

SYLLABUS
PART II (Summer 2026)
EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HUM 121S (801US) INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES 3 CREDIT HOURS
ON LINE

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael Houser
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Instructor is available by appointment

Course Description

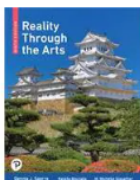
Survey of the humanities, relating the cultural values of philosophy and religion to the fine arts, particularly music, literature, theatre, and the visual arts.

Required materials:

HUM 121S 801US Summer 25/26

INTRO TO HUMANITIES - MICHAEL HOUSER

REQUIRED



REALITY THROUGH THE ARTS, 9TH EDITION - PEARSON+ SUBSCRIPTION
DENNIS J. SPORRE, NATALIE BISCIGLIA, M MICHELLE SLAUGHTER

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CURRENT PRICE

☐ **DIGITAL**

☒ **Pearson+: 180 day subscription** **\$64.98***

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General course outline: This is a **general outline of the course** and is **subject to change** upon notification on Blackboard Ultra and/or email.

NOTE 1: *During the Fall and Spring Semesters, this course runs for a full semester consisting of 15 weeks of instruction. However, for the summer, we only have **8 weeks** to cover the course content. Be prepared to invest considerable amounts of time to succeed in the condensed format of this summer course.*

NOTE 2: *There are now two options for the live concert, the museum visit, and the architecture calibration. You may do these tasks **in-person** (preferred) or **virtually**. If you decide to complete these tasks **in-person**, follow the instructions in **syllabus 2**. If you prefer to complete these tasks **virtually**, follow the instructions provided in the **REPOSITORY**. Be aware that instructions for **in-person** vs **virtually** are slightly different. So, if you do these tasks **virtually**, be certain to refer to the descriptions in the **REPOSITORY**. Otherwise, if you do these tasks **in-person**, follow the instructions in **syllabus 2**.*

NOTE 3: *Edison State Community College requires that your instructor report “NO-SHOWS” early in the course. You must show activity in the course by Saturday, June 13th (mid-night). I plan to report “NO-SHOWS” early Sunday, June 14. Examples of activity in the class include any of the tasks in the INTRODUCTION CHAPTER FOLDER. You can show activity in the course even if you have not received your textbook by completing any of the following in the Introduction Chapter folder in Blackboard Ultra: “Your Personal Introduction”, “Intro Chapter Discussion,” and/or “Intro Chapter Journal.”*

Course Dates: June 8 – August 1, 2026 (8-weeks)

(Deadline for submitting work: Friday, July 31 2026)

Table of tasks, weeks, and chapters

Topic	Week	Task	Test
Introduction	Week 1 <i>Week of 6/7/2026</i>	Introduction <i>Pages 1-19</i>	
Two-Dimensional Art	Part 1 - The Media of the Arts	Chapter 1 <i>Pages 20-46</i>	
Sculpture	Week 2 <i>Week of 6/14/2026</i>	Chapter 2 <i>Pages 47-62</i>	
Architecture		Chapter 3 <i>Pages 63-88</i>	
Music and Opera	Week 3 <i>Week of 6/21/2026</i>	Chapter 4 <i>Pages 89-104</i>	Test 1
Literature		Chapter 5 <i>Pages 105-123</i>	
Theatre	Week 4 <i>Week of 6/28/2026</i>	Chapter 6 <i>Pages 124-139</i>	
Cinema		Chapter 7 <i>Pages 140-154</i>	
Dance	Week 5 <i>Week of 7/5/2026</i>	Chapter 8 <i>Pages 155-169</i>	Test 2
Ancient Approaches	Part 2 – The Styles of the Arts	Chapter 9 <i>Pages 170-195</i>	
Artistic Reflections in the Pre-Modern World	Week 6 <i>Week of 7/12/2026</i>	Chapter 10 <i>Pages 196-243</i>	
Artistic Styles in the Emerging Modern World		Chapter 11 <i>Pages 244-289</i>	
Artistry in an Age of Industry	Week 7 <i>Week of 7/19/2026</i>	Chapter 12 <i>Pages 290-325</i>	
The Arts in a Modern, Postmodern, and Pluralistic World		Chapter 13 <i>Pages 326-368</i>	
Reflection Paper/Report	Week 8 <i>Week of 7/26/2026</i>		

