

**HUMN 3312: American Cultural Studies**  
**Fall 2023: August 28 – October 16**  
**Online**  
**Dr. Lee Ann Westman**

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**Course Description:** Through examining the art, architecture, artifacts, music, and literature as well as religious, political, and social reform movements that shaped the American experience from the 1600s to the Civil War, we will observe Americans' struggle to define the nature of their national identity. In particular, we will examine the stories, complementary and competing, that Americans tell about themselves.

**Class Philosophy:** This course provides the student who takes it with a degree of flexibility that is unavailable in the traditional classroom setting. You choose when you read and answer discussion questions as long as your work is completed by the due date. In a very real sense, your learning is self-directed and self-motivated. What you take away from the course will in large measure be determined by how much time and effort you put into it.

**Course Objectives:** HUMN 3312 provides students with the opportunity to take an interdisciplinary approach to the art, artifacts, and literature as well as religious, political, and social reform movements that shaped the American experience, and to be able to identify the major figures and ideas in American culture. Through the benefits of hindsight, students will learn to analyze the impact of historical and cultural events on contemporary American culture, as well as see the origins of current cultural issues. Students who are successful in HUMN 3312 should have an increased ability to interpret cultural works as part of American cultural history, be able to justify those interpretations with an understanding of the interpretive process, be able to look at works or historical events from different perspectives, and be able to better understand themselves as part of cultures with rich historical perspectives.

**Texts:**

David Bjelajac, *American Art: A Cultural History*

[https://www.amazon.com/American-Art-Cultural-David-Bjelajac/dp/013145580X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1470260440&sr=8-1&keywords=bjelajac](https://www.amazon.com/American-Art-Cultural-David-Bjelajac/dp/013145580X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1470260440&sr=8-1&keywords=bjelajac)

(any edition)

**Course Modules:** The course modules correspond with each week of class. Each module has an introduction that summarizes the chapter for that week. **READ ONLY THE INTRODUCTION IN EACH MODULE.**

(There are also instructions for assignments and activities listed in each module, but they are not up-to-date and I cannot edit them in Blackboard right now so just ignore the assignments and activities listed in the modules. The assignments listed on the Home Page are correct.)

The following texts are available online and are found under **“RESOURCES”** on the Home Page of our course:

“Iroquois or Confederacy of the Five Nations (Iroquois) and “Revolt of the Spanish”  
John Winthrop, “A Modell of Christian Charity”

Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*

Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”

Olaudah Equiano, *Autobiography*

Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple*

Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence*

Edgar Allan Poe, *The Fall of the House of Usher*

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *Declaration of Sentiments*

Frederick Douglass, [\*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave\*](#)

### Course Requirements:

**1 Midterm Exam worth 100 points.** Exams are scheduled on the syllabus. Exams will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short and long essays. Exams will cover the material in texts as well as class lectures. **No late work.** All essay questions have been run through AI systems in advance. If a student submits an essay generated by AI, the student will receive an automatic zero and a referral to the dean of students for academic dismissal.

**1 Final Exam worth 130 points.** Exams will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short and long essays. Exams will cover the material in texts and videos. **No late work.** All essay questions have been run through AI systems in advance. If a student submits an essay generated by AI, the student will receive an automatic zero and a referral to the dean of students for academic dismissal.

**Nine (9) Weekly Assignments Worth Ten (10) points each.** Students will create power point files with images from the text and short descriptions explaining how the images fit into the main ideas of the readings and lecture from that week. See “modules” for additional instructions **No late work.**

**Ten (10) reading quizzes worth 15 points each. No late work.**

**Group Discussions worth 100 points.** You must post your first thread to the weekly question by Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. Your post should be at least 100 words, and you should post at least three times each week in order to receive full credit. Students who fail to post at least once by Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. will not receive full credit for that week (regardless of their total number of posts).

Students who make first post by Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. and who post at least 3 times each week will receive 15 points. At the end of 7 weeks, students who participated every week will earn 105 total points – a little bonus for 100% participation!

Your points are not dependent on your group members' work. Group members who fail to participate in the group discussion will be moved to "Group 8," which is a group for students who are not participating.

#### **FAQs about Discussion Board:**

1. **What do I discuss?** Each week, I post a set of questions for you to discuss with your group.
2. **Do all posts count?** Yes! You should post 100 words or more at least 3 times every week. ALL POSTS COUNT -- original posts and replies to other posts. If other students have already posted, then just reply to their posts so you're having a discussion.
3. **What if my group members are not participating?** As long as you post 100 words or more at least 3 times a week, you will receive full credit. If your group mates fail to post, that does not affect you.
4. **What happens if some or all of my group mates fail to post?** If your group mates fail to participate, I will move them to "Group 8," which is a group for students who don't participate. Because there are usually students who fail to post during the first week, your group members may change for week 2 (for example, if you're in a group of students who are not posting, I will move you to another group of students who do post).
5. **How are my posts graded?** Blackboard Ultra allows me to assign points each week. If you post 3 times (1<sup>st</sup> time on Wednesday or earlier) AND your posts are at least 100 words and your posts relate to the prompt and your posts fit the rubric below, then you'll get 15 points. At the end of the semester, 100% participation in discussion board will convert to 105 points.

