

## ***Introduction to the Humanities - Fall 2008*** ***HUMA 1301.DE2 - Online Section***

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### **Office Hours**

Monday and Wednesday 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. / Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **Online Office Hours**

Monday and Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (You may communicate with me in the Chat Room of *Blackboard*.)

### **Textbook and Supplemental Website**

Janaro, Richard Paul, and Thelma C. Altshuler. *The Art of Being Human*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman, 2009.

*Wikipedia*, an online encyclopedia, will provide useful background on most of the topics we discuss in class: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page).

### **Orientation and Withdrawal**

All students are required to attend an orientation session at one of the following times: *Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., or Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.* Both sessions will take place in Room 319 of the Advanced Technology Center. If you are unable to attend either session, you must contact me by Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, to arrange for an alternate time. Students who have not contacted me by Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be dropped from the course and given a grade of W. After the second week, students who decide to drop the course must complete a drop form and turn it in to Admissions and Records. Failure to do so may result in a grade of F. The last day to drop a course is Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Course Description**

Humanities 1301, Introduction to the Humanities, is a multicultural, interdisciplinary introduction to the study of humankind's cultural legacy in at least four of the disciplines of the humanities, which are approached individually, in synthesis with one or more of the others, or thematically: the visual arts, motion pictures, architecture, music, theatre, dance, philosophy, and literature, as well as the social sciences, history, mathematics, medicine, and the physical sciences as they have contributed to that cultural legacy.

### **Grades**

**10%** *First Cultural Experience Report* (three and a half typed pages or 1,250 words long)

**20%** *Midterm Exam* (four timed essay questions)

- 20%** *Seminar Paper* (a typed five-page or 1,800-word analysis of a film we discuss as a class)
- 10%** *Report on a Trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston* (three and a half typed pages or 1,250 words long)
- 20%** *Final Exam* (four timed essay questions)
- 20%** *Class and Discussion Board Participation* - this will be a subjective evaluation of your contribution to the course and the online Discussion Board. I expect you to share your own ideas and to respond to the ideas of other students. Throughout the semester I will post a series of questions on the Discussion Board of *Blackboard*, and for each unit of the course, you will be required to answer every question and respond to postings made by other students. In either case your answers should be substantive and relevant, providing multi-sentence responses that match the complexity and depth of the questions. For each unit you will answer between seven and nine questions (a total of thirty-two for the semester). Your participation grade will also be determined by the amount of time you devote to *Blackboard*; I expect you to log on to the course several times a week. At the end of each unit, I will generate a tracking document (providing a "footprint" of your work online) and a discussion transcript, both of which will aid me in evaluating your participation grade. A sample tracking document appears at the end of this handout. A student may be dropped for non-participation after three consecutive days of inactivity.

***This course will require that you attend two specific events outside of class:*** a cultural experience early in the semester and a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) after midterm. Options for the first cultural experience and guidelines for writing about it and your trip to the MFAH are outlined in handouts linked to the Learning Modules in *Blackboard*. These activities are not optional; you must complete them and provide proof of your attendance (a ticket stub or museum sticker, for example) to complete the course.

If you wish to earn extra credit (up to ten points added to your midterm exam grade), you may write a two-page report on one (but not both) of the following additional experiences with your classmates and me: attending a production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Alley Theatre on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, or touring the John A. and Audrey Jones Beck Collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. The Alley Theatre production will cost you \$13.50 per ticket, and the Beck Collection tour, along with admission to the museum, will be free. You may bring a guest for either event.

Reports and the seminar paper must be typed using a standard 12-point font (such as Times New Roman or Cambria) and must follow MLA format for heading, header, and spacing. Refer to the sample student papers. You must send your work to me as attachments using the *Mail* function of *Blackboard*. If you use a word processing application other than *Microsoft Word*, you will need to send your attachments as RTF (Rich Text Format) files; refer to the "How to Submit Your Papers" handout for information on creating RTF files.

In addition to reading assigned chapters in the textbook and supplemental materials that I provide (two poems and two short stories), you will be required to watch the following

films: *No Country for Old Men* (released in 2007) and Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* (1958). Both films are widely available for rental, purchase, or checkout from some public libraries, but if you are unable to locate the movies, you may watch them on campus; I have placed both titles on reserve in the library, but these copies cannot leave the building and must be watched in one of the viewing rooms.

This course is based on the precept that you will have to spend a minimum of nine hours each week reading, posting messages on the Discussion Board, completing cultural experiences, writing reports and the seminar paper, and studying for the midterm and final exams. Your success in an online environment will require discipline and effective time management skills.