LECTURES/DISCUSSION/LEARNING UNITS/LESSONS/CHAPTERS

1. **Introduction**—will provide the student with an explanation of the basic content and expectations of this course of study. The textbook, reading assignments, outside events, the requirements and calendar of due dates of the assignments, examinations, and the required presentation and reports to be written, will all be discussed. It will also identify common terminology and introduce the areas of the arts to be studied.
2. **Learning Unit 1**—will introduce through readings, lectures, videos, and discussions an overview of the media of the arts. It will include basic definitions, concepts and techniques helpful in determining critical understanding and analysis in the visual arts, architecture, music, literature, theatre, cinema and dance. This corresponds to the textbook Chapters 1—8.
3. **Learning Unit 2**—will present an overview of the chronological artistic history of European, African, Asian and Middle Eastern civilizations which ultimately have an influence on the arts in the United States. The art history will include the ancient civilizations through the Greek and Roman periods, the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods, and the periods of the Industrial Ages up to the present pluralistic world. This corresponds to the textbook Chapters 9—13.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student will:

1. Follow the assignment sheet (above) unless otherwise indicated.
2. Participate in online discussion forums through intelligent, coherent conversation over the reading and other assignments.
3. Enlarge one's vocabulary by learning terms that will be encountered during this course.
4. * Attend a live music performance or other “pre-approved performance” during the dates of the course that takes the student out of his/her musical comfort-zone: write a 400+ word reaction paper about that performance and turn in a program from that performance.
5. * Visit a museum during the dates of the course and prepare a report. See guidelines below.
6. * Complete a Piqua Architecture Calibration and prepare a summary including photos that document the experience.
7. Prepare a **REFLECTION PAPER** on a humanities-related topic of interest. See the **REPOSITORY** in Blackboard for more information.
8. Take tests periodically throughout the semester in accordance with the assignment sheet/syllabus. However, this is subject to change/adjustment.
9. Submit assignments/homework as presented in the course.

** There are now two options for the live concert, the museum visit, and the architecture calibration. You may do these tasks **in-person** (preferred) or **virtually**. If you decide to complete these tasks **in-person**, follow the instructions in **syllabus 2**. If you prefer to complete these tasks **virtually**, follow the instructions provided in the **REPOSITORY**. Be*

aware that instructions for **in-person** vs **virtually** are slightly different. So, if you do these tasks **virtually**, be certain to refer to the descriptions in the **REPOSITORY**. Otherwise, if you do these tasks **in-person**, follow the instructions in **syllabus 2**.

Midterm Grade: A mid-term grade will be reported during the summer semester. More information will be posted in ANNOUNCEMENTS and in group emails as it becomes available. But you can expect the mid-term grade to cover work up through the TEST 1 in this course. This will include the introduction chapter through chapter 4 in the textbook. The exact deadline for mid-term grades reporting has yet to be determined but will probably be at the end of week 4.

Table FINAL GRADING

Tasks	Point formula	Total points for tasks
Discussion forums	1 x 10 & 14 x 5 points	80 points possible
Journals	14 x 10 points	140 points possible
Assignments	14 x 10 points	140 points possible
Test 1	100 points	100 points possible
Test 2	100 points	100 points possible
Concert attendance & report	100 points	100 points possible
Museum visit & report	100 points	100 points possible
Architecture calibration	100 points	100 points possible
Reflection report	100 points	100 points possible
		960 points possible

Table Grading Scale and Points

GRADING SCALE	POINTS
A (90%-100%)	864 and above
B (80%-89%)	768-863.9
C (70%-79%)	672-767.9
D (60%-69%)	576-671.9
F (below 60%)	below 576

Use **POINTS** in Blackboard Ultra to determine your final grade. Do not use the average that Blackboard Ultra displays. The method that Blackboard Ultra uses to compute an average can be deceiving. Your final grade in the class will be determined by the total number of points that you have earned. Your instructor will apply your total points to the grade scale (above) to determine your final letter grade in the course.

When Assignments are Due: Chapter assignments are due at the end of each instructional week. Discussions and tests have **strict deadlines** while journals and assignments have more **flexible deadlines**. Museum report, concert report, architecture calibration, and your reflection paper are due by the “**deadline for all course work**” given below. Read weekly announcements in Blackboard Ultra for specific dates for tests and other tasks.

NO SHOW required activity in course: June 13, 2026

Last Day to Withdraw from Summer course with refund: June 22, 2026

Last Day to Withdraw from Summer course: July 13, 2026

Deadline for all course work: Friday, July 31, 2026, 11:59pm.

COURSE VIDEO LECTURES

The video/lectures that are presented in the course are required viewing. These videos typically include major points in chapters as well as additional material not covered in the textbook. Tests, discussions, journals, and assignments may include material derived from these videos.

