

**Humanities 1502**

**Cultural Experiences from the  
Past to the Future**

**Fall 2019**

**Syllabus and Assignments**

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## HUMANITIES 1502 COURSE SYLLABUS

**PROFESSOR:** Doug Davis  
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office: FA126  
e-mail: [ddavis@gordonstate.edu](mailto:ddavis@gordonstate.edu)

### REQUIRED ONLINE RESOURCES:

- *Writing the Nation: A Concise Introduction to American Literature, 1865 to Present*. Available for free at: <https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/english-textbooks/5/>
- Humanities 1502 Cultural Experiences Report libguide. Available for free at: <http://libguides.gordonstate.edu/CulturalExperiencesReport>

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Computer access and a Gordon email account. Your professor will send you materials via your Gordon email account, so you must check it regularly. You are also required to read material on and submit material to our course in Brightspace by Desire2Learn (D2L).
- A pocket folder or binder to keep class papers, notes, and handouts in.
- A notebook and pen.
- Access to Microsoft Word and/or the ability to save files in MS Word format. You will be required to upload your writing assignments to D2L in MS Word format. All Gordon students will receive a free subscription to Microsoft Office 365; go here for details: <https://www.gordonstate.edu/departments/computer-services/office-365/index.html>

**PREREQUISITE:** Exemption from or completion of Learning Support Reading. If you are presently enrolled in or required to take LS Reading, you cannot take HUMN 1502 at this time.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An interdisciplinary course examining cultural thought and achievement in art, music, theatre, literature, philosophy, religion, and film.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon completion of Humanities 1502, the student should be able to

- experience the arts with more confidence, understanding, and pleasure;
- understand culture as an historical process;
- define vocabulary basic to the study of the fine arts (painting, sculpture, architecture, music, literature, drama, and film);
- understand some sources of art, especially philosophies, religions, and mythologies;
- analyze and discuss such aspects of culture as its subject, its medium, its organization, and its style; and
- explain how the culture of the past relates to the culture of today.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Daily reading assignments (distributed by Gordon email) and in-class assignments
2. Six cultural experience reports (submitted three times during the semester in sets of two)

**GRADES AND GRADING SCALE:**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Class participation (reading, attendance, class discussion) | 10% |
| Daily in-class assignments                                  | 30% |
| Cultural Experience Reports 1 and 2                         | 20% |
| Cultural Experience Reports 3 and 4                         | 20% |
| Cultural Experience Reports 5 and 6                         | 20% |

All assignments will be returned with grades to students approximately two weeks after they are given to your professor. This ensures that your professor has the time to give your work the quality attention it deserves.

**Final Grade Calculator**

You are responsible for keeping track of your own grades. You may keep track of your grades and calculate your final grade by adding your scores to the following grid and adjusting them to the noted percentages. This is the same grid that your professor will use at the end of the term to calculate your final grade; thus, do not ask your professor what your grade is, as you can calculate it yourself.

| Daily in-class<br>Assignments<br>30% | Reports 1 & 2<br>20% | Reports 3 & 4<br>20% | Reports 5 & 6<br>20% | Class<br>Participation<br>10% | Total |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
|                                      |                      |                      |                      |                               |       |

Grading scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=65-70, F=65 and below.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

Your class participation grade is based upon several factors: attendance and in-class behavior; keeping up with reading assignments; participation in class discussion; and punctuality in turning in of assignments. All students begin class with an average class participation grade of 7 out of 10 possible points. Students who do not have absences and who participate in class discussions, hand in assignments on time, and demonstrate that they are keeping up with the class readings will receive class participation grades higher than a 7; students who hand in assignments late, exhibit disruptive behavior in class, are late to class, have excessive absences, play with their cell phones, etc., and/or do not demonstrate that they are keeping up with class readings will receive class participation grades of 6 or lower.

