word-count for the entire document. The self-evaluation does not count as a journal entry itself.

Students are to identify one entry they believe is the most important of the semester to be placed directly after the self-evaluation page. This entry, regardless of its chronological order, will be the “first” entry in the journal.

All entries must be numbered and given a relevant title. Word-counts must be provided for each out of class entry. In-class journal entries should be clearly labeled as such; word-counts do not need to be listed for in-class entries. You may scan, snip/screen shot, or photograph in-class entries and insert them in the journal if you do not want to type them up. All out of class entries must be typed.

All entries must be provided together in a single word-document to be uploaded through the available submission link online.

Criteria	Assignment Value: 25 points
Self-evaluation	1.25 Points (5%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completion of grammatically sound and thoughtful 250-300 word self-evaluation cover page reflecting on experience in class and intrapersonal, interpersonal, and intellectual development(s).
Formatting	2.5 Points (10%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Favored journal entry is selected and placed as the opening journal entry (#1) ✓ Each unique journal entry title is in bold and numbered ✓ All in-class journal entries are labeled as such (“#4 In-class: Shoes”) ✓ All out-of-class entries are typed and presented in single spacing ✓ Accurate word-count is given for each out-of-class entry ✓ Journal prompt is <u>not</u> included in the final collection of journal entries ✓ Journal does not include headings for entries that were not actually answered (include only entries you have actually done)
Completion and content	22.5 Points (85%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All entries are compiled in a single word document, uploaded via assigned online submission link. ✓ Out-of-class entries meet minimum word-count requirement, which is 150-words unless otherwise noted ✓ Entries meaningfully engage relevant readings and course concepts ✓ Entries appropriately respond to relevant assigned questions/prompts ✓ Journal exhibits critical thinking through open, fair-minded, ethical and rational exploration of contrasting perspectives including student’s own ideas and/or experiences
Late penalty	-1.25 points (-5%) penalty will be assessed for each day the assignment is late

Grading Scale

Total	100-90	89-87	86-80	79-77	76-70	69-67	66-60	59-0
grade	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

Attendance Policy:

Regular class attendance is essential to succeeding in, and benefiting from this course. Students are responsible for notifying faculty members of *legitimate* absences, providing appropriate documentation, and arranging to make up all missed work. Legitimate absences include illness, emergency, military or legal obligation, religious observations (see below), and participation in athletic or scholastic teams, musical or theatrical performances, and debate activities. Students who are unable to attend all or nearly all classes for reasons other than those identified above are encouraged to withdraw and take the course at a more appropriate time.

Religious Observations

may step outside of the classroom *without* prior notification to the professor. (Students should communicate with the professor after the class.)

This does *not* mean that we will shy away from challenging issues and questions. Examining such matters—fundamental questions of what it is to be human and what and why we think, believe, and act as we do—has been and continues to be the unique and explicit domain of the humanities. Nor does insisting on a respectful environment mean that students are entitled to a classroom free of considerate *intellectual* tension and conflict. Instead we will approach the critical exploration of significant and often controversial questions, beliefs, values, and theories in a manner that will enhance students' critical thinking skills and cultural competency. We will achieve this by striving to respectfully include and consider diverse perspectives from within the classroom and among significant thinkers within the humanities as a field of study. *By remaining registered for this class, students consent to respectful participation in this intellectual endeavor.* For more information on UCF's efforts to support cultural competency through honoring diversity through inclusion go to [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#)

Incompletes and Withdrawals

Incompletes and Instructor Withdrawals are given solely at the instructor's discretion. Only on rare occasions will the professor give a student an "incomplete." Students who have not attended the majority of courses or not completed the vast majority of coursework will not be considered for an "incomplete." Instructor withdrawals are reserved for very unique circumstances. Under no circumstances will students be granted such withdrawals at or near the end of the semester because they do not like the final grade they are on course to earn.

Examination Make-up Policy

Students are encouraged to take exams when they are assigned. Exam make-ups are done at the discretion of the instructor. Exams not taken will be given a failing grade.