### **Exam and Late Work Policies**

All students must take the midterm and final exams in the Lee College Testing Center, which is located inside the Counseling Center (in Moler Hall). You will have a three-day period to take the midterm and four days to complete the final, and it is your responsibility to call the Testing Center at (281) 425-6430 or the Counseling Center at (281) 425-6384 to schedule exam times. You may write your work by hand or type it on computer, and you will have two hours to complete your work. Be aware that you must bring a photo ID and a blue book to the Testing Center; you will not be able to take the exam without them.

The seminar paper, cultural experience and MFAH reports, and extra credit report must be turned in no later than 5:00 p.m. on their respective due dates. *I will not accept late work for this class, so it is essential that you keep track of deadlines.* The last page of this handout lists the due date for each assignment, and specific guidelines are posted in *Blackboard*.

### **Academic Honesty**

All students at Lee College are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic work they attempt while enrolled at the college. Each student acknowledges, by the act of turning in work for a grade, that he or she is in compliance with the college's Academic Honesty Code. Any conduct or activity by a student intended to earn or improve a grade or receive any form of credit by fraudulent or dishonest means is considered an Honesty Code violation and will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Examples of violations of the Honesty Code include, but are not limited to, the following types of plagiarism: working with another person on any assignment or examination when not specifically permitted by the instructor, copying the work of another student during an examination, submitting as one's own work any writing assignment prepared by someone else, and incorporating the work or idea of another person into one's own work without acknowledging the source of that work or idea.

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center provides the following services to all Lee College students: individual tutoring, access to word processing (*Microsoft Word*), and Internet access. Unless a class has reserved the lab, you may use the computers anytime the Writing Center is open: Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon. These hours are subject to change.

### **Smarthinking.com**

The college provides personalized online tutoring and writing services through Smarthinking.com. When you submit your work, a tutor will send you comments (usually within twenty-four hours) on how to revise your work. You may submit your papers more than once. You can access the Smarthinking.com link by going to my website (<http://www.lee.edu/~jhamby>) or by typing the following URL into the address bar of your browser: [http://www.lee.edu/counseling/tutoring\\_smarthinking.asp](http://www.lee.edu/counseling/tutoring_smarthinking.asp). You will have to create an account the first time you log on. This service is provided for free.

### **Student Help Desk**

If you encounter problems logging onto campus computers or accessing *Blackboard* from home, contact the Student Help Desk by phone, (281) 425-6952, or by email, [helpdesk@lee.edu](mailto:helpdesk@lee.edu). The hours are as follows: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Your user ID (which you will need for both logins) consists of the first initial of your first name, your entire last name, and the last two digits of your student ID number. Your default LC password consists of the first two letters of your first name (capitalized), the first two letters of your last name (also capitalized), and the last four digits of your student ID. If you request a randomly generated password, write it down, and be aware that you will be unable to generate an additional one for twenty-four hours.

### **Additional Assistance**

Students with a documented physical, emotional, or learning disability may arrange accommodations only through the Disability Services Office in the Counseling Center at Lee College. I will work with this office to ensure that your rights are met. JoAnn Szabo is the counselor for students with disabilities; you may call her at (281) 425-6384 or email her at [jszabo@lee.edu](mailto:jszabo@lee.edu).

## Course Outline

The course is divided into four units, each lasting three to four weeks. All assignments must be completed within the time frames outlined below. Chapter titles and page numbers refer to reading assignments in *The Art of Being Human*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. All other reading assignments appear as links under the appropriate learning module.

### **Unit I: Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

During these four weeks, you must complete the following assignments:

