

# SYLLABUS: COMPARATIVE STUDIES 1100H INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMANITIES SPRING 202X

## Course overview

### Instructor Information

Instructor:

Preferred contact method: by email at

Office Hours: Mondays 2-5pm via Zoom or by appointment

Office Location: *no physical office available*

### Course description

In this class, we will examine interactions between the troubled categories of “Western” and “Non-Western” cultures, thinking about colonization and migration as key sites of “crossing cultures.” To do so, we will read postcolonial theories as well as novels, short stories, nonfiction, and films about colonization, migration, and cultural clashes, past and present. We will then discuss complex issues like identity, social power, and inequality both in the literature and in your lives. Our class will engage directly issues of systemic injustice, an intersectional understanding of lived experiences, and ethical cultural comparison practices. We ask questions about the relevance of these ideas to our thinking about ourselves and others within our cultural-historical context as well as the wider world, and pay special attention to the ways in which race, ethnicity, and gender play central roles in this understanding. We achieve these goals through group discussion on Carmen, journaling, analytical essays, and public-facing projects, many of which are shared with the class and beyond. We will often use literature to engage these concepts and will hone our skills in literary analysis as well, looking especially to the affordances of representation and meaning-making across genres.

Though this is a distance learning class, it requires a high degree of participation and engagement with your classmates as well as the coursework. You will be reading as much as 150 pages of fiction a week, and/or shorter theoretical readings. You will then be expected to participate at least 4 times *every week* in informal discussion and structured activities through Carmen. This course works a little differently than others you may have encountered. Weekly active engagement is expected and you can expect to learn from your classmates as well as your instructors. Passivity will simply not work for you in this environment; in fact, non-participation for a full week is grounds for failure (see course policies). In exchange for your efforts, you will develop insights with your peers and with me as you practice your analytical

and communication skills to gain higher levels of awareness and aptitude that will serve you throughout your life.

## **Course learning outcomes**

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Investigate how systems of power are intertwined with individual identities and experiences.
- Demonstrate information literacy and literary acuity by critically reading multiple types of texts to evaluate sources within context, biases, purposes, and limitations of genre.
- Assess the impact of their perspectives, actions, and identity positions, intentional and unintentional, on the world.

## **GE Course Information**

### **Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Diversity**

GOAL 1: Successful students will engage in a systematic assessment of how historically and socially constructed categories of race, ethnicity, and gender, and possibly others, shape perceptions, individual outcomes, and broader societal, political, economic, and cultural systems.

Expected Learning Outcome 1.1: Successful students are able to describe and evaluate the social positions and representations of categories including race, gender, and ethnicity, and possibly others.

Expected Learning Outcome 1.2: Successful students are able to explain how categories including race, gender, and ethnicity continue to function within complex systems of power to impact individual lived experiences and broader societal issues

Expected Learning Outcome 1.3: Successful students are able to analyze how the intersection of categories including race, gender, and ethnicity combine to shape lived experiences.

Expected Learning Outcome 1.4: Successful students are able to evaluate social and ethical implications of studying race, gender, and ethnicity.

GOAL 2: Successful students will recognize and compare a range of lived experiences of race, gender, and ethnicity.

Expected Learning Outcome 2.1: Successful students are able to demonstrate critical self- reflection and critique of their social positions and identities.

Expected Learning Outcome 2.2: Successful students are able to recognize how perceptions of difference shape one's own attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors.

Expected Learning Outcome 2.3: Successful students are able to describe how the categories of race, gender, and ethnicity influence the lived experiences of others.

### **Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts**

Goal 1: Successful students will analyze, interpret, and evaluate major forms of human thought, cultures, and expression; and demonstrate capacities for aesthetic and culturally informed understanding.

Expected Learning Outcome 1.1: Successful students are able to analyze and interpret significant works of design or visual, spatial, literary or performing arts.

Expected Learning Outcome 1.2: Successful students are able to describe and explain how cultures identify, evaluate, shape, and value works of literature, visual and performing art, and design.

Expected Learning Outcome 1.3: Successful students are able to evaluate how artistic ideas influence and shape human beliefs and the interactions between the arts and human perceptions and behavior.

Expected Learning Outcome 1.4: Successful students are able to evaluate social and ethical implications in literature, visual and performing arts, and design.

Goal 2: Successful students will experience the arts and reflect on that experience critically and creatively.

Expected Learning Outcome 2.1: Successful students are able to engage in informed observation and/or active participation within the visual, spatial, literary, or performing arts and design.

Expected Learning Outcome 2.2: Successful students are able to critically reflect on and share their own experience of observing or engaging in the visual, spatial, literary, or performing arts and design.

### **GE Outcomes within the Course**

We meet the outcomes in this course by:

- Exploring the development and importance of personal identity within literary works, including lived experiences of colonization, migration, assimilation, status as "Other" or

subaltern, diaspora, hybridity, and intersectionality, especially as they relate to race, ethnicity, and gender

- Identifying systems of power and inequality within global literary works as well as current world news and cultural histories
- Applying the knowledge of identity and systems of power gained through studying literature to examine our own identities, place in power structures, and impact as global citizens

## Course materials

### Required major texts

These texts are available in print or (in most cases) electronically from retailers and libraries (OSU Libraries, OhioLINK library network, Columbus Public Library, etc). You should plan to have them in your possession for the duration of the course. Note that the films of *Persepolis* and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (available on the Secure Media Library) are very different from the books and will not substitute. You are welcome to read them in the language with which you feel most comfortable, but keep in mind all discussions and assignments will take place in English and translating relevant passages may be difficult.