University Writing Center:

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu>, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Academic Paper Format

Students' grade will be substantially based on academic writing assignments. These papers must be written in MLA format ([Purdue's MLA formatting and style guide](#)) or Chicago Style Author-Date (Parenthetical) System (<http://www.lib.umd.edu/ues/guides/citing-chicago-ad>). This means that papers must be double-spaced and must include citations among other features. Students are urged to take their papers to the University Writing Center (see below) prior to submission.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty (see above) wherein one presents another individual's words, images, music, and more generally, ideas as one's own. Students are expected to turn in their own work for given assignments. Students are also required to cite (give credit to) the sources they utilize for all of their assignments. Sources include books, articles, websites, interviews, illustrations and images, art, conversations and email, class lectures, class notes, student papers, student assignments, and one's own work done for previous classes. You must provide your readers with the information needed to retrieve the source for their use. The penalty for plagiarism is a *minimum* of a 0 for the given assignment with no opportunity to resubmit a new attempt. All clear cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct as a form of "[Academic Misconduct](#)."

Examples of plagiarism include: borrowing a friend's paper, buying a paper, citing without quotation marks, cutting and pasting from the internet or other sources (email, other papers), paraphrasing without attribution, reusing papers or assignments without attribution and/or significant alteration.

Laptops, Electronics, and Cell-Phones

Laptops, cellphones and other electronic devices may not be used in class, unless prior approval is given by professor. Those who use these devices during class will be asked to leave. Students who have emergency situations arise and need to utilize their phones must leave the classroom to conduct their business; students are also advised to let the instructor know ahead of time if they are expecting an important call.

Recording Devices

In order to ensure an open and free discussion environment no recording of our classes is permitted. When recording devices are present some students may have reservations about engaging in the sometimes cumbersome process of freely and openly speaking in the classroom setting. Since class discussion is so crucial to this course, it is imperative students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts without fear of being recorded and potentially having their words taken out of context.

Student Accessibility Services (Disability Services)

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor. Students who would like more information on these services are encouraged to visit the [Student Accessibility Services](#) page.

UCF Support Services

Students in need of assistance with issues such as safety and wellbeing, sexual violence, and mental health are encouraged to contact [UCF Cares](#)

"UCF Cares is an umbrella of care-related programs and resources dedicated to fostering a caring community of Knights. However, it takes all of us from students to staff, from faculty to friends, to show that we care about one another. The goal of the UCF CARES initiative is to build a culture of care one KNIGHT at a time. We are all UCF and need to do our part in connecting any fellow knights in distress to appropriate resources."

Students who have knowledge of sexual misconduct should contact [UCF Shield](#):

"Together, we can work toward eliminating sexual misconduct in the UCF community. We've provided this comprehensive source for information about identifying, preventing, and responding to sexual misconduct including sexual assault and sexual harassment affecting members of the UCF community. We are committed to providing a safe educational, working, and living environment."

[Victim Services](#) is another key resource for UCF students

“We offer support, crisis intervention, options, information, referrals, practical assistance, and educational programs. We inform our clients of their options and potential outcomes and empower them to make the best decision for themselves. Although reporting to law enforcement or university administrative offices is presented as an option, we will never force a client to report.”

“Advocates are available 24 hours a day to assist clients by phone or respond to the scene of a crime. To contact an advocate anytime day or night, call (407) 823-1200. We provide crisis counseling and emotional support in the aftermath of victimization.”

This [web-page](#) features a variety of UCF resources for students.

Guidelines for formatting Midterm Journal and Final Journal Project

What to include?

- For both the sample journal and the final journal project be sure to include all reflections completed up to the due date
- For both assignments, be sure to submit both in class as well as out of class entries.

Do:

- Use MLA guidelines to format the heading of the first page of your document
- Use single spacing for the entire document
- number each entry
- provide title for each entry (even if you have to make up a title)
- count group discussion/share entries as separate journal entries
- include "(in-class)" at the end of all journal titles written in class
- include the complete name of each group discussion participant, and provide one sentence of summary, beside their name, for each participant
- compile all entries in a single word document uploaded through Canvas
- ensure all out-of-class entries meet the minimum word-count requirement of 150-words, unless otherwise noted
- provide word count for all out of class entries
- include grammatically sound and thoughtful 250-300 word self-evaluation cover page for the **final** submission of the journal project
- feature your favored journal entry as the opening journal entry (#1) for the **final** submission of the journal project

Do Not:

- include the journal prompt/instructions
- double-space your document
- combine group discussion entries with in-class reflections (they are counted as separate entries)

Entries should look like this:

#1: The Appeal of the Humanities

Asdaksdjalsjkdalsjdalksjdkajsdjkasdljkas

Word count: x

#2: Ends of Life (In-class)

Asdaksdjalsjkdalsjdalksjdkajsdjksdljkas

#3: Ends of Life Group Share (In-class)

Juan Gonzalez: (at least one sentence summing up his thoughts)

Amy Goodman: (at least one sentence summing up his thoughts)



Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change as per instructor. Items may be added, removed, or rearranged.

