

HUM 102:
CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS II

Spring, 2025

Boğaziçi University

Instructors:

Assoc. Prof. Betül Avcı (Cultural Studies)

Asst. Prof. Amina Nawaz (Faculty of History)

Asst. Prof. Mujadad Zaman (Faculty of Education)

Humanities

HUM 102 is the second course of a two-semester offering. It is an interdisciplinary survey series, team-taught by faculty. It consists of mandatory lectures and discussion sections. Each week, students attend a main lecture on Tuesday at 17:00 in Albert Long Hall (South Campus), where a guest lecturer, an expert in the field, introduces the week's subject. This is followed by three seminar hours weekly. The syllabus is organized both chronologically and thematically with the intention to provide a general framework for understanding the assigned text(s), while the discussions allow for deeper analysis and critical engagement.

Course Objectives

1. Introduce students to the diverse people, places, ideas, and experiences that span the breadth of human history.
2. Begin an exploration of the humanities disciplines—history, religion, literature, philosophy, cultural studies, and more—by understanding human beings in their full complexity, without prioritizing one ability, emotion, or faculty over another.
3. Develop an appreciation for connecting historical ideas with contemporary realities through dynamic engagement with philosophy, music, religion, and art etc.
4. Foster vibrant, meaningful discussions that encourage deeper insight, understanding, empathy, and compassion for both ourselves and the world around us.

Student Assessment

The final grade for this course will be determined as follows:

50% Attendance and Participation

This includes coming to class ready for discussion (reading the assigned text, taking notes, and preparing questions for discussion), attending the required weekly sessions and participating in the class discussion.

Students will be asked to complete one presentation for a chosen week in the semester. The presentation for a chosen week must draw upon the key points from the readings, and offer a short reflection on the critical themes from the week.

50% Final Exam

The exam will take place in the last week of class and consist of short answers and one longer answer. **Exam questions will be drawn from seminar discussions.**

Course Practicals

- *Duration:* 13 weeks
- *Weekly Contact Hours*
 - 1-hour main lecture in Albert Long Hall (South Campus)
 - 3 hours of lecture and small group discussions
 - Course Readings: All readings and resources will be provided by course instructors
- *Absences*

This course relies upon vibrant and lively discussions conducted in class with your colleagues. Therefore, attendance is crucial. **Missing more than 20% of the course will result in an automatic fail.** Absences that are not excused will also result in a deduction of your attendance and participation grade.

Semester Syllabus

Week 1 The Turning of Time I

Ibn Khaldūn - *Muqaddima* (Chp. 1)

Week 2 The Turning of Time II

Ibn Khaldūn *continued*

Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History*

Week 3 Art and “Rebirth” of Man

Giorgio Vasari, *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors & Architects*
(Leonardo da Vinci)

Week 4 Reason and Doubt

René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Meditation IV)

Galileo Galilei, *Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany*

Week 5 Advising Power: Pragmatism and Virtue

Yamamoto Tsunetomo, *Hagakure* (selected aphorisms)

Niccolo Machiavelli, *Prince* (“Concerning Cruelty and Clemency, and Whether It Is Better to Be Loved Than Feared”)

Week 6 Cultural Encounters

Evliya Çelebi, *The Seyahatname* (Vienna)

Shakespeare,

Merchant of Venice (Shylock’s speeches - From Act 3, Scene 1)

Othello (Act 1, Scene 2, 3)

The Tempest (Act 1, Scene 2)

Week 7 The Self and the Collective

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Social Contract* (Book I)

Thomas More, *Utopia* (Book II)

Week 8 Science Vs. Nature

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (Chp. 4)

Mary Shelly, *Frankenstein* (Victor's Warning)

Week 9 What is Enlightenment?

Immanuel Kant, *What is Enlightenment?*

Week 10 Capitalism and its Critics

Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (Chp. 1)

Marx & Engels, *Communist Manifesto* (Chps. 1-4)

Week 11 Reactions to Modernisation in the Non-Western World

Mahatma Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (Chps. 6-9)

Fukuzawa Yukichi, *An Encouragement of Learning*
(The Role of Western Knowledge)

Week 12 Resistance to Dehumanization

Omar b. Said, *Autobiography*

Tecumseh, *Speech to Osage*

Sitting Bull, *Speech to the US Senate*

Toussaint Louverture, *Letter to the French Directory*

Week 13 East and West

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *West-East Divan* (selections from Book of Song, Book of Wisdom)

Exam

Class Etiquettes

Electronic Devices: Mobile phones, ipads, laptops, tablets or any other electronic device may not be used during class. So, do not place them on the desk! If you desperately need to use a device, make a case for it. The reason for this 'ban' is that they are distracting, but if you can convince me you are using for good, I am okay with it.

Email and Communication: One of the most important ways I will communicate with you is via email, in order to send readings and give you other important information. It is essential that you check your email regularly.

Recording During Class: Making recordings during class is not permitted, unless exceptional circumstances necessitate recording.

Mindful Space for Discussion: Often times, we hold strong views on particular subjects and this is immensely positive and contributes to vibrant discussion. However, this also means that we must be mindful of the space that others need to share their thoughts, which may differ from those you hold, in order to create an atmosphere of respectful and engaging conversation.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism¹

Plagiarism is defined as submitting as one's own work, irrespective of intent to deceive, that which derives in part or in its entirety from the work of others without due acknowledgement. It is both poor scholarship and a breach of academic integrity.

Examples of plagiarism include copying (using another person's language and/or ideas as if they are a candidate's own), by:

quoting verbatim another person's work without due acknowledgement of the source;

paraphrasing another person's work by changing some of the words, or the order of the words, without due acknowledgement of the source;

using ideas taken from someone else without reference to the originator;

cutting and pasting from the Internet to make a pastiche of online sources;

submitting someone else's work as part of a candidate's own without identifying clearly who did the work. For example, buying or commissioning work via professional agencies such as 'essay banks' or 'paper mills', or not attributing research contributed by others to a joint project.

Plagiarism might also arise from colluding with another person, including another candidate, other than as permitted for joint project work (i.e. where collaboration is concealed or has been forbidden). A candidate should include a general acknowledgement where he or she has received substantial help, for example with the language and style of a piece of written work.

- Plagiarism can occur in respect to all types of sources and media:
- text, illustrations, musical quotations, mathematical derivations, computer code, etc.
- material downloaded from websites or drawn from manuscripts or other media;
- published and unpublished material, including lecture handouts and other students' work.

Acceptable means of acknowledging the work of others (by referencing, in footnotes, or otherwise) is an essential component of any work submitted for assessment, whether written examination, dissertation, essay, registration exercise, or group coursework. The most appropriate method for attribution of others' work will vary according to the subject matter and mode of assessment.

If a student has any outstanding queries, clarification should be sought from her/his instructor.

Failure to conform to the expected standards of scholarship (e.g. by not referencing sources) in examinations or assessed work will result in an automatic failure on that particular assignment as well as a review to determine if removal from the course is merited.

¹ The following information is from the University of Cambridge Guidelines. [Accessed 19th October, 2017] <https://www.plagiarism.admin.cam.ac.uk/what-plagiarism/universitys-definition-plagiarism>