- John Lewis's *March: Book One* (print, ebook)
- Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (print, ebook, audio CD)
- Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis Complete edition* (print)
- Lisa Ko's *The Leavers* (print, ebook, downloadable audio)
- Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies* (print, ebook, downloadable audio)
- Moshin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (print, ebook, downloadable audio)
- Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther* (DVD, Blu-Ray, digital download or rental)
- Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place* (print, ebook, downloadable audio)
- Susan Sontag's *Regarding the Pain of Others* (print, ebook, downloadable audio)

### Required supplemental materials

These and other materials are available embedded in the modules on Carmen

- Alexandre Kojeve's *Introduction to the reading of Hegel* (excerpts)
- Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* (excerpts)
- Aijaz Ahmad's "Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness and the 'National Allegory'"
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
- Gayatri Spivak's "Can the Subaltern Speak?"
- Toni Morrison's "Recitatif"
- Judith Ortiz Cofer "The Story of My Body"

- Homi Bhabha's "Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences"
- Kimberle Crenshaw on Intersectionality with selected excerpts from Ijeoma Oluo and Deborah King
- Chimamanda Adichie "The Danger of a Single Story" and Achebe's impact
- Barbara Kingsolver and Lisa Ko "A Conversation with..."

## How this Online course works

**Mode of delivery:** This course is 100% online. There are no required sessions when you must be logged in to Carmen at a scheduled time. However, while the course is asynchronous, 4 times in the term you must meet synchronously with the instructor at a mutually agreed-upon time, and there are several synchronous group meetings expected.

**Pace of online activities:** This course is divided into weekly modules that are released on Tuesdays, with deliverables on Thursdays and Saturdays. Students are expected to keep pace with the two weekly deadlines for assignments but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

**Credit hours and work expectations:** This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy ([go.osu.edu/credithours](http://go.osu.edu/credithours)), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

**Participation:** Because this is a distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Logging in: AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK TO PASS THE CLASS**  
Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (During most weeks you will log in and interact with our Carmen site many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*. ***Missing an entire week of class without a really good reason (that is, something that would count as a multi-day excused absence for an in-person class, with documentation) is grounds for failure of the course. If you fall ill or have another reason for missing more than a week of class, you are expected to contact me to let me know as soon as possible. Do not become inactive in the class then expect to be accommodated later unless contact was impossible.***

**Excused absences/non-participation:** Excuses for missing an entire week of participation are similar to excused absence excuses in an in-person class. A death in your immediate family, illness, or a major mental health emergency would count because these understandably affect more than 1-3 days of work. Issues that occupy

only one or two days of your week, such as a temporary childcare problem, a job interview, a religious holiday, or food poisoning do not. Pre-planned family events (weddings, reunions, vacations, etc.) and business trips also do not count as excused regardless of length; plan to make time to do your classwork. Events causing any sustained disconnection with the course should be made around our course schedule whenever possible. All excused non-participation must be documented in writing (doctor's note, funeral program and obituary, or similar).

- **Office hours: Required and OPTIONAL**

All weekly live office hours are optional and are available as video sessions, audio calls, or real-time text chats through Zoom. If you need to discuss an assignment with me, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements if you need a time outside scheduled office hours. **At 4 critical moments within the term, you must schedule a time to meet with your professor to discuss your projects and your progress in the class.**

- **Participating in discussions: 4 TIMES PER WEEK**

As participation, each week you can expect to post on at least two separate days as part of your discussion group's substantive class discussion on the week's topics. That means you must post at least once in the first half of the week and once in the second half of the week in response to the questions posed in the modules as well as your classmates' presentations on the blog. These posts should be substantive, at least 3-4 sentences, and 50+ words, and should not boil down to "I agree" or "I disagree" with no original contribution to the conversation. You are encouraged to post more often, and you can certainly post less substantive responses ("That was really smart. Thanks for that contribution!") as often as wish, those they won't count toward your discussion grade. This is one of the primary ways you will feel connected to your classmates and you should plan to read what they post as part of this activity. Most students feel motivated most by ongoing conversations with their classmates. The modules will prompt you on what to discuss in the various forums.

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** In addition to our regular online course policies, some additional measures may be required to cope with restrictions necessitated by the pandemic. For the most part, we will expect that changing conditions will not affect our Distance Learning class much. All plans for travel, quarantine, etc. need to be made with keeping up with our course in mind. However, should changes in policies or adjustments to our schedule need to be made, these will be announced via Carmen Announcements. Please check there and in the weekly videos for any syllabus updates made after the start of the term. Please reach out immediately if your ability to complete the course effectively is impacted by the pandemic, I will seek to find good solutions with you. Do not wait to seek these until after the problem has passed.

## Course technology

Your instructors do not provide technical support. For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service

Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** [8help@osu.edu](mailto:8help@osu.edu)
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

## Carmen Access

You will need to use BuckeyePass ([buckeyepass.osu.edu](http://buckeyepass.osu.edu)) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions ([go.osu.edu/add-device](http://go.osu.edu/add-device)).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click Enter a Passcode and then click the Text me new codes button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application ([go.osu.edu/install-duo](http://go.osu.edu/install-duo)) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you

## Additional Technology

The above support information applies to *all* Carmen components, including Discussions, Groups, Modules, Carmen Connect, Messages, etc. It also applies to other OSU resources like viewing materials in the Secure Media Library and the U.OSU blogging platform. For issues with using the OSU Libraries catalog for research, accessing electronic databases, or circulation, contact the Libraries directly.