See “Academic Dishonesty” and “Class Attendance” below for related grading policies.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Cheating in any form, including plagiarism, is a serious academic offense. Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else’s ideas and/or words as your own, or the passing off of your old, previously graded work as new work. Plagiarism is the willful representation of another person’s work as your own, or of

your old, previously graded work as new work. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, ask now.

Wholesale plagiarism is the attempt to pass off a complete essay or assignment composed by another person or persons as your own; if caught committing wholesale plagiarism you will fail this course. Patchwork plagiarism is the attempt to incorporate elements (exact quotes or ideas) of another's work into your own without proper attribution; if caught committing patchwork plagiarism, you will receive a failing grade (zero points) for the assignment and your class participation grade will be reduced by a minimum of 5 points and a maximum of 10 points depending on the severity of the plagiarism. Self-plagiarism is the attempt to pass off work that you wrote for another class and may have already received a grade on; you must write original essays in this class and cannot re-use essays or work you have already submitted for another class or project external to this class; if caught committing self-plagiarism, you will receive a failing grade (zero points) for the assignment and your class participation grade will be reduced by a minimum of 5 points and a maximum of 10 points depending on the severity of the plagiarism. Additionally, there is also a condition known as collusion, which translates to receiving excessive help to the point that a work can no longer be considered the sole product of a single author. If I suspect a submitted work to be the result of collusion, I reserve the right to refuse credit for that work if the claimed author is unable to demonstrate sole authorship.

A student who plagiarizes or otherwise cheats on two or more assignments in any form will automatically fail the class.

All plagiarized work will automatically be submitted to the college administration for disciplinary review.

To prevent plagiarism, all students will be required to cite all sources used in their essays and to quote and paraphrase appropriately. Furthermore, all student work will be automatically reviewed by Turnitin.com.

### **SAMPLE ESSAYS:**

Sample papers for many class assignments are available for download from your professor's faculty webpage: <http://faculty.gordonstate.edu/ddavis/>. It is recommended that you read these sample essays as guides for your own writing.

### **WRITING CENTER:**

Gordon State College runs a writing assistance center in the Student Success Center. At the SSC you can get one-on-one assistance with your assignments as many times during the semester as you want.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, TITLE IX, ADA, AND 504:**

<https://www.gordonstate.edu/documents/departments/academic-affairs/required-syllabus-statements.pdf>

### **CLASS POLICIES:**

#### **Absences:**

Regular class attendance is your obligation. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Attendance will be taken during every class meeting; all students not present will be counted absent.

After a student's third absence for any reason (illness, sports, voting, family emergency, funeral, off-campus events, etc.), your professor reserves the right to lower the student's class participation grade by

up to three points for each subsequent absence. Missing the class roll, leaving class early, and missing a major portion of a class meeting counts as an absence.

### **Late Papers and Exams:**

Graded daily assignments cannot be made up; they must be completed in class during the class period when they are assigned.

It is your responsibility to hand material in on time. All due dates are stated on the class schedule of assignments. Your professor will not remind you to hand in an assignment if you have missed a due date. Late experience reports will be graded down up to one full letter grade for each day that they are late.

### **Email and discussion policy:**

All personal questions or announcements for your professor should be directed to him either in person before or after class, during his office hours, or by email. Your professor generally responds to emails within two business days.

Your professor cannot discuss grades with you over email in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). See <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

### **Classroom etiquette:**

Good attendance, punctuality turning in assignments, participation in class discussion, a good attitude, and evidence that you are keeping up with reading assignments will all raise your class participation grade. However, your class participation grade will be lowered for the following kinds of behavior:

1. Inopportune unexcused absences (such as on days assignments are due).
2. Coming into class late.
3. Sleeping during class.
4. Doing work for other courses during our class period.
5. Interrupting people. In discussions, allow the person speaking to finish.
6. Whispering or talking to someone else while the professor or another student is speaking.
7. Using your cell phone, texting, etc.

Any variation in these policies is at the instructor's discretion.

### **TURNITIN.COM GUIDELINES:**

By taking this course, you agree that all required papers may be subject to submission of textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in other papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site <http://www.turnitin.com/static/usage.html>.