Key Dates

9am, Saturday, February 17

Monday, February 19

9am, Monday, March 12

9am, Friday, April 20

Friday, April 27

12pm, Friday, May 4

Monday, January 15

Monday, March 12- 16

Academic Calendar

Final Exam schedule

Assignments and Grades

Midterm Journal due (via webcourses)

Midterm Exam (in class)

Term paper due (via webcourses)

Final Humanities Journal due (via webcourses)

Final Exam: 7am-9:50am (in class)

Grades due

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Spring Break

<http://calendar.ucf.edu/2018/spring/no-classes>

<https://exams.sdes.ucf.edu/2018/spring>

First Week of Class

Course Overview

- Read syllabus
- Take financial aid quiz (no impact on your grade, but must be completed to ensure release of your financial aid)
- Obtain assigned textbooks

Monday, January 8 & Wednesday, January 10

What are the Humanities?

- Henry M. Sayre, "Dear Reader," in *Discovering the Humanities*, viii
- Benton and DiYanni, "Introduction to the Humanities" , *Handbook for the Humanities*, xiv-xxiv

Journal: What are the Humanities

Answer one or more of these questions:

- Why are the humanities so maligned? Why do the humanities have to “prove” themselves in the ways these authors seek to, whereas STEM fields are presumed to be of great importance?
- KEY QUESTION: If you are a humanities major, have you had to defend your educational decision? Explain. If you are not a humanities major, how would your family and/or friends respond if you told them you were going to be a humanities major? (For the pranksters, you might consider telling someone you know that you have done just that, and report back to us about the experience.)

Friday, January 12 & Wednesday, January 17

Why Study the Humanities?

- Martha C. Nussbaum, “[The Silent Crisis](#),” 1-11, in *Not for Profit, Why Democracy Needs the Humanities*
- Alain de Botton, “[Reclaiming the Intellectual Life for Posterity \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#),” *Standpoint*, July 2008
- Mark Edmundson, “[Why Major in Humanities? \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) Not just for a good job — for a good life,” *Washington Post*, August 8, 2013
- David Behling, “[On Studying the Humanities \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#): What Does it Mean to be Human?,” *Huffington Post*, August 5, 2012
- Judith Butler, “[On the Value of Reading and the Humanities \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)” (Audio: 7:44)

Journal: Why Study the Humanities

- Author a reflection, in conversation with one or more of the assigned readings, on the significance of the humanities in our lives. You might engage Nussbaum to contemplate the relevance of the humanities to our experience of members of a society or citizens of a nation; or you might engage de Botton’s work to reflect on the significance of the humanities for our personal lives.

Friday, January 19, Monday, January 22, Wednesday, January 24

Methods: Critical (and Ethical) Thinking

- Robert Solomon, “[Doing Philosophy](#),” pp.3-14 (the main section to have read is “Concepts and Conceptual Frameworks,” 8-13)
- The Critical Thinking Community, “[Defining Critical Thinking \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)”
- Anthony Weston, *A Practical Companion to Ethics*, [Getting Started](#), 1-15

Journal: Defining Critical Thinking

Drawing on one or more of the assigned readings, reflect on the meaning and significance of critical thinking.

Questions to consider may include:

- How does it differ from ordinary thinking?
- Is critical thinking adequately emphasized in K-12 education?
- How can critical thinking improve our lives?
- How has critical thinking been defined for you in the past? Has it been meaningfully defined at all?

Friday, January 26

Term Paper Discussion

Review instructions for term paper and bring any questions or concerns to class

Monday, January 29 & Wednesday, January 31

Methods: Freedom of Speech & Democratic Dialogue

- Read “Controversy, Cultural Competency and Classroom Etiquette” in course Syllabus
- Cohen, Elliott. “[Freethinking](#),” pp.1-7

- bell hooks: “ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.Democratic Education,” “Conversation,” and “Conflict [📄](#),” pp. 43-47, 85-89
- Thich Nhat Hanh, [Part Three \[📄\]\(#\)](#), *Peace is Every Step*
- Anthony Weston, *A Practical Companion to Ethics*, [Ethics with a Heart \[📄\]\(#\)](#), pp.69-82