REPOSITORY

In Blackboard Ultra, you will find a menu item called **REPOSITORY**. There are several folders in REPOSITORY that are particularly important for your success in this class. In particular, the folder called “**Dr. H's Important Information Videos/Files**” holds information that will answer most of the questions you will have about assignments and tasks. Become familiar with this folder BEFORE asking the instructor. Otherwise, the instructor will refer back to the folder.

GRADES

Your grades are reported in Blackboard Ultra in My Grades from within our course. It is the student's responsibility to check the accuracy of grades in Blackboard Ultra in My Grades at least once a week and to report any possible errors or omissions in writing (email) to the instructor.

It may be necessary for your instructor to wait until the end of the semester to know if a student has completed an assignment or task that does not have a specific deadline date. Example: Museum Report, Concert Report, Piqua Architecture Calibration. These grades are typically entered when the report is received. If these reports are not submitted by the **deadline for all course work**, no points will be reported for the respective task(s) when the course ends affecting the total points earned in the course.

MAKE-UP TESTS

Any make-up tests/quizzes/assignments must be arranged with the course instructor. Make-up work is subject to a penalty.

*Intro to Humanities HUM-121S- Section 801US Summer AY 2025-2026 (8-week format)
Online Class Syllabus/Roadmap - Dr. Houser's HUM 121S (update 4-May-2026)*

INCOMPLETE (“I” grade)

An **incomplete** (“I” grade) can only be given if you have:

1. Tested regularly and in accord with the course schedule up to the last withdrawal date.
2. Completed all the requirements up to the withdrawal date.
3. Received a passing grade on all work.
4. Provided a documented, verifiable reason for being unable to complete the course.

To receive an incomplete, you **must** meet all the criteria listed above. An incomplete grade cannot be given after the grades are turned in to the Registrar’s Office.

Evaluation Procedures:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

1. Discussion Forums:

- a. **Students must participate in the discussion forum during the week it is scheduled. Non-participation during the assigned week constitutes a zero for this task.**
- b. Students must provide an initial substantive post early in the instructional week responding to the discussion prompt.
- c. Students must provide supporting, substantive replies to other students later in the instructional.
- d. Students must provide a minimum of four substantive posts (1 initial and 3 replies) during the respective instructional week.

2. Online Journals:

- a. Students must submit a weekly journal through Blackboard Ultra.
- b. A new journal prompt will be provided each week.
- c. Journal entries must be at least a full paragraph in length, must be written with correct spelling and grammar, and must fully address the journal prompt. Journals must be written in an academic style of writing.

3. Assignments:

- a. Students must submit a weekly assignment through Blackboard Ultra.
- b. A new assignment will be provided each week.
- c. Assignments must be complete and must be written with correct spelling and grammar.

4. Tests:

- a. Students must complete two scheduled tests.
- b. Tests will be submitted through Blackboard Ultra.

6. Concert Attendance and Report: (See **REPOSITORY** for virtual option)

- a. Students are required to attend one live concert during the semester in which the student is enrolled in this course.
- b. **Do not choose to review a children’s performance, an amateur performance, or an event in a restaurant, pub, or bar.** The performance must be at a recognized concert venue.
- c. Students should choose a high-quality professional event that is not in one’s musical comfort zone. When in doubt, ask your instructor.
- d. Concert possibilities may be announced throughout the semester.

- e. A written report is required and is due within two weeks after the performance. See guidelines below.
- f. Your report should include an introductory paragraph followed by a discussion of each piece of music on the program (use terminology from the class) and a concluding paragraph.
- g. The report must also include a program from the performance you attend. If a program is not provided, a ticket stub or a “selfie” taken at the concert will suffice. This can be scanned and sent as an attachment. Or the report may be submitted to the facilitator’s box when you are on campus.

5. **Museum Visit:** (See **REPOSITORY** for virtual option)

- a. Students are required to visit one museum in the area during the semester in which the student is enrolled in this course.
- b. Museum possibilities may be presented online. (See the REPOSITORY folder.)
- c. A written report is required and is due within two weeks after the museum visit.
- d. See museum visit guidelines below.