- **Self-service and chat support:** <http://libanswers.osu.edu>
- **Phone:** 614-292-6785
- **Email:** <http://libanswers.osu.edu/q.php>

## Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen

## Technology skills necessary for this specific course

- Zoom text, audio, and video chat (for optional office hours and podcast assignment)

- Captioned Zoom videos for course content
- Collaborating using Carmen's Groups tools
- U.osu.edu (University's Wordpress-powered blog platform)
- Recording, editing, and uploading audio or video (for podcast assignment, a written alternative option will be provided for anyone needing an accessibility accommodation) – further information will be provided in the Carmen modules

### Necessary equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 10+) with high-speed internet connection
  - A tablet (e.g., University-issued iPad) is an acceptable alternative as long as you have a keyboard and the capacity to save documents as Word files or PDFs
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Webcam is a plus

### Necessary software

- Word processor capable of saving in .doc, .docx, or .pdf formats (recommended: [Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus](#)): All Ohio State students are eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Each student can install Office on five PCs or Macs, five tablets, and five phones.
- Students are able to access Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and other programs, depending on platform. Users will also receive 1 TB of OneDrive for Business storage.
- Office 365 is installed within your BuckeyeMail account. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found <https://ocio.osu.edu/kb04733>.
- You are not required to use Microsoft Office. However, any assignments submitted through Carmen dropbox will *only* be accepted in .doc, .docx, and .pdf formats. No submissions via Google Docs, Box, Word Online, or OneDrive.
- Audacity (optional): Audacity is a free audio-editing program available for Mac, Windows, and Linux platforms. It is not available for tablets. You can use Zoom as an alternative if you choose not to use Audacity.
  - Audacity is pre-installed in all Digital Union computer labs and can be used there when computer labs are open or can be downloaded to your personal device.
  - Audacity is the *recommended* software for audio editing for the advice column podcast project; however, if you have and are familiar with other audio editing software that can export in mp3 format, you are welcome to use that.
- Web browser: it is strongly recommended that you use Google Chrome for this course, especially for Zoom meetings and video streaming. Safari is not fully compatible with Zoom and some OSU video services. You are responsible for ensuring that your chosen browser works properly with all course technologies.



# Grading and faculty response

## Grades

Assignment or category	Points
Discussion Question (once per term, date assigned individually)	40
Context Research Presentation (once per term, date assigned individually)	85
Required Instructor Meetings (4: one for discussion question preparation, one for context research presentation preparation, one with your podcast team, and one for your final paper preparation)	10 points each/40 total
Weekly discussion posts and participation	20 per week (except first and last week/280 total)
Syllabus Quiz	5
Short autoethnography	40
Thesis exchange	20
Diary of Systemic Injustices regular entries	15 each/90 total
Showcase entry	30
Short essay take-home midterm	100
"Yo, Is This..." advice column podcast	130
Final Project: text review for class blog	40
Final Project: analysis paper	100
Total	1000

*See course schedule below for due dates*

## Assignment information

***For every assignment except the syllabus quiz, detailed instructions and prompts will be distributed in advance. The following is only a summary and does not include all requirements.***

***All formal writing assignments should be single-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins. For assignments where a word count rather than a page count is given, copy-paste your text into a Word document and use the word count tool. The word count is always the definitive requirement; page counts are an estimate.***

**Discussion Questions:** Once per semester, you will provide the week's discussion questions for your discussion group. You will submit **at least 2** substantive, discussion-generating questions on the coming week's reading by Wednesday of your discussion starter week. You will submit your questions by posting them in the small group discussion area for that week. **Value: 40 points**

**Context Research Presentation:** Once per semester, you will contribute to the class blog (u.osu.edu—I will send you a link inviting you to your section's blog) by providing some specific, in-depth context relevant to the readings for the week, with particular attention to research about the race, ethnicity, and gender dynamics in the place and time we are studying. You will sign up for your week in Week One of the course, and post your presentation the Saturday prior to the start of the week. For example, during the week on *Interpreter of Maladies* (a collection of stories about migration in and out of India), a student might write an entry on the history of Partition, an event that sparked mass displacement in India and Pakistan, or about variety of perspectives on arranged marriages and gender-based familial roles in several of the stories. During the week on *Things Fall Apart*, a student might write a summary of British colonialism in what is now Nigeria or about Nigeria's relationship to race-based slavery and brutality in US. You will consult with me on your topic in advance to get ideas and ensure that contributors don't overlap. Your presentation can take a variety of forms depending on what you think will benefit you and will best suit the material and the class's needs. It should be at least 500 words, 6 minutes, or the equivalent, plus proper citations and links to other relevant pages. You will need to have compiled research from at least 3 reliable sources for this assignment. Once you sign up for a week, mark your calendars for when you need to start thinking about ideas and talking with me to select a topic as well as when you plan to post the presentation in advance of the relevant week. **Value: 85 points**

**Required Instructor Meetings (4):** Four times in the term, you must schedule and meet with your instructor to discuss upcoming assignments. During the meeting, you will prepare notes and ideas to share with your professor so that you can determine together how you complete upcoming major assignments. To prepare for the discussion question meeting, think about what you have learned so far in the term, what you'd like to learn, and how you'd like the conversation among your classmates to evolve so you can brainstorm together how to pose questions that will help you meet those objectives. For the context presentation meeting, bring ideas about topics for your research based on pre-reading the assigned texts for the week so you can plan together with your professor what topic you will cover, how to find relevant research, and what shape your presentation will take. For podcast preparation, find a mutual time for your entire group to meet

with the professor during which you will discuss your proposed topic, why you think it will be well-suited to discuss in podcast form, and what nuances you will explore. You will meet one additional time to propose a thesis statement and outline for your final paper. These are required meetings—prompt attendance and preparation for the meetings is expected.

