



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES I
HUMA_1301_A001**

**Kayla Willis
Christopher Rose
Travis Cox
Stephen Swanson
Misty Edwards**

NOTE: This is a 16-week Blended/Hybrid course.

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES I

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Course Description:

An interdisciplinary, multi-perspective assessment of cultural, political, philosophical and aesthetic factors critical to the formulation of values and the historical development of the individual and of society. Team-taught by faculty from diverse departments as a colloquium (academic seminar led by a different lecturer and on a different topic at each session). Works may include studies, journals, novels, poems, treatises, graphic novels, films, plays, paintings, musical compositions, etc. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Member of Honors College/Presidential Scholars or permission of Honors College Director

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

The Honors Colloquium allows students to select, as available, a list of topics and readings from a larger group offered during the fall or spring semester. A colloquium is an academic meeting or seminar usually led by a different lecturer and on a different topic at each session. The Colloquium provides three hours of transferable academic credit in the Humanities. Unless notified, plan to meet all classes in MAC 336. Faculty office hours are posted on BrightSpace in each professor's folder.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Kayla Willis

MCC E-mail: kmwillis@mclellan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8788

Cell Phone Number: 254-826-6101 (When using this form of communication, text messages are preferred. Note that I will not respond after 9:00 PM or before 7:00 AM)

Office Location: CSC D39

Office/Teacher Conference Hours:

Mondays: 8:30-9:30 AM (CSC D109)

Tuesdays: 8:30-9:30 AM (CSC D109) and 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (CSC D39)

Wednesdays: 8:30-9:30 AM (CSC D109) and 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (CSC D39)

Thursdays: 10:10-11:10 AM (CSC D102)

****Other days/times available by appointment. We can meet in-person or [via Zoom](#).**

Other Instruction Information: Come to class on September 13 ready to participate in a variety of hands-on/interactive activities.

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Instructor Name: Christopher Rose

MCC E-mail: crose@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8807

Office Location: FOB 204

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: MW 11:00am-1:00pm, TTh 11:00am-1:00pm. Appointments can also be set up via Zoom.

Instructor Name: Travis Cox

MCC E-mail: tcov@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8919

Office Location: FOB 114

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Monday - Thursday from 8:30 am to 9:30 am and by appointment.

Instructor Name: Stephen Swanson

MCC E-mail: sswanson@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8922

Office Location: FOB 222

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By Appointment Only

Instructor Name: Misty Edwards

MCC E-mail: medwards@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8967

Office Location: MAC 329

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: On campus: Tues and Thurs: 12:45 to 2:00 pm

Other Instruction Information: Additional office meetings by request

Required Text & Materials:

1. *Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable* by Patrick Lencioni (*September 13 Book*)

- **Publisher:** Jossey-Bass Incorporated Publishers
- **Year:** 2002
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0787960759

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2. *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich (*October 4 Book*)

- **Publisher:** Harper Collins Publishers
- **Year:** 2012
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0062065254

3. *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones* by James Clear (*October 18 Book*)

- **Publisher:** Penguin Random House LLC
- **Year:** 2018
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0735211292

4. *Stranger than Fiction* by Marc Foster (Director Zach Helm) (*November 1 Film*)

(A DVD copy of this film will be placed in the Honors College Room (MAC 140) to be watched there. DO NOT REMOVE FROM THE ROOM!)

Additional Required Readings:

- Two short chapters from Levinas' *God, Death, and Time*: "Witnessing and Ethics" (pp. 198-202)
(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cVVTFGIWiq7UVbaePA5_zoCQQwWfuRib/view?usp=sharing) & "A God: Transcendent to the Point of Absence" (pp. 219-224)
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GEbmZafWXYD0DbddRq8FOblRvgv3a4RQ/view?usp=sharing>)
- Chapter from Dr. Swanson's dissertation: "Reading the film through Levinas, "INTERLUDE TWO: THE STRANGER IN FICTION" (pp. 134-144):
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6DW7c0VLQIEQU6NThZYmtxNmM/view?usp=sharing&resourcekey=0--bdT0aj9WKJ5mr-b8BCT0Q>

5. *How Dogs Love Us: A Neuroscientist & His Adopted Dog Decode the Canine Brain* by Gregory Berns (*November 15 Book*)

- **Publisher:** Amazon.com
- **Year:** 2022
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1477800874

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

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Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Students will be required to complete a variety of tasks and activities as outlined by each instructor. These tasks may include reading requirements, assignments, papers, discussion boards, panel discussions, quizzes, tests, etc. Students will be required to complete work outside the classroom prior to each class meeting date.

