

HUM-2030: CULTURE AND BELIEF

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: HUM-2030 : Culture and Belief

Board of Trustees:

September 2023

Academic Term:

Fall 2024

Subject Code

HUM - Humanities

Course Number:

2030

Title:

Culture and Belief

Catalog Description:

An introduction to works of art, philosophies, religions, and scientific views that portray, explain, and evaluate the shared human search for meaning in the world as contextualized within culture. The class consists of lectures concerning works of art which provide a survey of world views that have been adopted by various cultures through history.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I; or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Extrapolate larger structures of spirituality, cosmology, or religion, using humanities-based representations, artifacts and materials reflecting the corresponding belief structure.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Examine materials drawn from disparate varieties of belief (theological, mythological, scientific, or supernatural).
 2. Utilize analytical theories for extrapolating meaning from the various belief-based creations, such as mythological stories, spiritual dance, recorded visions, spiritual photography, etc.
 3. Extrapolate from theoretical and humanities-based analysis assertions about the belief structures represented by the examined materials.
 4. Argue for an interpretation of the belief structure derived through analysis of belief-based materials.
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Course Outcome(s):

Evaluate the limits of belief structures in creating concepts of truth or accuracy.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Evaluate various belief structures (theological, mythological, scientific, and supernatural) to determine what is meant in each by truth or accuracy.
 2. Utilize theoretical and cultural models to compare various belief-based definitions of truth and accuracy.
 3. Analyze underlying assumptions about the relationship between a belief structure and measurable and observable phenomena.
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Course Outcome(s):

Examine and analyze the role of belief structures in creating unique personal experience.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Examine phenomena related to belief structures such as altered emotional states, states of consciousness, conversion, etc.
 2. Utilize theoretical materials to help analyze personal phenomena related to belief structures.
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Course Outcome(s):

Evaluate and compare, in terms of their cultural and personal value, belief structures from around the world including the theological, mythological, scientific, and supernatural.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Examine various belief structures from cultures within and beyond the United States (theological, mythological, scientific, and supernatural).
 2. Analyze the various ways different belief structures arise out of cultural and personal circumstances.
 3. Evaluate the unique ways in which a belief structure helps (or have helped) believers to analyze the world.
 4. Analyze the contexts, strengths, and weaknesses a belief structure has for a believer both as an individual and as a member of a culture of believers using examples from around the world and throughout history.
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Course Outcome(s):

Identify the responsibility that an individual has to uphold or change a cultural belief and examine the culture's responsibility to the individual as represented in its belief structure.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Evaluate and analyze the interplay between individual variations on cultural belief.
 2. Analyze the methods by which cultures encourage homogenous belief-structures.
 3. Analyze instances in which individual belief structures have been allowed to deviate from culturally homogenous belief-structures.
 4. Evaluate instances of personal belief used as protest against culturally held beliefs.
 5. Evaluate instances where personal beliefs have helped alter the culturally held beliefs.
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Course Outcome(s):

Utilize the theoretical and practical methodology of the analysis of belief systems (as learned in this course) for self-examination of one's own belief structures and the structures of one's culture.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

Objective(s):

1. Identify the role that belief has in the construction of communities.
2. Examine one's own place within the community structure based on self-identified belief structures.
3. Identify the expectations of one's own community, based on its shared beliefs, about the role of the individual.

Course Outcome(s):

Research the various belief systems examined during the class.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Objective(s):

1. Determine, from research, the basic tenets of a belief structure.
2. Utilize research to find humanities-based materials related to the belief structure.
3. Use sources ethically to discern objective information about a belief structure.