**Weekly participation:** Most weeks (except the first and last weeks which have 2) will require 4 *engagements*: a comment on the blog regarding your classmates' research presentations, responses to your peers' questions, and 2 discussion posts prompted by me engaging in discussions about the week's readings. Posting in your small group discussion forums as well as completion of the week's module, including any surveys, ungraded quizzes, or other exercises is required and graded each week. Discussion posts in the forums posted for the week should each be at least 50 words (about four sentences) and should contribute something substantive to the conversation. You can expect that the deadlines for these will occur twice a week: once on Thursday and again on Saturday (due dates are listed in each forum prompt and on the Weekly Roadmap). **Value: 20 points per week**

**Syllabus quiz:** A quiz on the syllabus is integrated into the first week's module. If you've read the syllabus carefully, and you're well positioned to move on in the course, this will be an easy quiz to complete. It is designed to alleviate confusions about how the course operates and ensure your success in subsequent weeks. **Value: 5 points**

**Short Autoethnography:** The autoethnography asks you to explore your position as a scholar through some kind of autobiographical event or aspect of your life (more instructions will be provided). The paper should be 350-500 words. **Value: 40 points.**

**Diary of Systemic Injustices:** For six weeks in the middle of the course, you will write weekly journal entries on examples of systemic injustice that you have witnessed personally, read about in the global news, or learned through cultural and historical study. You will identify what makes the situation you select systemic injustice, and provide an intersectional analysis about the case you choose. Each entry should include at least two citations to research performed about your chosen situation. Each entry should be approximately 350-400 words, and will be submitted via Carmen. At the end of the series, you will post an expanded sample entry—whichever you think is most interesting, with additional analysis—on the course U.OSU blog for your section. These sample entries should be about 500 words and include images or videos you have sourced that enhance your entry. Your peers will comment on these blog entries, and you will be able to read and comment on theirs. More information is available in the assignment description on Carmen. **Value: 15 points per weekly entry (90 points total) plus 30 points for the expanded showcase entry and comments on others'.**

**Thesis Exchange:** The thesis exchange asks you to practice literary analysis through the lens of our course concepts by composing a thesis statement and the outline of an argument and then

swapping with a group-mate in preparation to the midterm. More instructions will be distributed. This exercise takes place in the week before the midterm. **Value: 20 points**

**Midterm:** The midterm will be take-home and open-book. It consists of two short essays asking you to do some comparative literary analysis and applications of course concepts (you will be provided with several questions from which you will choose two), 350-500 words **each**. It will be submitted by Carmen dropbox. **Value: 100 points.**

**“Yo, Is This...” Advice Column Podcast:** The podcast assignment asks you to offer advice to a curious but less knowledgeable audience about an issue related to systemic injustice, structural power, or identity. It is based on the popular podcast and blog, “Yo, is this Racist?” but allows you to fill in the ending of the question (“Is this sexist? Is this ablest? Is this ethnocentric? Is this intersectional?” etc.). Most of you will complete this assignment as a group, building on material you created for your Diary of Systemic Injustice showcase post. More information will be distributed in the modules. This assignment involves audio recording and editing and will be completed in groups of two or three. An alternative text-based way of completing the assignment will be available as an accessibility accommodation. You will also be required to produce a transcript. Podcasts should be 8-10 minutes long and will be submitted and shared through the blog in MP3 format. **Value: 150 points.**

**Final Project - Text Review:** This assignment asks you to write an informal review of a text (book, film, TV series, album, or other piece of literature or pop culture) recommending it to your peers by connecting it with the most compelling concepts from our course. The informal review (+ representative images) will be approximately 350-500 words and will be submitted through the class blog. **Value: 40 points.**

**Final Project - Analysis Paper:** The analysis paper takes a more formal look at the same text you focused on in your review. You will perform a literary analysis while examining how it addresses power structures, systemic inequality, intersectional identity, or some more particular aspect of these we’ve talked about in class (e.g., colonialism), comparing it with other texts we read in the class. The paper should be formally written, researched (at least 4 sources beyond assigned class texts), and properly cited in MLA format, and 750-1250 words **Value: 100 points.**

## Late assignments

**No late work will be accepted without consent from me** (this consent will be given for emergencies and accommodations; see attendance policy). Make sure you are keeping up with discussion every week. Due to the nature of the discussions, you cannot do them retroactively for a grade. **Please schedule yourself to complete your other assignments in advance when you can, and reach out to me as soon as you suspect you might not be able to meet a deadline.** Please save your work frequently and know where the nearest accessible backup computer and internet access is in case of technical problems. I recommend you write assignments, especially your Carmen and blog posts, in a separate document or copy them before you attempt to post so you have them if the post fails to go through. Plan for things not

to work perfectly. Keep backup copies of everything. You can schedule assignments for yourself in your Carmen calendar. I highly recommend this as a planning tool, as well as whatever additional personal planning or scheduling systems you use. This course has a rhythm you will eventually get used to, but it can be difficult to keep track of things as you acclimate to this and your other classes. In addition to the schedule in the syllabus, each week, the modules start and end with a roadmap and a checklist of everything that is due. Be sure you review that list and plan accordingly.

## Grading scale

It is your responsibility to monitor your grades for the course and notify me of any questions or errors within 1 week of posting. Your grades will be available to you in the Carmen gradebook.

93–100: A	73–76.9: C
90–92.9: A-	70 –72.9: C-
87–89.9: B+	67 –69.9: D+
83–86.9: B	60 –66.9: D
80–82.9: B-	Below 60: E
77–79.9: C+	

## Faculty feedback and response time

The following list is to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem. I do not provide technical support, but I can provide support with things *missing* from Carmen, so contact me ASAP if you cannot see required reading, a dropbox, or something similar and you've confirmed it is not a technical problem.)

### Grading and feedback

For weekly assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **a week**. This includes your discussion questions and blog comments. Note that feedback on discussion boards will not necessarily be individual; it may consist of posts or comments directed at your whole group, or at a specific thread in the discussion forum. For large assignments such as papers or midterms, you can generally expect grades within **two weeks** as well as individual **feedback via published rubrics**.

### E-mail

Expect replies to e-mails and Carmen messages within **48 hours**. I will make every effort to reply on the same business day to emails, and normally I will be able to. If you don't receive a reply within this 48 hour timeframe, please resend the email as it may not have been received. Expect that responses will likely be slower over the weekend. Try to anticipate your questions in advance by reviewing the module and assignments when they are published. Use office hours when you can.