6. **Piqua Architecture Calibration:** (See **REPOSITORY** for virtual option)

- a. Students will use the Piqua Architecture Calibration paper that the instructor supplies as a guide to explore unique structures primarily in the Piqua Historic District. This must be an “in person” experience ... not virtual ... and must be completed during the semester in which the student is enrolled in this course.
- b. Students will photograph specific building on the list.
- c. Students will create one document that includes a picture of the structure, the address, the architectural style, and a brief description of each structure selected.
- d. See guidelines below.
- e. Students who live further than a “reasonable distance” (45 minute drive) from Piqua may contact the instructor for an alternative (but similar) assignment to be complete in one’s own community.

7. **Reflection Report:**

- a. This task will involve selecting one (1) 1-hour video from an approved list, (2) watching the complete video at least once, (3) completing a report template, (4) submitting the completed report template in Blackboard Ultra.
- b. More specific instructions guidelines and instruction are will be provided in the **REPOSITORY**.

CONCERT and MUSEUM > Student responsibility for locating

On occasion, your instructor will provide some suggested concerts and museums in the area during the semester. However, it is the responsibility of the student to locate concerts and museums to fulfill course responsibilities. In other words, check the newspapers. Look at posters. Search the Internet. Locating and finding events in your area are part of each student’s responsibility. Keep in mind that your student ID card will allow you to visit many museums and attend many concerts at a reduced rate or free. Also, by planning ahead, it is very easy to locate concerts and museums that charge no admission fee. So, completing these course requirements can be accomplished totally **FREE**.

Attendance and Participation:

- Edison State Community College believes that students must attend class if they are to be well prepared for the workplace. Web-flex and online courses are no different

from traditional classroom courses in this regard. Online students are subject to the same attendance policy and procedures as traditional students.

- Each week a portion of the points assigned for the week will be based on "participation" in the course site. Some examples of participation in this course include posting to the discussion board, completing an online journal, and submitting work in Blackboard Ultra.
- Initial Blackboard Ultra postings are to be posted by Thursday of the week assigned. Follow-up posts, and responses to your participants are due by Sunday at midnight EST.
- Regular participation in the Blackboard Ultra course site will help to keep students on task with their weekly assignments.
- Each student will check into the course site a minimum of 4 times a week. (Note: Blackboard Ultra statistics are automatically recorded each time you log into Blackboard Ultra.)
- You are required to notify the facilitator in advance whenever possible if you are unable to meet time requirements or deadlines.
- If you become ill or have a family emergency, please contact the facilitator as soon as possible to notify him of the reason for your absence. Students will still be required to complete all assignments.

Report/narrative of Museum Visit: *(See **REPOSITORY** for virtual option)*

(A virtual option is available and is explained in the REPOSITORY. Be aware that requirements for the virtual experience are slightly different from the in-person experience.)

Write a narration of your visit. Include the following in your report:

- Where you went (Date, time, location)
- What you saw
- Which pieces did you find most interesting. Why?
- Which pieces did you like and dislike. Why?
- Why you chose this location
- How were you influenced by this visit
- Scan or photograph the receipt (evidence) from your visit
- Reports must be word processed (typed), single-spaced, and a minimum of 2 pages with a minimum of 400+ words. The 400+ word count supersedes a lower word count found in the videos in the REPOSITORY.

Report/narrative of Concert: *(See **REPOSITORY** for virtual option)*

(A virtual option is available and is explained in the REPOSITORY. Be aware that requirements for the virtual experience are slightly different from the in-person experience.)

Write a narration of your visit. Include the following in your report:

- Where you went (Date, time, location)
- What you saw and heard
- Which pieces did you find most interesting. Why?
- Which pieces did you like and dislike. Why?
- Why you chose this performance
- How were you influenced by this visit
- Scan or photograph the receipt (evidence) from your visit

- Reports must be word processed (typed), single-spaced, and a minimum of 2 pages with a minimum of 400+ words. The 400+ word count supersedes a lower word count found in the videos in the REPOSITORY.

Report of Piqua Architecture Calibration: (See *REPOSITORY* for virtual option)
(A virtual option is available and is explained in the REPOSITORY. Be aware that requirements for the virtual experience are slightly different from the in-person experience.)

Create a word-processed file that describes at least 5 structures on the list the instructor provides. Include the following in your report:

- Where you went (Date, time, location)
- Picture of the structure (Consider doing this activity with a partner and have your picture taken in front of the structure.)
- Style of the structure
- Address of the structure
- Brief description (Example: brick/wood/other, color, roof, chimney, decorations, windows, porch, etc.)
- Upload the file to the appropriate folder in Blackboard Ultra

Electronic Submission Statement

The assignments must be submitted through the Assignments page in the Blackboard Ultra site. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Files must be uploaded as attachments using .doc, .docx, .ppt, .pptx, .pdf, or .txt format ONLY. Files not submitted in the approved format may be graded as a zero. *(Do **NOT** submit Google Doc files or Macintosh .pages files. Convert Google Doc and Macintosh .pages files to one of the approved file types listed above.)*

Email

Check your ESCC e-mail account frequently for communications about this course. Once a day, Monday through Friday, is the best policy. Emails sent through Blackboard Ultra will be located in your Edison email (all students, faculty, and staff are required to use their Edison email account for ALL college communication. Email from personal accounts will not be responded to.