- \* Attend an orientation session at either of the following times: Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., or Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Both sessions will take place in Room 319 of the Advanced Technology Center. If you are unable to attend either session, you must contact me by Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, to arrange for an alternate time.
- \* Read the following poems: "Vanishing Point" (by Billy Collins) and "Just a second ago" (by Joy Katz).
- \* Read Chapter 1, "The Humanities: Still Vital" (pages 3-19), and Chapter 2 "Profile of the Critical Thinker" (21-41).
- \* Answer the seven questions posted on the *Blackboard* Discussion Board and respond to postings made by other students to the questions. You must post your first response no later than Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Read the following handout: How to Submit Your Papers.
- \* Read the handouts that cover cultural experience reports: First Cultural Experience Report Guidelines; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) Report Guidelines; and Extra Credit Report Guidelines. You should also read the Sample Student Reports. If you have questions about writing the reports or options available for the cultural experiences, email me, or communicate with me in the Chat Room during my online conference hours.
- \* If you (and one guest) plan to attend the Alley Theatre production *Cyrano de Bergerac* on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> (beginning at 7:30 p.m.), you will need to pay for tickets by noon on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. You may bring the money to my office or mail it to me at school (paying by check made out to Jerry Hamby). I will provide more detailed information about the production, including a review, as it becomes available.
- \* Watch *No Country for Old Men* the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. The following information will help you locate the DVD. *No Country for Old Men* was released in theaters in 2007 and was written and directed by Joel Coen and Ethan Coen. The screenplay is based on the novel by Cormac McCarthy. The film is widely available for video rental or purchase, but if you are unable to locate it, you may watch the film on campus; I have placed a copy on reserve in the library, but this DVD cannot leave the building and must be watched in one of the viewing rooms. Be aware that *No Country for Old Men* has a running time of approximately two hours.

### **Unit II: Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

During these *three and a half weeks*, you must complete the following assignments:

- \* Read selected sections of Chapter 5, "Art" (pages 117-22, 140-63 and 170-71).

- \* Answer the nine questions posted on the Discussion Board devoted to the above reading assignments and *No Country for Old Men*, and respond to postings made by other students to the questions. You must post your first response no later than Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Turn in the first cultural experience report by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. This assignment must be turned in on time.
- \* Read the following handouts: Seminar Paper Guidelines and Sample Student Seminar Paper. If you have questions about topics, email me, or communicate with me in the Chat Room during my online conference hours.
- \* Read the following handout: Study Guide for the Midterm Exam. If you have questions about the format or content of the midterm, email me via *Blackboard*, or communicate with me in the Chat Room during my online conference hours.
- \* Take the midterm exam in the Testing Center. The dates for taking the exam are Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday you may take the exam between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; on Thursday you may take it between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (by appointment only after 5:00 p.m.); and on Friday you may take the exam between 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Call the Testing Center at (281) 425-6430 or the Counseling Center at (281) 425-6384 to schedule a time. You may write your work by hand or type it on computer, and you will have two hours to complete the exam. If you type your responses, you will use *Word Pad*, which has no grammar or spell checker; it will also single space your work. Be sure to bring a photo ID and a blue book (if you plan to write your answers by hand); you will not be able to take the exam without them.
- \* Attend the optional Alley Theatre production *Cyrano de Bergerac* on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The play will begin at 7:30 p.m., and there will be no late seating. If you wish to follow me into Houston, plan to leave campus at 6:00 p.m. This is an optional experience for extra credit; you may earn up to ten points (added to your midterm exam grade) by attending the play on this date and writing a two-page (or 750-word) report on the experience. More detailed information, including directions to the Alley Theatre, appears on the Extra Credit handout.

### **Unit III: Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

During these four weeks, you must complete the following assignments:

- \* Read Chapter 3, "Myth and the Origin of the Humanities" (pages 43-75).
- \* Read selected sections of Chapter 4, "Literature" (79-80 and 110-11).
- \* Read the following short stories: "Stones in My Passway, Hellhound on My Trail" (by T. Coraghessan Boyle) and "The Lottery" (by Shirley Jackson).
- \* Answer the nine questions posted on the *Blackboard* Discussion Board and respond to postings made by other students to the questions. *You must post your first response no later than Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.*
- \* Turn in the optional Alley Theatre extra credit report by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. This assignment must be turned in on time.
- \* Turn in the seminar paper by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. This assignment must be turned in on time.
- \* Meet other students and me for an optional tour of the John A. and Audrey Jones Beck Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Plan to

meet me inside the front door of the Caroline Wiess Law Building at 10:00 a.m. Admission to the museum for you and one guest will be free, and the tour will last approximately one and a half hours. Anyone who wishes to do so may meet me after the tour for an early lunch at Cafe Express (downstairs in the Beck Building of the MFAH). You may earn up to ten points (added to your midterm exam grade) by going on this tour and writing a two-page report on the experience. More detailed information appears on the Extra Credit handout.

- \* Watch Alfred Hitchcock's Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* (1958) the week of November 10<sup>th</sup>. The film is widely available for video rental or purchase, but if you are unable to locate it, you may watch it on campus; I have placed it on reserve in the library, but this copy cannot leave the building and must be watched in one of the viewing rooms. Be aware that the film has a running time of approximately two hours.