## Discussion board

I will read the discussion boards as often as possible. However, if you have a question for me instead of the class or your group, or you need to alert me to an incident on the boards, please email directly for the fastest response.

# Attendance, participation, and discussions

## Schedule and Flow of the Course

**The module components of the course operate on a Tuesday to Saturday cycle.** Each week, the week's module will go live on Tuesday afternoon EST at the latest. All regular participation for the week, including completion of all the module components and any special activities, is due on Thursdays and Saturdays. You should participate in discussions on at least two occasions during the week, once between Tuesday and Thursday and again between Thursday and Saturday. It is OK if you are only partway through the reading and module when you make your first post, but you need to have done some of it to comment intelligently. You should complete your assigned readings prior to your second discussion board posts.

It can help to think of the class as similar to a two-days-per-week in-person class. You can be reading all assigned readings as well as participating on the blog whenever you want, but particularly from Sunday-Tuesday morning, then engaging with the course module materials Tuesday-Saturday. All major assignment prompts except exams are available for you to work at your own pace whenever you wish to prior to their deadlines; exams are posted about two weeks in advance of when they are due.

Additional assignments have specific due dates that are listed in both the course schedule and assignments section of this document, and many of them require a planning meeting with me. The rotating assignments (such as developing discussion questions for your discussion group and contributing to the course blog) are individually scheduled via sign-up at the beginning of the semester. For your assigned week, blog contributions are due the Saturday prior to the release of the week's module. That is, if you are creating a context presentation for week 6, it is due on the blog by the Saturday at the end of week 5, the same day all work for week 5 is due (that way your fellow students can read your post to prep for the week.) Peer discussions are due on Wednesdays of the relevant week. You should plan to talk with me before pursuing a context research topic or developing discussion questions.

## Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are expectations for how we will communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling,

and punctuation. Address me and your classmates appropriately, do not write in text-speak, or the like; be reasonably professional. Informality (such as an occasional emoticon) is fine.

- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to support what you express and never express an idea as your own that is not. (If you are citing course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link. If you are using a support tool like Sparknotes to complete your work and an idea is presented in there you'd like to share, remember to cite that support material.) Formal written assignments and the blog contribution have more stringent requirements; see assignment sheets.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, like Word, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion. Keep backup copies of everything. Posts time out. It feels awful to lose your work in this way. Developing a process that helps you back up your work is worth it.
- **Conduct expectations:** Rules regarding basic classroom interaction remain fairly constant across all classes at the university, and we will maintain that decorum in this class even though we are not meeting in person. This course requires a commitment from all of us to maintain collegial, respectful spaces throughout: in group discussions, blog comments, live office hours, and other venues. Because we are in a discussion-based environment and I believe in making the best possible use of your time in our classroom, guidelines governing your behavior in this class are strict. This also applies to communication about class or class-created groups outside of official platforms (for example, harassment of one of your small group colleagues on Twitter or GroupMe is a violation of our behavioral norms).

As we all know, online communication can encourage nasty and dehumanizing behavior to strangers because there's a perceived lack of consequences. There are consequences in this class. Your classmates will not feel like strangers by the end of the term. If you act like a troll—using slurs or other hate speech, denigrating your classmates' identities, advocating violence, promoting disinformation, or any other flagrant disrespect—your grade will be affected and you will be reported to Committee on Academic Misconduct. Incidents of bias and other disruptive virtual behavior will be reported to [BART, OSU's Bias Assessment and Response Team](#), Student Conduct, and/or (for talk about violence) OSU Police, and will be subject to whatever consequences they choose to impose. Bias includes any kind of discriminatory talk or action against an individual or group based on sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, color, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, immigration status, veteran status, or HIV status. Sexual harassment (definitions here: <https://titleix.osu.edu/navigation/policy/definitions.html>) and also will not be tolerated.

Though we will aggressively counteract these instances, it's unlikely these issues will arise. Just please prepare to engage with this course with genuine curiosity, openness to

new ideas, and respect for difference. We'll all get the most out of the experience that way.

- **Sensitive Topics:** Many times in this course we will encounter violences and injustices that may be painful to you or others in the class. Please take care of yourselves in these moments and email me if you need to do something other than what is described to do this. You are never expected to disclose something about yourself if that vulnerability will be harmful to you. If you know that you have harmful reactions to witnessing or discussing some violences or injustices, please help me help you by reaching out to discuss potential strategies for succeeding in the course. If you suffer from a post-traumatic condition, you may want to consider reading summaries of the materials we are covering so that you can anticipate ways in which you may be triggered. As you go through the course, please be aware of the reactions others may have and approach our conversations thoughtfully. Help each other navigate these potentially difficult conversations with grace and dignity by being supportive of each other.

## Other course policies

### Academic integrity policy

#### Policies for this online course

- **General policy:** Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person, misrepresenting someone else's work as your own with or without their knowledge, quoting or paraphrasing without citing the original source, or providing work for someone else to use as their own. Plagiarism is absolutely not permitted in any assignment or venue used in this course: tests, papers, reviews, blog entries, multimedia productions, discussion posts, etc. It is a serious academic offense that will result in a report to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and potentially career-altering consequences. The University's policies on plagiarism are described in detail in your student policies handbook. Please read this information carefully, and remember that at no point should words or ideas that are not your own be represented as such.
- **Written assignments:** In formal assignments, you should follow MLA style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. Comprehensive information on MLA citation can be found here: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html). You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work for you. The Writing Center is a great resource for advice on improving your writing; distance appointments are available. See Resources section of this syllabus.



- **Reusing past work:** You are prohibited from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. This is academic misconduct. If you want to build on past work or revisit a topic from previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for formal and informal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on an assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please feel free just to ask ahead of time. There are lots of ways to seek support for your work without crossing a boundary into cheating; you just need to be careful to know and abide by that boundary. Please make note that posting our course materials like exam questions and answers to sites that are functionally used for cheating, like Chegg, is not permitted.