Grading Turn Around Policy

Graded assignments will be returned within one week from their due date.
 Assignments submitted early may not be returned until one week from the due date.

Instructor Contact Information

Please contact instructor at email: mhouser@edisonohio.edu; Emails requesting responses will be returned within 24-48 hours.

Netiquette Statement

Remember proper discussion etiquette :

- Use proper grammar.
- Do not use all CAPS (it makes it appear that you are shouting.)

- No Flaming.
- Think before you post - use the rule of thumb: Would I want to see this on the top of a social media feed?

Unlike a traditional class where we can see and speak to each other, an online course does not allow us to use nonverbal cues (facial expressions, tone of voice, gestures). Remarks that might be humorous when spoken can easily be misconstrued when written. Choose your words with care to lessen the chance that you will be misunderstood or misinterpreted.

Participation Policy

Participation is directly tied to how much you can learn; therefore, participation will contribute to your grade as shown above. If you have any concerns regarding your abilities to take part, please notify your instructor as soon as possible.

Failure to attend class does not constitute an official withdrawal. The responsibility for withdrawal prior to the published withdrawal deadline always lies with the students. Students are financially responsible for costs associated with classes that they have withdrawn from after the published Add/Drop date. New federal mandates for students receiving financial aid state that attendance is to be calculated based on “academic-engagement,” which means that coming unprepared for class just to be present and not doing any homework will not equal attendance.

Plagiarism Policy

Intentional academic dishonesty will result in referral to the Dean for appropriate action and a grade of “F” given for the course. Please refer to the Edison State Community College Student Handbook for a detailed explanation of academic dishonesty.

Respect Statement

This course is reliant on dialogues between and among class members. Occasionally, we will be dealing with controversial topics about which individuals may have strong or differing opinions. Therefore, it is crucial that we work together to cultivate a respectful classroom space in which everyone can share their reactions and analyses comfortably. This means being considerate and patient with everyone else in the room. Verbal bullying and personal attacks will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Subject to Change Statement

This syllabus is a guideline for the class progression; however, it is subject to change. Changes will be submitted to the class at least one week prior to enactment.

Technology Error Statement

As technology is now a part of our daily lives, computer or electronic malfunction are not valid reasons for late submissions or missing work.

TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2024-05/Testing_Your_Faith_Absence_Notification.pdf, and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2025-04/Student%20Handbook%20revisions%20April%202025.pdf>, page 19.

COLLEGE POLICIES Check **College Policies & Student Resources > College Policies & Statements** for Edison State Student Handbook, Accessibility Statement, Testing Your Faith Act, Academic Honesty Policy, Title IX – Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying, and much more.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- ☐ *When I submit my assignments, will my facilitator send me an e-mail to let me know that the assignment was received? **Not typically, facilitators in most online courses have a lot of students and homework assignments they are trying to manage. You will see your score posted to the gradebook when the assignment has been graded.***
- ☐ *Why do I need to post to the discussion board mid-week for assignments? I like to do all my work at once on the weekends. **The reason that you need to post midweek is so the other participants in the class will have time to read your initial post, and then respond to you. Having a few days to complete this is the best way to make this happen. If you wait to post at the last minute, it is not fair to other students who need your initial posting to complete the assignment.***
- ☐ *Will the facilitator reply to all of my comments on the discussion board? **The discussion board is an area for you to work and communicate with each other. My philosophy is that I will step in now and then if I see you are unclear about an assignment or a particular topic. Just because I may not respond, I am reading all of your posts.***
- ☐ *How do I communicate with the facilitator? **We will use Edison State e-mail.***
- ☐ *I e-mailed my facilitator 2 hours ago, and I have not yet received a response. **Please allow 24-48 hours for a response from your facilitator. Understand also, that facilitators are not available 24/7 and during the weekend you may have to wait longer for a response. Make sure you read the Submission policy to ensure you include the appropriate information in your subject line. This will help your facilitator determine if they need to respond quickly or can wait.***