Course Objectives, Competencies, and/or Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

September 13 Objectives:

1. Identify common pitfalls to functional teamwork.
2. Explain the dynamics/keys to good teamwork.
3. Reflect on and describe past behaviors when working with others/collaborating as a team.
4. Reflect on and describe personal goals to working effectively with others.

October 4 Objectives:

1. Gain understanding of integral court cases involving Native rights (*Johnson v. McIntosh* (1823), *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), *Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock* (1903), *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe* (1978))
2. Gain understanding of hegemonic oppression and generational trauma
3. Gain understanding of rates of sexual assault of Native American women
4. Discuss Native Narratology via magical realism and dream visions
5. Discuss stories as integral, cross-generational arbiters of culture
6. Navigate difficult questions of justice (what is justice? how is it different from revenge? are there viable means for justice outside the American judicial court system?)

October 18 Objectives:

1. Describe the 4 steps of the habit loop.
2. Explain the 4 laws of behavior change.
3. Construct and evaluate a habit scorecard.
4. Explain how habit stacking and environment impact habit formation.
5. Construct and execute an implementation intention for a new habit.

November 1 Objectives:

1. Practice and progress in critical thinking, reading, and communication (both spoken and written) at the college level.
2. Discuss and apply philosophical approaches to ethics through epistemology (what and how we *know* things), ontology (what and how things *are*), and thanatology (how, why, and what *death* and *dying* mean)

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November 15 Objectives:

1. Develop a deeper understanding of the use and application of the scientific method (including research design and ethical considerations/processes)
2. Describe the three main types of learning in behavioral theory
3. Explain the concept of ‘theory of mind’ in how it applies to dog-human relationships, what this looks like, and how it develops in humans.
4. Identify the benefits of dog – human relationships as a valuable part of the social support network in better mental health.
5. Define parts of the brain critical in the experience of reward, attraction, and imitation
6. Describe the methodology used and findings gleaned from The Dog Project

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student’s financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who miss 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Schedule, assignments, and topics can be changed at the discretion of the teacher. All changes will be posted in an announcement on Brightspace. Detailed schedule can be found in BrightSpace.

Unless otherwise noted in BrightSpace, all meetings will be held in MAC 336.

NOTE: Below date spans for each class are the time you should spend for this class reading the required text (or watching the film) and completing pre-class assignments. The instructors will all also have an assignment due the week following the class meeting, which should be completed in addition to beginning the reading for the next class!

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<u>Brightspace</u> <u>Dates</u>	<u>Class</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
Aug 26 – Sept 13	Sept 13	9am – 12pm	Kayla Willis	<i>Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable</i>
Sept 14 – Oct 4	Oct 4	9am – 12pm	Christopher Rose	<i>The Round House</i>
Oct 5 – Oct 18	Oct 18	9am – 12pm	Travis Cox	<i>Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones</i>
Oct 19 – Nov 1	Nov 1	9am – 12pm	Stephen Swanson	<i>Stranger than Fiction (Film)</i> <i>Additional Posted Readings</i>
Nov 2 – Nov 15	Nov 15	9am – 12pm	Misty Edwards	<i>How Dogs Love Us: A Neuroscientist & His Adopted Dog Decode the Canine Brain</i>

Course Grading Information:

Grades will be determined according to your participation and contributions to each session and your assignments/tasks for that work. See professor's assignment guidelines in Brightspace for detailed instructions. Each of the five colloquium grades, as determined and submitted by the professor of record, will account for 20% of your final grade.

September 13 Graded Tasks:

1. Pre-Reading: Reflecting on Teamwork Discussion (due September 10 at 11:59 PM) (8% of total course grade/ 40% of this portion of the course)
2. Active participation in *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* Class (September 13 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (2% of total course grade/ 10% of this portion of the course)
3. Post Essay: Reflecting on *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* (due September 20 at 11:59 PM) (10% of total course grade/ 50% of this portion of the course)

October 4 Graded Tasks:

1. Class Participation (2% of total course grade/ 10% of this portion of the course)
2. Conversing Together [Discussion Forum] (3% of total course grade/ 15% of this portion of the course)
3. Pre-Seminar: *The Round House* as Bildungsroman (3% of total course grade/ 15% of this portion of the course)
4. Critical Essay (12% of total course grade/ 60% of this portion of the course)

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October 18 Graded Tasks:

1. Pre-Seminar Assignment (5% of total course grade/ 25% of this portion of the course)

In addition to reading the book to prepare yourself for our discussion, you will complete a pre-seminar assignment that has two parts. First, you will fill out “The Habits Scorecard,” found on Brightspace, in which you will list and evaluate the typical habits you engage in on a given day. Second, you will write a 2-3-page reflective essay evaluating the results of your scorecard. In this essay you will consider factors that influence your common habits and self-reflect on your rating of your individual habits.