#### ***Unit IV: Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>***

During these three weeks of the semester, you must complete the following assignments:

- \* Turn in the optional Beck Collection Garden extra credit report by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. This assignment must be turned in on time.
- \* Read selected sections of Chapter 9, "The Cinema" (299-303, 333, 336-38, and 345-47).
- \* Answer the seven questions posted on the Discussion Board devoted to Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, and respond to postings made by other students to the questions. *You must post your first response no later than Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.*
- \* Read the following handout: Study Guide for the Final Exam. If you have questions about the format or content of the final, email me via *Blackboard*, or communicate with me in the Chat Room during my online conference hours.
- \* Turn in the report on your visit to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. This assignment must be turned in on time.

#### **Information on the Final Exam**

You will take the final exam in the Testing Center. The dates for taking the exam are Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, through Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. On Monday and Tuesday you may take the exam between 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; on Wednesday you may take it between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; and on Thursday you may take it between 8:00 a.m. and noon. You may write your work by hand or type it on computer, and you will have two hours to complete the exam. If you type your responses, you will use *Word Pad*, which has no grammar or spell checker; it will also single space your work. Be sure to bring a photo ID and a blue book (if you plan to write your answers by hand); you will not be able to take the exam without them. Call the Testing Center at (281) 425-6430 or the Counseling Center at (281) 425-6384 to schedule a time. ***You must complete your exam no later than noon on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.***

## ***Writing Assignment Deadlines***

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
<i>Unit I Discussion Board Postings</i>	You must post your first response by Thursday, September 4 <sup>th</sup> . You must complete your answers for Unit I by Sunday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> .
<i>Unit II Discussion Board Postings</i>	You must post your first response by Thursday, September 25 <sup>th</sup> . You must complete your answers for Unit II before taking the midterm exam (by Friday, October 17 <sup>th</sup> ).
<i>First Cultural Experience Report</i>	Monday, September 29 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Midterm Exam (in the Testing Center)</i>	Wednesday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> , through Friday, October 17 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Unit III Discussion Board Postings</i>	You must post your first response by Monday, October 27 <sup>th</sup> . You must complete your answers for Unit III by Sunday, November 16 <sup>th</sup> .
<i>Alley Theatre Extra Credit Report</i>	Monday, October 27 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Seminar Paper</i>	Wednesday, November 5 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Beck Collection Extra Credit Report</i>	Monday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Unit IV Discussion Board Postings</i>	You must post your first response by Thursday, November 20 <sup>th</sup> . You must complete your answers for Unit IV by Sunday, December 7 <sup>th</sup> .
<i>MFAH Report</i>	Monday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>
<i>Final Exam (in the Testing Center)</i>	Monday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> , through Thursday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>

### Sample Student Tracking Report for Second Half of Semester

Because your participation grade will be determined, in part, by the amount of time you devote to *Blackboard*, I will generate documents that track your "footprints" in the course. A sample from a previous semester (starting at midterm and ending after final exams) with students' names removed appears below. Not surprisingly, individuals who invested the most time on *Blackboard* (three hours or more per week or twenty-four hours total for the eight weeks tracked) performed the best and earned the highest grades at the end of the semester. Note that this report was generated during a long semester and that students taking the course during a summer session will devote much more time per week to logging on to *Blackboard*.

<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Total Time</i>	<i>Mail Read</i>	<i>Mail Sent</i>	<i>Discussions Read</i>	<i>Discussions Posted</i>	<i>Calendar Viewed</i>	<i>Files Viewed</i>	<i>Final Grade</i>
62	17:59:02	80	5	268	34	6	116	B
42	6:54:40	44	12	227	10	6	83	D
48	13:07:32	39	8	477	46	11	86	C
81	22:41:42	69	16	407	48	19	200	A
47	13:53:48	40	5	407	25	5	80	B
75	15:08:35	36	6	222	21	2	145	B
129	12:58:31	46	10	10451	41		72	B
140	33:55:38	79	25	861	79	17	245	A
62	13:48:05	26	2	1065	43	30	42	B
121	17:47:23	50	11	1512	34	11	77	B
84	13:28:38	85	8	4091	69	19	142	B
40	12:27:41	17	5	174	18	6	192	B
87	8:55:06	33	6	503	42	16	102	C
70	6:17:40	69	11	268	28	5	38	D
80	12:47:31	51	12	577	49	35	40	C
105	25:12:43	48	12	1277	55	19	188	A
56	18:10:41	81	11	845	37	14	156	B
<i>Totals:</i>								
1474	288:48:42	1059	194	27092	729	247	2212	