Journal: Democratic Society

Engage at least one reading to reflect on the significance of conversation for the pursuit of truth and understanding in a democratic society. Questions to contemplate may include, but are not limited to:

- What is bell hooks’ perspective on conflict? How does it differ from perspectives on conflict you are used to?
- What are your thoughts on hooks’ perspective on the value of conversation? How often do you speak up in class or in other settings?
- Have you ever been made to feel "stupid" (foolish, inferior, etc.) for sharing your thoughts in class (work, family)? Explain when, where, and why this happened.
- Based on your experience, how do people -- in your family, workplace, classroom(s)--handle controversial topics and disagreement? Are opinions that challenge the common sense of that group respectfully listened to?
- What are the benefits of hearing a variety of perspectives on a given topic even when we might strongly disagree with the perspectives being offered?

Friday, February 2 & Monday, February 5

Culture and Cultural Studies

- Cultural Studies UNC [“What Is Cultural Studies?” \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- UCF [“Humanities and Cultural Studies, B.A.”](#)
- Michael Lewis Goldberg, [“Cultural Hegemony \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.”](#)

Wednesday, February 7

The Beginnings of Culture: Paleolithic Culture

- *Discovering the Humanities* (DTH) , 1-10
- Pallab Ghosh, [“Cave paintings change ideas about the origin of art \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.”](#) *BBC*, October 8, 2014
- Rachel Corbett, [“A journey deep inside Spain’s temple of cave art \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.”](#) *BBC Travel*, November 19, 201

Friday, February 9

The Beginnings of Culture: Paleolithic Sculpture

- Gerda Lerner, “Origins,” *The Creation of Patriarchy*, 15-35

Journal: Female Figurines

- Choose and reflect on the significance of at least one of the paleolithic figurines discussed in *DTH* (1-10). You might reflect on the aesthetic quality or character of the sculptures. You are also welcome to openly ponder the meaning or significance of the sculptures for paleolithic people. Alternatively you might compare the apparent appreciation or at least acceptance of thick or fat female bodies in Paleolithic culture with the often negative cultural stigmas attached to fatness in dominant contemporary society.

Monday, February 12

Neolithic Culture and Catalhoyuk

- DTH, 10-14
- Senta German, [“Catalhoyuk \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.”](#)

Journal: Contemplating Catalhoyuk

- The subjects within the humanities can be studied from a variety of angles including questions of the origin of ideas that may still shape our thinking and culture today; questions pertaining to the way in which power relations are constructed or have changed; and consideration of the wisdom ideas, works, and cultures of the past have to offer us today. Keeping these lenses in mind examine the significance of Catalhoyuk for us in the present. What do you find most important or perhaps simply most interesting about this ancient village? What questions does it invoke; what implications does it present?

Wednesday, February 14

Myth

- DTH, 10-14
- Richard Jewell, "[Mythologies: Stories of Who We Are \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.," *Experiencing the Humanities*
- Joseph Campbell, *Myths to Live By*, 3-20

Friday, February 16

Myths to Live By?

- Campbell, "The Emergence of Mankind," 21-43
- Campbell, "The Importance of Rites," 44-60

Journal/Book Discussion: Myths to Live By (Term paper prep)

- Author a 250-word analysis of some aspect of Joseph Campbell's book you found most interesting (compelling, provocative, problematic, surprising).
- Present a thesis and offer support for that thesis. This analysis will be utilized to provide valuable feedback that will aid you in authoring a successful term paper.
- Identify at least two quotes you found most significant. Include these, along with the relevant page number, in your journal entry.
- You might consider the different meanings "myth" has and how your understanding and view on myth contrasts with the vision presented in *Discovering the Humanities* and in Campbell's book.
- Bring a copy of your journal entry and your book to class. Hard copies of the journal entry will be submitted at the end of class for attendance in place of signing attendance sheet. Students who fail to bring and submit the hard copy will be considered absent from the class.