2. Post-Seminar Assignment (15% of total course grade/ 75% of this portion of the course)

For this post-seminar assignment, you will start by selecting two new habits, formulate a plan, and then track your progress implementing these habits over 3 weeks. At the end of these 3 weeks, you will write a 3-4-page reflective essay that evaluates your performance implementing these habits and then steps back to look at some larger questions related to the efficacy of the strategies suggested in this book.

November 1 Graded Tasks:

1. Reflections (30 pts): On Brightspace, there are three Google Forms to do reflections before, during, and after viewing the film. Students will be graded based on their use of these tools to engage specifically, deeply, and critically with the topics of the seminar. (6% of total course grade/ 30% of this portion of the course)
2. Seminar Discussion/Preparation Assignment (20 pts): This portion of the grade uses students’ seminar participation and the pre-seminar writing assignment to assess their preparation. It will specifically look for students to engage beyond general, superficial, or descriptive levels. (4% of total course grade/ 20% of this portion of the course)
3. Critical Essay (50 pts): As indicated in the Brightspace assignment, students will produce an essay that uses the sources from this course to compose a specific, critical argument taking a stance on a single part of one of the topics discussed in the seminar. Assessment will primarily focus on the specificity and depth of analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and/or engagement but will also expect students to follow the format, style, and citation expectations of an academic/scholarly writing (MLA, APA, etc.) (10% of total course grade/ 50% of this portion of the course)

November 15 Graded Tasks:

1. Reading Questions (10% of total course grade/ 50% of this portion of the course)
2. Reflection Paper (10% of total course grade/ 50% of this portion of the course)

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Grading Scale:

90-100% = A

80-89.9% = B

70-79.9% = C

60-69.9% = D

0-59.9% = F

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

1. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Make yourself familiar with school policies in your Student Handbook about the repercussions of these activities. It can result in expulsion from the school, so please do not resort to them.
2. As a general rule, you cannot make up tests or assignments in this course. If an emergency arises, we will discuss options.
3. Students must e-mail Dr. Shelly Rogers-Sharer or Dr. Otsmar Villaroel using your MCC email account if you decide to withdraw from the class.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Each student is strongly recommended to participate in class. Due to the diversity of the students, many different viewpoints will be held. Students may not only disagree with each other at times, but the students and instructor may also find that they have different views on sensitive and volatile topics. It is hoped that these differences will enhance the class and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be more encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grade will not be adversely affected by any beliefs and/or ideas expressed in class or assignments. Respect will be given for the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions. The instructor expects students to also treat each other with respect and manifest appropriate classroom behavior.

If the instructor becomes aware of cheating or plagiarism, an automatic 0 will be given for that task. These behaviors will be reported as per MCC policy. See MCC's policy on Academic Integrity for more information.

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Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who miss 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Attendance Addendum:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades. Instructor will follow the MCC attendance policy strictly.

Note: Students dropped from this class will be in danger of losing their Honors College position/scholarship in the program.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

07/02/2024



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact Accommodations (Disability Services) as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu (254)299-8122 Room
319, Student Services

Title IX:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive Federal funds. We care about your safety and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report a Title IX incident are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465.

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students which can include educational accommodations such as excused absences

and the opportunity to make up assignments and tests. Lactation spaces are also available on campus. Please email titleix@mclennan.edu for more information.

MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and Staff may email titleix@mclennan.edu to submit a report.

Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <https://www.lighthouse-services.com>

Visit McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/> to learn more about Title IX protections, reporting, and resources.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

At our campus, we understand that students face numerous challenges beyond the classroom. That's why we offer Success Coaches who are dedicated to helping you succeed. Our coaches know that life can sometimes get in the way of your educational goals. Through personalized meetings, Success Coaches empower you to overcome obstacles, maximize your potential, and create a clear path to both academic and personal success. Our Success Coaches are ready to help you achieve your dreams! Schedule your appointment today by calling 254-299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

College personnel also recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources and other essential resources, we encourage you to contact the CREW - Campus Resources Education Web by calling 254-299-8561 or emailing crew@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

Success Coaching Services, the CREW, and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services, suite 249.

The Student Counseling Center offers confidential mental health counseling to currently enrolled students at no charge. Counselors are trained to help students with problems related to personal, social, and emotional concerns. Sessions focus on short-term goals in order to facilitate students college success and adjustment. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom.

Make an appointment to meet with a counselor by visiting the center in the Wellness & Fitness building, room 101, calling 254-299-8210, or emailing counseling@mclennan.edu.

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html>

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is

authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-StaffCommons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.