According to the Family Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education, your papers are education records within the meaning of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) (<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>). Education records may not be disclosed to third parties in a form that identifies you without your consent. Since Turnitin.com is a third party, you must choose one of the two ways below (not both) to submit papers to Turnitin.com in order to comply with FERPA.

#### **1. YOU CONSENT TO DISCLOSE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION TURNITIN.COM**

You may consent to release your personal identification to Turnitin.com by establishing an account and uploading your paper to D2L.

OR

## 2. YOU DO NOT CONSENT TO DISCLOSE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION TO TURNITIN.COM

If you choose not to consent to release your personal identification to Turnitin.com, you must send your paper to your professor by email as an electronic attachment that can be opened by Microsoft Word, by the deadline given on the syllabus. Your identifying information will be removed and the paper uploaded to Turnitin.com for you. Because your paper will not be in a Turnitin.com account that is accessible to you, you will not be able to view your report on-line. Instead, after the deadline has passed and all papers have been processed by Turnitin.com, your instructor will email an electronic copy of your paper's report to you.

Your paper will be processed by Turnitin.com whichever option you choose. The different options simply determine how the paper is submitted to Turnitin.com whether the paper has your name on it, and how you receive the Turnitin.com report.

Please note that in Turnitin.com there is a "test upload" assignment area for your paper. Because test uploads are not required or graded, and need not be a sample of your own work, they are not "education records."

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you upload an early draft of your paper to the test upload assignment, and then upload the final assignment, the final originality report will show that a substantial part of your paper is identical to your draft. That is expected.

You can read more about Turnitin.com here: <http://www.turnitin.com> .

## Cultural Experience Report Portfolio: Your Cultural Journey

**Assignment:** Our course surveys many works of culture. However, even though it contains images of many artworks and artifacts and brief discussions of many works of literature, music, and film, this course cannot give you a full experience of any one of those things directly, or of an artist's full body of work. Thus, while you will learn about many works of culture from this class and gain a great deal of cultural literacy doing so, you must go beyond our course to get a real experience of art and culture.

That is where this assignment comes in. Making full use of the resources at Hightower library, the World Wide Web, the local Gordon arts community, and the entire middle Georgia region, take a personal journey through culture and report on six of your experiences. For this assignment, write short reports on six personal cultural experiences you have had. Two of these reports will be due in the first third of the semester; the next two will be due in the second third of the semester; and the final two will be due on the last day of class.

Pick the topics for each set of your two reports from the four categories described below, which are listed A through D. For each set of reports, you must pick from two different categories. For instance, you may not submit two reports from category A (music) when submitting your first two reports; if one of your reports in that first set is from category A, the other must be from either category B, C, or D.

### Content for Your Cultural Experience Reports:

Complete the following in the following order:

1. Type a title for your paper, your name, your class number and time, your professor's name, and the number of words in your paper in the upper right-hand margin of the first page of your paper.
2. At the top of your page, under your name and above the text of your report, write the title (artist and work) of the two works you experienced. Provide as full a citation as possible for each work, noting where it is located, when it was made, who published or exhibited it, etc. You may use MLA or APA style if you wish.
3. Writing entirely in your own words, describe and evaluate the two works you experienced. In your descriptions, represent in detail, using the expert language appropriate to the medium you are experiencing, the content of what you read/heard/saw, etc. Include titles of works, subjects, colors, instrumentation, ideas, language, style, etc. If describing a novel, play, film, or opera, do not merely summarize the plot. Describe the whole experience of seeing live theater, reading a long novel, watching a classic film, or viewing an entire opera. What was it like to do that? How did the audience react? What qualities of the old film or opera that you watched stand out? The point of this section of the report is for you to give your reader as vivid a description as possible of the cultural experience you had. Use colorful language. Have fun with the description.
4. Write each evaluation in a separate paragraph immediately after the description (thus your portfolio should be organized as follows: description 1, evaluation 1, description 2, evaluation 2.). In your evaluation discuss in depth what this cultural experience means to you. What did you learn? Did you like it? Why or why not? What did you get out of it?