## Rubric: Discussion Postings

### **FULL CREDIT**

- Responds fully to question
- Gives a realistic response
- Expresses ideas clearly and persuasively
- Exercises good judgment in selection of relevant ideas
- Presents ideas clearly, logically, coherently,
- Expresses facts correctly
- ideas are well organized and in own wording
- Responses are at least 100 words or more
- Responses to others are thoughtful and supported with research and practical application
- Uses and cites course text/module to support response

### **PARTIAL CREDIT**

- Responds adequately to question asked
- Selects ideas which are supportive
- Presents ideas clearly
- Expresses facts correctly
- Ideas are organized and in own wording
- contains noticeable errors in grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling
- Expresses ideas with some confusion
- Expresses ideas clearly and persuasively
- 50-75 words
- Uses course text/module to support response minimally

### **LITTLE TO NO CREDIT**

- Partially responds to what the question asks
- Responds to question with some errors
- Ideas are lacking in support and unclear.
- Facts are inaccurate
- Copies, wording from sources
- Contains substantial errors in grammar punctuation, word choice or spelling throughout
- Presents ideas unclearly with little organization
- <50 words
- Responses reflect general ideas without supporting references to readings and supporting research.
- Responses to others are minimal or none. (i.e., "I agree!" or "I like the ideas!")

## **Technical Support Problems**

The following sources will assist you with any technical problems that you may experience in this course.

- Call 1-866-321-2988 (toll-free) any time at the 24/7 Helpdesk

## Students With Disabilities

As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP needs to be contacted. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and [The Disabled Student Services Office](#) at The University of Texas at El Paso.

## Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own, **including CHATGPT or other AI sources**. Students who use CHATGPT or other AI sources will receive an automatic zero and a referral to the Dean of Students Office. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. **Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the [Dean of Students Office](#) for possible disciplinary action.** **Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.**

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. **Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.** Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Refer to: <http://www.utep.edu/dos/>

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1: August 28**

*Read Bjelajac Chapter 1: The Invention and Mapping of America*

**Introduce yourself to the class (5 points)**

**Due: Extra Credit Syllabus Quiz by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Assignment 1 by Saturday at 11:30 PM.**

**Due: Week 1 Discussion (1<sup>st</sup> post must be posted by Wednesday at 11:30 PM)**

### **Week 2: September 4**

*Read: "Iroquois or Confederacy of the Five Nations (Iroquois)*

*"The Coming of the Spanish and the Pueblo Revolt (Hopi)"*

**Due: Quiz 1 by 11:30 PM on Wednesday**

**Due: Assignment 2 due Wednesday by 11:30 PM**

*Rd: Mary Rowlandson, "A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson"*

**Due: Quiz 2 by 11:30 PM on Saturday**

**Due: Week 2 Discussion (1<sup>st</sup> post must be posted by Wednesday at 11:30 PM)**

### **Week 3: September 11**

*Rd Bjelajac ch 2 Religious Rituals and the Visual Arts in Colonial America*

*Rd: John Winthrop, "A Modell of Christian Charity"*

*Rd: Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"*

**Due: Quizzes 3 and 4 by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Assignments 3 and 4 due Saturday by 11:30 PM**

**Due: Week 3 Discussion (1<sup>st</sup> post must be posted by Wednesday at 11:30 PM)**

### **Week 4: September 18**

*Rd Bjelajac: Chapter 3: Art and the Consumer Revolution in Colonial America*

*Rd. Susanna Rowson, Charlotte Temple*

**Due: Quiz 5 by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Assignment 5 by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

*Rd Bjelajac, Chapter 4: Revolutionary Icons and the Representation of Republican Virtue*

*Rd. Jefferson, Declaration of Independence*

**Due: Assignment 6 by Saturday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Quiz 6 by Saturday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Week 4 Discussion 1<sup>st</sup> post must be posted by Wednesday at 11:30 PM.**

**Week 5: September 25**

**Midterm and Module 6**

**Due: MIDTERM EXAM by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

*Rd. Chapter 5: National Identity and Private Interests in Antebellum America*

*Rd. Olaudah Equiano, Autobiography, Chapters 2-6*

**Due: Quiz 7 by Saturday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Assignment 7 by Saturday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Week 5 Discussion (1<sup>st</sup> post must be posted by Wednesday at 11:30 PM)**

**Week 6: October 2**

**Module 7**

*Rd. Edgar Allan Poe, The Fall of the House of Usher*

**Due: Quiz 8 by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

*Chapter 5 continued: Module 8 Transcendentalism*

**Due: Assignment 8 by Saturday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Week 6 Discussion (1<sup>st</sup> post must be posted by Wednesday at 11:30 PM)**

**Week 7: October 9**

**Chapter 5 continued**

Domestic Feminism, Feminist Art

*Rd. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Declaration of Sentiments*

**Due: Quiz 9 by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Assignment 9 by Wednesday at 11:30 PM**

**Module 10**

*Rd. Frederick Douglass, Narrative, chapters 1-11*

**Due: Quiz 10 by Saturday at 11:30 PM**

**Due: Week 7 Discussion (1<sup>st</sup> post must be posted by Wednesday at 11:30 PM)**

**Final Exam due by Saturday at 11:30 PM**