

Common Course Outline
HUM 290
Studies in Humanities
3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Studies in Humanities

Provides a series of team-taught, interdisciplinary studies in humanities enabling students to pursue systematic study of selected topics of special or unusual interest.

industrial/maintenance technology

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. develop and apply critical and analytical skills to cultural studies
2. detail and analyze comparatively selected relevant texts and cultural artifacts
3. analyze selected relevant cultural texts and artifacts in their cultural contexts, synchronically and diachronically
4. recognize and describe the relevant influences that shape cultural production, including factors of race, class and gender
5. view cultural texts and artifacts with a more sophisticated and multicultural intellectual appreciation
6. analyze critically the formal qualities and characteristics of selected texts and cultural artifacts
7. assess the different cross-currents of cultural influences that have shaped cultural production in different historical and geographical milieux
8. develop a greater openness to different cultural criteria of meaning and significance
9. produce a careful and thoughtful scholarly or creative project with written and oral components
10. recognize, analyze and assess the historical importance of selected relevant cultural artifacts
11. identify the defining characteristics of a movement, issue or problem affecting a variety of the arts in a given historical, cross-cultural context
12. differentiate the different approaches, strategies or viewpoints of artists and writers to that movement or issue in terms of individual and/or societal differences
13. compare and contrast the work of different artists in different media responding to or springing from the same movement or issue
14. construct orally and in writing, using appropriate vocabulary and

terminology, cogent and well-informed descriptions and analyses of selected cross-cultural movements or issues affecting the arts in a given historical context

Major Topics

Depending upon the specific modules offered

I. Evolution and development of cultural forms in the given societal and historical context, in a comparative perspective.

II. Investigation of relevant sources, primary and secondary, for study of the given humanities topic.

III. Systematic consideration of the various methods of interpretation that have been applied to the given humanities topic.

IV. Societal influences, and the formation and role of individuals or groups crucial to cultural production in the given context.

V. Relationship of the cultural productions under study to other manifestations of the given societal context: political, economic, religious, recreational.

VI. Concepts and vocabulary relevant to the academic study of the given interdisciplinary humanities topic.

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Course Requirements

1. Regular and punctual attendance and active participation in class
2. Written essay-style examinations
3. Reading and writing assignments
4. Annotated scholarly or creative project with written and oral components

Other Course Information

Studies in Humanities modules are team-taught interdisciplinary courses in humanities, each devoted to the intensive study of a single less-taught topic in the humanities enabling students to pursue systematic study of topics of special or unusual interest. The program is of special interest to those returning to college primarily for purposes of personal enrichment and

intellectual stimulation. In this course the over-riding aim is to build upon the generalized cultural literacy assumed for a college level, and through systematic study of a selected topic involving a movement or issue involving the work of a variety of artists and writers working in different media and genres, and out of differing individual and societal contexts, to heighten the students' awareness of the complexity of the issues involved, to encourage the student to develop increasingly sophisticated intellectual comprehension of the material and to ask increasingly sophisticated questions of it, and at the same time to heighten the students' sensitivity to the values and viewpoints emerging from differing cultural and personal perspectives.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth of knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career, and as an informed and concerned citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for tests.

Studies in Humanities Humanities 290

A series of team-taught, interdisciplinary studies in humanities enabling students to pursue systematic study of selected topics of special or unusual interest. Each semester different course modules may be offered; topics from the Studies in Humanities sequence have included such course modules as "Sacred Art of Indigenous Cultures," "Madness and Culture," "Nature, Spirit, Culture," "Heroines of World Culture," "Culture of the European Countryside," and "Romanticism: Major Voices." Following is a sample course outline for "Sacred Art of Indigenous Cultures":
This course is an interpretive survey of the sacred art of selected indigenous cultures throughout the world and through time; that is, the approach is both synchronic and diachronic. using critical concepts of such scholars as Joseph Campbell, Mircea Eliade, Marija Gimbutas and Claude

Levi-Strauss, the course will analyze examples of art forms ranging from cave paintings, masks, shields, body ornaments and decoration, ritual artifacts, and sacred architecture to performance arts associated with rituals and festivals.

Two weeks are spent on paleolithic art, with a special focus on the cave paintings of Lascaux, and on "venus" figurines, relating these art forms to the rhythms of hunting/gathering culture. Two weeks are spent on neolithic cultures, and the introduction of the "agricultural revolution."

Special focus is placed on the excavations at Catal Hayuk in Anatolia, and on the figurines and pottery of Old Europe in the neolithic and bronze ages. Three weeks are devoted to selected cultures of North America, including the Inuit, the Lakota and the Hopi, in order to give a range representative of hunting and agricultural cultures, as well as different environments and cultural traditions. Three weeks are devoted to selected cultures of sub-Saharan Africa, with focus on the Yoruba, the Dogon, and the Kung/San.

Two weeks are devoted to selected cultures of Australia and Oceania: the Kakadu and the Sepik River and New Ireland cultures. Finally, three weeks are devoted to the pre-Columbian cultures of Mesoamerica, with emphasis on the Maya and the Valley of Mexico.

Because of the extremely wide-ranging body of material, and the desirability of presenting not only an art-historical but ethnographic, comparative religion and psychological and archetypal perspectives, the course is designed to be team-taught throughout.