Monday, February 19

Midterm Exam

- bring pink scantran with UCF logo and pencil

Wednesday, February 21 & Friday, February 23

Mesopotamia

- DTH, 14-27
- Lerner, "The Stand-in Wife and the Pawn," 54-75

Monday, February 26

Mesopotamia

- Diane Wolkstein and Samuel Noah, eds., Kramer, "[Courtship of Inanna and Dumuzi. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site." *Inanna Queen of Heaven and Earth: Her Stories and Hymns from Sumer* (New York: Harper & Row, 1983), pdf pages 52-72 (this is a short text with lots of interesting images)
- Lerner, "Veiling the Woman," 123-140

Journal: Inanna

- Reflect on the significance of the “Courtship of Inanna and Dumuzi.” Specific areas for consideration include (but are not limited to) the interaction between Inanna and Dumuzi, the treatment and representation of sexuality including the roles played by Inanna and Dumuzi, and the divinity of Inanna. How might the belief in powerful female divinity alter the consciousness of a society and individuals within that society? How does Inanna challenge conventional gendered notions of femininity? What strikes you as particularly meaningful about this ancient work? You might also simply reflect on the way the work impacts you as you read it: how does it make you feel? Is it entertaining, interesting, compelling; why?

Wednesday, February 28

Epic of Gilgamesh

- *Epic of Gilgamesh* (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- Audio book *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (Complete Audiobook unabridged) (1 hour 43 minutes):<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPYf8AwNvKg> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Journal: Epic of Gilgamesh

- Reflect on the meaning and significance of this most ancient of literary works. Questions or lines of inquiry to consider include:
 - Does the epic poem still speak to us today? How so?
 - Does it succeed in addressing timeless questions of the human condition: what is it to be human? What is a good life? What gives our life significance? Does life require grand adventure or is it best to embrace the little things of life?
 - Does the poem offer wisdom that might well aid us in living in the present?
 - How does the story teach us about the history of ideas? For example, how does the epic poem define masculinity or manhood, and in what way is this definition still a part of contemporary culture? What is the significance of the seemingly positive portrayal of the temple prostitute’s role in the story? What does this say about Mesopotamian attitudes toward sexuality, and how are they different from dominant contemporary cultural attitudes?
 - Alternatively you might examine the poem’s implications for power relations within society. For example you might consider the way womanhood is defined in contrast to manhood?

Friday, March 2

Women and Mesopotamia

- Lerner, “The Woman Slave,” 76-100
- Lerner, “The Wife and the Concubine,” 101-122

Monday, March 5

Seminar: *The Creation of Patriarchy*

- Lerner, “The Wife and the Concubine,” 101-122
- Lerner, “The Goddesses,” 141-160, and “Illustrations,” which follow page 160
- Optional: Carol P. Christ, “Remembering Merlin Stone, 1931-2011 by Carol P. Christ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.,” *Feminism and Religion*, February 20, 2012

Journal/Book Discussion: The Creation of Patriarchy

- Author a 250-word reflection on some aspect of Gerda Lerner’s book you found most interesting (compelling, provocative, problematic, surprising). Identify at least two quotes you found most significant. Include these, along with the relevant page number, in your journal entry.

- Bring a copy of your journal entry and your book to class. Hard copies of the journal entry will be submitted at the end of class for attendance in place of signing attendance sheet. Students who fail to bring and submit the hard copy will be considered absent from the class.

Wednesday, March 7

Ancient Egypt

- DTH, 27-38

Friday, March 9 & Monday, March 19

Bronze Age Aegean: Cyclades, Minoan, Mycenaean

- DTH, 39-49

Wednesday, March 21

The Greek Polis: Religion

- DTH, 49-60
- Edith Hamilton, "[Introduction \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)" *Mythology* (audiobook)
- Hamilton, "[The Gods, The Creation, and the Earliest Heroes](#) , " *Mythology*, 24-26 (audiobook ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#))

Journal: Contemplating Greek Religion

What stands out about the religious views of the ancients? Specific questions to consider may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Are these visions of the sacred—the divine—as plausible as those offered by monotheistic religions such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam? Why or why not?
- What rational reason can one give to dismiss the veracity of these religious beliefs—"they're just myths"—as those in the present so freely do? Is there an inconsistency in the dismissiveness of such religious beliefs and embrace of contemporary religion?

Friday, March 23

Golden Age: Theater and Religion

- DTH, 67-71
- Euripides, *The Bacchae* ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)
- Edith Hamilton, "[The Two Great Gods of Earth](#) , " *Mythology*, 47-62
 - Audio: [Demeter and Bacchus - From Edith Hamilton's Mythology ch. 2 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- Optional viewing: Edith Hall (Professor of Classics, King's College London) on Euripides' *Bacchae*
 - [Introduction \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)(5:19)
 - [Key Themes \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)(2:56)
 - [Religion \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)(1:25)

Journal: Tragedy and the Meaning of Life

Author a reflection on *The Bacchae*

- What are your thoughts on *The Bacchae*?
- How does *The Bacchae* relate to Eagleton's comments on tragedy and the meaning of life? What are your thoughts on *The Bacchae*?
- Does this story relate to contemporary stories you know of?
- What is the message of *The Bacchae* to human life and the gods?