### Ohio State's academic integrity policy

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

### Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course. Please do not share course materials outside the course, or contact me for permission first.

## Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

### Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with SLDS and your instructor.

- [Carmen \(Canvas\) accessibility](#)
- [U.OSU blogging platform](#)
- [CarmenZoom \(for optional office hours\)](#)
- Streaming audio and video via Carmen, YouTube, and OSU's [Secure Media Library](#)
- Audacity or Zoom audio production – for students for whom Audacity is not accessible, an alternative text-based method for completing the assignment will be made available

## Resources for Success and Well-Being

**This course:** Our primary goal in this course is to facilitate student learning and success. I have no wish to inadvertently penalize students who are making a good-faith effort to engage with the course and produce high-quality work through diligent and responsible planning. I know some things are just out of your control. If, due to personal circumstances or academic scheduling issues (e.g., three things due the same day), you anticipate or find yourself struggling with the course policies or timing, please consult with me *as soon as possible*. We can make a plan for ensuring you can meet course requirements. Whenever possible, consult me about this early rather than the day something is due or after.

**Academic well-being:** There are many resources available at OSU for students who would like academic support, including the Writing Center, Dennis Learning Center, and other services. If you find yourself in circumstances that pose a serious challenge to your ability to keep up

academically (e.g. ongoing family crisis, chronic illness, hospitalization, financial crisis, or being a victim of violence), Student Advocacy is available to help you manage the situation.

- Writing Center: <http://cstw.osu.edu>
- Dennis Learning Center: <http://dennislearningcenter.osu.edu>
- Student Advocacy: <http://advocacy.osu.edu>

**Personal well-being:** OSU also has resources to help with emotional and bodily health. Counseling and Consultation Services (<http://ccs.osu.edu>, 614-292-5766), located in the Younkin Center on Neil Avenue and in Lincoln Tower, provides mental health care, referrals, counseling groups, wellness workshops, and substance abuse resources. They can help with feeling down, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, lack of motivation, interpersonal relationship problems, and substance abuse. CCS has an after-hours crisis line that can be reached at their main number, 614-292-5766 (ext. 2) outside of office hours. During work days, emergency consultations are also available. Outside resources include the **National Suicide Prevention Hotline (1-800-273-TALK)** and the **Crisis Text Line**, which can help you talk through any kind of crisis, including self-harm, domestic abuse, depression, sexual assault, family and friend problems, substance abuse, grief, and other situations (**text START to 741-741**).

Healthcare is available for all students at the Wilce Student Health Center on campus and accepts many insurance plans; it is mostly free for those on OSU student health insurance. If you are ill, they can give you an absence excuse as well as treatment. Same-day weekday appointments are available. After hours and on weekends, there are OSU urgent care facilities near campus that accept insurance; see <https://shs.osu.edu/emergencies/after-hours-care/>.

Increasing numbers of students are finding themselves without adequate food. The Buckeye Food Alliance (<https://www.buckeyefoodalliance.org>, 614-285-4067) runs a free food pantry for OSU students in Lincoln Tower, Suite 150, that is open four days a week.

Sexual assault crisis services are available to people of all genders and orientations through the local SARNCO hotline (614-267-7020) and area hospitals. Ongoing support is available through Counseling and Consultation and Wilce Student Health. OSU Hospital, CCS, and SARNCO are confidential. You can also find support and ways to report sexual assault or harassment through the University's Title IX office (<http://titleix.osu.edu>), which does not guarantee confidentiality. Be aware that many other OSU academic and coaching staff are mandatory reporters (required to convey reports of assault to the University) and also cannot guarantee confidentiality. (To be clear, I absolutely will help you get assistance, but you have a right to be aware of OSU's reporting policies.) Choose the support system that is right for you. Being a victim/survivor of sexual assault is never your fault, and you have the right to compassionate help.

***Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are struggling and need help finding assistance with these or other issues you're facing.***

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited. If you experience something in the course that does not uphold this standard, please reach out and start a dialogue about what can be done.

This course strives to be anti-racist.

Many COVID-19 pandemic related issues may arise over the course of the term. Your first resource will be the [keeplearning.osu.edu](https://keeplearning.osu.edu) website. That central source will link out to guides on many commonly encountered issues, like study space and internet access challenges, family care, counseling and support resources, etc. and will continually be updated with the latest guides and resources. If you need help, I will do my best to help connect you with the resources you need. Please don't hesitate to email me for help when you need it.

This term may require us to be flexible in ways we haven't yet imagined. Please keep a close eye on your announcements in Carmen and your email inboxes. If something needs to be adjusted or changed for the entire class, I'll give details there or in the weekly videos in the modules. If you have a personal obstacle to engaging with the class for more than a couple days, please email me and we'll look for ways to accommodate the situation. If we work together and are generous and patient with each other, I know we'll be able to handle whatever may come together.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

The land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and Cherokee peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greeneville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. As a class, we honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.