What questions do you have about it? What do you want to know more about it? Is it like other works of culture you have experienced? (**cont. on next page**)

5. After the above two reports write **one more**, final paragraph in which you **compare and contrast** your two cultural experiences and discuss what they have taught you about culture and values, the world and yourself.

### **Requirements:**

- Length: minimum of five fully developed paragraphs, maximum of ten fully developed paragraphs (700 – 1500 words).
- Format: typed, double-spaced, with 1” margins, 12 pt. Times font, left justified.
- Type your name, your class number, your professor’s name, the number of words in your paper, and the name of your culture experience (title of novel, name of architectural movement, name of artist, etc.) in the upper right-hand margin of the first page of your paper.
- Clarity: grammar, punctuation, mechanics, style, and organization count. You are responsible for writing a thoughtful and well-organized paper composed in Standard American English.
- Construct properly focused paragraphs. Proofread carefully.
- Do not plagiarize; do not copy text from websites.
- **Upload a file (MS Word format) containing the full, properly formatted text of your paper to the assignment dropbox in Desire2Learn by 11:59pm of this assignment’s due date.**
- Late portfolios will receive grade deductions of up to 10 points per day late.

### **Gordon Performing Arts Calendars:**

Theater: <https://www.gordonstate.edu/academics/school-art-science/fine-and-performing-arts/theatre/current-season/index.html>

Music: <https://www.gordonstate.edu/academics/school-art-science/fine-and-performing-arts/music/recital-series/index.html>

### **Approved Topics for Cultural Experience Reports:**

#### **Category A: music**

- Attend a concert at Gordon College (or elsewhere).
- Listen to a full album by an artist.
- Listen to an hour-long show from the “New Sounds” online archive of contemporary global art music: <http://www.wnyc.org/shows/newsounds/> (click on the “archive” button on the right-hand side of the page; there are several years’ worth of shows on the archive so look at the offerings for multiple months and find a kind of new music that interests you).
- Watch a full musical performance at <https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/> (Login ID: [student@gordonstate.edu](mailto:student@gordonstate.edu). Password: gordontheatre).
- **Do not simply write about one short song; write about as many as you can, within reason.**



**Category B: film/visual art/architecture**

- Watch a classic film from the American Film Institute's list of the 100 greatest films of all time: <http://www.afi.com/100years/movies10.aspx>.
- Visit an online gallery, study a book of pictures and essays, or view a film about a major painter, sculptor, or other plastic artist.
- Visit an online gallery, study a book of pictures and essays, or view a film about an artistic movement, such as Mannerism; The Rococo; Neo-Classicism; American Landscape Painting; Soviet Art; African Masks or Tribal Art; Impressionism; Cubism; Expressionism; Futurism; Minimalism; Abstract Expressionism.
- Study a book or view a film about a major architect.
- **Do not simply write about one painting or sculpture; write about as many as you can, within reason.**

**Category C: literature/drama/philosophy/religion**

- Attend a play at Gordon College.
- Watch a play at <https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/> (Login ID: [student@gordonstate.edu](mailto:student@gordonstate.edu). Password: gordontheatre).
- Read one long poem by a single author.
- Read three short poems by a single author.
- Read a novel or two or three short stories by a single author.
- Read a major section (30 or more pages) of a work of philosophy, science, political theory, theology, or religion.

**Category D: any cultural experience of your own choosing, so long as it can be classified as artistic or cultural**

- Devise your own experience. For example: visit an exhibit at an art museum or tour a monastery; visit a house of worship for a religion other than your own; attend an artistic performance or festival; take an architectural walking tour of Atlanta (which has many fine examples of postmodern architecture); or surprise your professor and do something completely different, so long as it can be considered art or culture (if you are not choosing another work from category A, B or C then check with your professor whether or not your unique experience qualifies as art or culture before you submit your report).