Course Outcome(s):

Explore the analysis mentioned in course objectives through short writing assignments as well as longer argumentative papers.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Write smaller response papers that demonstrate the analysis mentioned in course outcomes and objectives.
2. Write longer works which focus on in-depth analysis of at least one humanities-based material related to a particular belief structure focused upon during the course.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Midterm/final exam
2. Quizzes
3. Creative writings or other projects
4. Research papers
5. Reports

Course Content Outline:

1. Power of Myth
 - a. The Hero's Journey
 - b. Creation Myths
 - c. World Mythology
 - d. Classical Mythology and its legacy
 - e. Theories of myth
 - f. Myth and its relationship to history
2. Urban Myths
 - a. Theory and urban legends
 - b. Mythology in the electronic age

- c. Conspiracy theory
- d. Witch crazes, mass hysteria
- 3. Religion
 - a. World religions and their art
 - b. Organized religion versus cult knowledge and spirituality
 - c. Survey of world religions
 - d. Effect of religion on culture
 - e. Challenges to orthodoxy
- 4. Mysticism
 - a. Mystery Cults
 - b. Gnosticism and mysticism
 - c. Magical beliefs
 - d. Effect of mysticism on culture and history
- 5. Living myth
 - a. Fairies
 - b. Ghosts
 - c. Superstition
 - d. Liminality and performance
- 6. Modern myth and culture
 - a. Romanticism and myth
 - b. Modernism and myth
 - c. Postmodernism and myth
- 7. Science as belief
 - a. Normal science
 - b. Theoretical science
 - c. The role of prediction
 - d. Authority and fallibility
 - e. The mythology of utopian and science fiction

Resources

Michael Shermer. *Why Do People Believe Weird Things*. New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1997.

Thomas S. Kuhn. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 3. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Gary Zukov. *The Dancing Wu Li Masters*. HarperOne, 1997.

Ray Kurtzweil. *The Age of Spiritual Machines*. Viking, 1999.

John Searle. "The Chinese Room Argument" *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/chinese-room/>

Phillip K. Dick. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*. Del Rey, 1996.

William Gibson. *Neuromancer*. Ace Reprint, 2000.

"Italian Futurism: 1909-1944, Reconstructing the Universe" *Guggenheim Exhibit*. <http://exhibitions.guggenheim.org/futurism/>

Gerald J Davis (Translator). *Gilgamesh*. Insignia Publishing, 2014.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. *Grimm's Complete Fairy Tales*. Canterbury Classics, 2011.

William Blake. *The Book of Urizen*. Dover Publications, 1997.

William Wordsworth. *The Collected Poems of Wordsworth*. Ragged Hand - Read & Co., 2020.

Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein*. Penguin Classics, 2018.

Willis Barnstone and Marvin Meyer. *Essential Gnostic Scriptures*. Shambhala, 2010.

The Book of Magic: From Antiquity to the Enlightenment. Penguin Classics, 2017.

"The Book of Job" *King James Bible*.

H.A. Grueber (translator). *Classical Mythology*. Fall River Press, 2012.

Asclepius: The Perfect Discourse of Hermes Trismegestus. Bristol Classical Press, 2007.

William Shakespeare. *Hamlet*.

William Shakespeare. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Christopher Marlowe. *Dr. Faustus*.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. *Faust*.

Luigi Pirandello. *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.

Eugene Ionesco. *The Rhinoceros*.

Samuel Beckett. *Endgame*.

Samuel Beckett. *Waiting for Godot*.

Julian of Norwich. *Revelations of Divine Love*. Ixia Press, 2019.

Seamus Heaney (translator). *Beowulf*. 2001.

Virgil, Robert Fagles (translator). *The Aeneid*.

St. Augustine, Maria Boulding (translator). *The Confessions, Revised: Saint Augustine*. New City Press. 2022.

Marcus Aurelius, Gregaroy Hays (translator). *Meditations: A New Translation*.

"Chartres Cathedral" *Khan Academy*. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/early-europe-and-colonial-americas/medieval-europe-islamic-world/v/chartres-cathedral>

"Giotto, Arena (Scrovegni) Chapel" *Khan Academy*. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/early-europe-and-colonial-americas/medieval-europe-islamic-world/v/giotto-arena-scrovegni-chapel-padua-c-1305-part-1-of-4>

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

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