## Course schedule (tentative)

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Tues. Jan 12 – Sat. Jan 16	<p>Introductions, Carmen Tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; syllabus quiz; introductions and discussion forums, blog set up, assignment sign-ups (pick your week for context presentations and discussion starters)</li> </ul>
2	Tues. Jan 19 – Sat. Jan 23	<p>Master-Slave Dialectic, Personal and Group One-Other Dynamics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: excerpts from Hegel and de Beauvoir</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing, discussion forums including blog</li> </ul>
3	Tues. Jan 26 – Sat. Jan 30	<p>Autoethnography, Othering and Being Othered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: excerpts from Ahmad, Ortiz-Cofer</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; group discussions including blog</li> <li>• <b><u>DUE</u>: Short 1 page Autoethnography (January 30, Carmen dropbox)</b></li> </ul>
4	Tues. Feb 2 – Sat. Feb 6	<p>Systemic Injustices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Lewis, King</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including reading supplement; discussion forums including blog; first week of diary of systemic injustices</li> </ul>
5	Tues. Feb 9 – Sat. Feb 13	<p>Subalterns, Speakers, and Readers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Spivak, Morrison</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing, reading supplement, and ungraded survey; discussion forums including blog; second week of diary of systemic injustices</li> </ul>
6	Tues. Feb 16 – Sat. Feb 20	<p>Colonization and Cultural Heterogeneity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Achebe</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; discussion forums including blog; third week of diary of systemic injustices</li> </ul>
7	Thurs. Feb 25 – Sat. Feb 27	<p>Intersections: Identities and Systems of Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Satrapi</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; discussion forums including blog; thesis exchange</li> </ul>
8	Tues. Mar 2 – Sat. Mar 6	<p>Recap and Midterm, Subcultures, Immigration and Emigration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>View</u>: film version of <i>Persepolis</i></li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing, etc.; discussion forums including blog, fourth week of diary of systemic injustices</li> <li>• <b><u>DUE</u>: midterm (March 6, Carmen dropbox w/Turnitin)</b></li> </ul>
9	Tues. Mar 9 – Sat. Mar 13	<p>Negotiating Identities, Part 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Ko through page 150</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; discussion forums including blog; fifth week of diary of systemic injustices</li> </ul>
10	Tues. Mar 16 – Sat. Mar 20	<p>Negotiating Identities, Part 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Ko page 151 to end</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; discussion forums including blog; sixth and final week of diary of systemic injustices</li> <li>• <u>Schedule</u>: podcast team meetings with me</li> </ul>
11	Tues. Mar 23– Sat. Mar 27	<p>Migration and Encounter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Lahiri</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; discussion forums including blog; contact your team and explore materials on podcasting to prep for podcast assignment</li> <li>• <b><u>DUE</u>: 350-word showcase entry from diary of systemic injustices (March 27, class blog)</b></li> </ul>
12	Tues. Mar 30 – Sat. Apr 3	<p>International “Othering”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Read</u>: Hamid</li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all embedded and prompted viewing; discussion forums including blog</li> <li>• <b><u>DUE</u>: “Yo, is this...” 8-10 minute advice column podcast (April 3, class blog)</b></li> </ul>
13	Tues. Apr 6 – Sat. Apr 10	<p>Imagining Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>View</u>: <i>Black Panther</i></li> <li>• <u>Complete</u>: module including all viewing; discussion forums including blog</li> </ul>

Course Subject &amp; Number: \_\_\_\_\_

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>DUE:</u> advice column comments (April 10, class blog)</b></li> </ul>
14	Tues. Apr 13 – Wed. Apr 17	Reshaping Our Gaze <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Read:</u></b> Kincaid excerpts, Sontag excerpts</li> <li>• <b><u>Complete:</u></b> module including all viewing; discussion forums including blog</li> <li>• <b><u>Schedule:</u> final paper meeting with me</b></li> </ul>
15	Tues. Apr 20 – Sat. Apr 24	Wrap-Up, Third Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Read:</u></b> Bhabha</li> <li>• <b><u>Complete:</u></b> module including all viewing and integrated discussion; SEIs and evaluations</li> <li>• <b><u>DUE:</u> Text Review (<u>Thursday Apr 22, blog post</u>)</b></li> </ul>

# Distance Approval Cover Sheet

For Permanent DL/DH Approval | College of Arts and Sciences

Course Number and Title: COMPSTD 1100H Introduction to the Humanities

## Carmen Use

When building your course, we recommend using the [ASC Distance Learning Course Template](#) for CarmenCanvas. For more on use of [Carmen: Common Sense Best Practices](#).

- ☒ A Carmen site will be created for the course, including a syllabus and gradebook at minimum.

If no, why not?

## Syllabus

- ☒ Proposed syllabus uses the ASC distance learning syllabus template, includes boilerplate language where required, as well as a clear description of the technical and academic support services offered, and how learners can obtain them.
- ☒ Syllabus is consistent and is easy to understand from the student perspective.
- ☒ Syllabus includes a schedule with dates and/or a description of what constitutes the beginning and end of a week or module.
- ☒ If there are required synchronous sessions, the syllabus clearly states when they will happen and how to access them.

Additional comments (optional):

## Instructor Presence

For more on instructor presence: [About Online Instructor Presence](#).

Students should have opportunities for regular and substantive academic interactions with the course instructor. Some ways to achieve this objective:

- ☒ Regular instructor communications with the class via announcements or weekly check-ins.
- ☒ Instructional content, such as video, audio, or interactive lessons, that is visibly created or mediated by the instructor.





- ☒ Regular participation in class discussion, such as in Carmen discussions or synchronous sessions.
- ☒ Regular opportunities for students to receive personal instructor feedback on assignments.

Please comment on this dimension of the proposed course (or select/explain methods above):

I produce weekly videos reflecting on the students' past week's work and forecasting the week ahead, making special mention of current events related to the concepts for the week. I have written several module pages with framing materials and have filmed videos of myself and other Comparative Studies guest lecturers, which I add to and modify according to the interests of the particular students taking the class each term. I also regularly comment within discussion forums, and supply detailed feedback on all major assignments.

## **Delivery Well-Suited to DL/DH Environment**

*Technology questions adapted from the [Quality Matters](#) rubric. For information about Ohio State learning technologies: [Toolsets](#).*

- ☒ The tools used in the course support the learning outcomes and competencies.
- ☒ Course tools promote learner engagement and active learning.
- ☒ Technologies required in the course are current and readily obtainable.
- ☒ Links are provided to privacy policies for all external tools required in the course.