Monday, March 26 & Wednesday, March 28

Golden Age: Philosophy

- DTH, 60-67
- Christopher Phillips, “What is the Socratic Method ,” in *Doing Philosophy*, 14-16
- Plato, The Apology (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (Alternative link here (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.) (Audiobook (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.)

Journal: The Socratic Method

- Engaging both Philips work and Plato’s “The Apology,” explain what the Socratic Method is and discuss what its significance. Consider, for example, how such an approach to truth contrasts with approaches to truth of yourself or those you know. What problems, if any, do you see with the Socratic Method? Would our classrooms be more productive if they emphasized such a method of educating?

Friday, March 30

Hellenistic World

- DTH, 71-82
- Begin Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

Monday, April 2 - Friday, April 6

Rome

- DTH 83-102
- Continue Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

Monday, April 9

Marcus Aurelius’ Rome

- Complete Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

Journal/Book Discussion: Meditations

- Author a 250-word reflection on some aspect of the book you found most interesting (compelling, provocative, problematic, surprising). Identify at least two quotes you found most significant. Include these, along with the relevant page number, in your journal entry.
- Bring a copy of your journal entry and your book to class. Hard copies of the journal entry will be submitted at the end of class for attendance in place of signing attendance sheet. Students who fail to bring and submit the hard copy will be considered absent from the class.

Wednesday, April 11

China and India

- DTH, 102-117
- Richard Jewell, “Religions of the World.”
- Thich Nhat Hanh, Peace is Every Step , 5-35
- Optional: Thich Nhat Hanh, “Finding Our True Home: Third Talk (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.” [audio]

Journal: Contemplating the Four Noble Truths

- Reflect on the wisdom, or lack-there-of, offered through Buddhism’s Four Noble Truths. Engage the contemporary Buddhist thinker, Thich Nhat Hanh, as you contemplate the significance of and insight in these ideas.

Friday, April 13

Flowering of Religion

- DTH, 119-145
- Justin Martyr, First Apology , 1-15 (chapter 1 through 26) (Audiobook (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.)
- John Dominic Crossan, "Open Commensality and Radical Egalitarianism ", in *Jesus A Revolutionary Biography*

Journal: Justin Martyr's Christianity

Justin Martyr offers a first-hand account of what it was like to be a Christian when tradition, popular opinion, and power all stood in opposition to the religion. Martyr also offers a unique perspective into how some early Christians understood their religion and the legacy of Jesus. Author a reflection of at least 150-words contemplating the significance of his work. Questions to consider include:

- What can we learn today, regardless of our beliefs, from Martyr's example?
- What do you find most significant about Martyr's thinking about his religion? How does it differ from the beliefs of many contemporary Christians?

Monday, April 16

Early Christianity

- Bart Ehrman, "Introduction: Recouping our Loses," *Lost Christianities*, 1-8
- Ehrman, "Heresies and Orthodoxies," 91-134

Wednesday, April 18

Rise of Christian Orthodoxy/ Creating Christian Scripture/ Discussion

- Ehrman, "Winners and Losers: The Quest for Orthodoxy," 159-180
- Ehrman, "The Invention of Scripture: The Formation of the Proto-orthodox New Testament," 229-246

Journal/Book Discussion: Lost Christianities

- Author a 250-word reflection on some aspect of Ehrman's book that you found most interesting (compelling, provocative, problematic, surprising). Identify at least two quotes you found most significant. Include these, along with the relevant page number, in your journal entry.
- Bring a copy of your journal entry and your book to class. Hard copies of the journal entry will be submitted at the end of class for attendance in place of signing attendance sheet. Students who fail to bring and submit the hard copy will be considered absent from the class.

Friday, April 20

The Early Medieval World in Europe

- DTH, 147-173

Monday, April 23

Renaissance

- DTH 209-248

Friday, April 27, 7am-9:50am

Self-Evaluation Group Share & Final Exam

- Review for exam

Extra Credit:

- Students wishing to receive +5% to their final exam grade may bring in a copy of their self-evaluation reflection to share with the class. Students can omit any private details relayed in the self-evaluation but are asked to read as much of the reflection as they are comfortable sharing.
- To receive the +5% credit students will hand in a printed copy of the self-evaluation to the professor after they have shared it with the class.