Additional technology comments (optional):

Students make use of discussion forums and a blog to interact

Which components of this course are planned for synchronous delivery and which for asynchronous delivery? (For DH, address what is planned for in-person meetings as well.)

This is an all asynchronous course.

If you believe further explanation would be helpful, please comment on how course activities have been adjusted for distance learning (optional):

## Workload Estimation

For more information about calculating online instruction time: [ODEE Credit Hour Estimation](#).

- ☒ Course credit hours align with estimated average weekly time to complete the course successfully.
- ☒ Course includes direct (equivalent of “in-class”) and indirect (equivalent of “out-of-class”) instruction at a ratio of about 1:2.

Provide a brief outline of a typical course week, categorizing course activities and estimating the approximate time to complete them or participate:

Week 6 is s typical week. Students read Things Fall Apart (3-4 hours), read through the module (roadmap, recap plus 3 framing pages; 1 hour), watch weekly video with option to interact (20 mins), watch short videos embedded in pages (20 mins), comment on the blog (20 mins); comment in 3 discussion forums (1 hour), review peer and instructor comments and questions posted throughout the week (30 mins), write an entry in their Diary of Systemic Injustice (1.5 hours to find an example and write about it)

Direct instruction: 3.5 hours

Indirection Instruction: 5.5 hours

- ☐ In the case of course delivery change requests, the course demonstrates comparable rigor in meeting course learning outcomes.

## Accessibility

For more information or a further conversation, contact the [accessibility coordinator](#) for the College of Arts and Sciences. For tools and training on accessibility: [Digital Accessibility Services](#).

- ☒ Instructor(s) teaching the course will have taken Digital Accessibility training (starting in 2022) and will ensure all course materials and activities meet requirements for diverse learners, including alternate means of accessing course materials when appropriate.
- ☒ Information is provided about the accessibility of all technologies required in the course. All third-party tools (tools without campus-wide license agreements) have their accessibility statements included.

Description of any anticipated accommodation requests and how they have been/will be addressed.

All videos are appropriately captioned; Carmen and blog and pdfs are vetted for accessibility

Additional comments (optional):

## Academic Integrity

For more information: [Academic Integrity](#).

- ☒ The course syllabus includes online-specific policies about academic integrity, including specific parameters for each major assignment:
- ☒ Assignments are designed to deter cheating and plagiarism and/or course technologies such as online proctoring or plagiarism check or other strategies are in place to deter cheating.

Additional comments (optional):

Use of turnitin on all major assignments, midterm prompts changed to suit the discussions that take place within the term

## Frequent, Varied Assignments/Assessments

For more information: [Designing Assessments for Students](#).

Student success in online courses is maximized when there are frequent, varied learning activities.  
Possible approaches:

- ☒ Opportunities for students to receive course information through a variety of different sources, including indirect sources, such as textbooks and lectures, and direct sources, such as scholarly resources and field observation.
- ☒ Variety of assignment formats to provide students with multiple means of demonstrating learning.
- ☒ Opportunities for students to apply course knowledge and skills to authentic, real-world tasks in assignments.

Comment briefly on the frequency and variety of assignment types and assessment approaches used in this course (or select methods above):

Assignments vary from journal entries, informal discussion, semi-public blog posts with multi-media components, research presentation, group podcast, and analytical essay writing

## Community Building

For more information: [Student Interaction Online](#).

Students engage more fully in courses when they have an opportunity to interact with their peers and feel they are part of a community of learners. Possible approaches:

- ☒ Opportunities for students to interact academically with classmates through regular class discussion or group assignments.
- ☒ Opportunities for students to interact socially with classmates, such as through video conference sessions or a course Q&A forum.
- ☒ Attention is paid to other ways to minimize transactional distance (psychological and communicative gaps between students and their peers, instructor, course content, and institution).

Please comment on this dimension of the proposed course (or select methods above):

Weekly videos regularly include discussion of local and world events as well as personal reactions of instructor, facilitation of peer-to-peer discussion on blog postings and in discussion forums, group podcast assignment. Many of the discussions happen within small groups sustained over the whole term in which students get to know each other. Students have the options to comment within an open social space as well, and most weekly videos include an invitation to comment and ask follow-up questions.

## Transparency and Metacognitive Explanations

For more information: [Supporting Student Learning](#).

Students have successful, meaningful experiences when they understand how the components of a course connect together, when they have guidance on how to study, and when they are encouraged to take ownership of their learning. Possible approaches:

- ☒ Instructor explanations about the learning goals and overall design or organization of the course.
- ☒ Context or rationale to explain the purpose and relevance of major tasks and assignments.



- ☒ Guidance or resources for ancillary skills necessary to complete assignments, such as conducting library research or using technology tools.
- ☒ Opportunities for students to take ownership or leadership in their learning, such as by choosing topics of interest for an assignment or leading a group discussion or meeting.
- ☒ Opportunities for students to reflect on their learning process, including their goals, study strategies, and progress.
- ☒ Opportunities for students to provide feedback on the course.

Please comment on this dimension of the proposed course (or select methods above):

Each week begins with a roadmap describing the ELOs for the week and how they connect to our course goals. Major assignments include descriptions and rubrics linking to course objectives. Students create context presentations for weekly readings as well as peer questions posed to each other each week. Midterm check-in and final evaluations ask students to reflect on their learning and report any useful feedback, more informal feedback regularly sought.

## **Additional Considerations**

Comment on any other aspects of the online delivery not addressed above (optional):

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Syllabus and cover sheet reviewed by

on 10/22/2021

### **Reviewer Comments:**

This syllabus includes all required syllabus elements and provides a complete and comprehensive overview of the course expectations. This is a well-designed class in which assignments, instructor presence, and student peer engagement in an asynchronous course have been fully addressed.

Additional resources and examples can be found on [ASC's Office of Distance Education](#) website.