HUM 102:
CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS II

Spring, 2026

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 a diverse range of pedagogical methods. Whilst HUM 101 focused on the human being, nature, ethics and grand narratives, in HUM 102 our focus moves towards social issues, the organization of society, inequalities and understanding the origins of modernity.

HUM 102 consists of mandatory lectures and discussion sections. Each week, students attend a main lecture on Monday 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 contact hours of seminar and discussions. 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 thebreadth of human history.

2. Begin an exploration of humanity disciplines—history, literature, philosophy, cultural studies, and more—by understanding human beings in their full complexity, without prioritizing one ability, emotion, or faculty over another.

3. Foster vibrant, meaningful discussions that encourage deeper insight, understanding,empathy, and compassion for both ourselves and the world around us.

4. Develop an appreciation for connecting historical ideas with contemporary realitiesthrough dynamic engagement with, for example, philosophy, music, religion, and art etc.

Student Assessment

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

20% Class Attendance

20% Class Participation

20% Creative Assignment

40% Final Exam

Course Practicals

- *Absences*
  - **Missing more than 3 Monday Evening Lectures results in an automatic fail of the course**

  - Students will be graded each week via points. Missed classes will result in lost points. The lower your attendance the lower your final grade.

  - Students must provide proof of absence otherwise it is written as an unexcused absence and results in the loss of attendance points.

- *Weekly Contact Hours*
  - **Lecture**: 1-hour main lecture, Mondays at 17:00, Albert Long Hall (South Campus)
  - **Seminars**: 3 contact hours comprising of seminars with close reading and group activities

- *Announcements*
  Students are responsible for checking Moodle and their emails regularly.

- *Plagiarism*
  Please refer to the following link for the plagiarism protocol:
  https://transint.bogazici.edu.tr/en/academic-ethics-plagiarism

- *Course Readings*
  All readings for the course can be found on the course google drive:
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C38szpNLmau4TZCul03xIzRB_jRfKabj?usp=sharing

Semester Syllabus

Week 1 Course Introduction: Emerging Modernity(ies)

Dante, *Inferno* (Gluttony)

Week 2 The Social Scape

Ibn Khaldun, *Muqaddima*
(Foreword & 'Dynasties have a natural life span like individuals')

Christine de Pizanne, *City of Ladies* (Book 1: Parts 1-9)

Week 3 The "Rebirth" of Man

Gregorio Vasari, The *Lives of the Artists* (Leonardo de Vinci)

Week 4 The Play is the Thing

Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (Encounter with Windmills, Chapter 8)

Shakespeare (*Othello* & *Merchant of Venice*)

Week 5 Advising Power: Pragmatism and Virtue

Yamamoto Tsunetomo, *Hagakure*

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

Week 6 Travel and Frontiers

Evliya Çelebi, *The Seyahatname* (Vienna)

Week 7 Radical Doubt

Descartes, *Meditations* (No.2)

Galileo, *Letter to Duchess Christina*

Week 8 What is Enlightenment

Immanuel Kant, *What is Enlightenment?*

Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion* (On Greek Religion)

Week 9 Monsters of Our Making

Mary Shelly, *Frankenstein* (Chapters 3 & 4)

Maxim Gorky, *Mother* (Chapter 1)

Week 10 Capitalism and its Critics

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Of the Division of Labour)

Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Week 11 SPRING BREAK

Week 12 Negotiating Modernity

Okakura Kakuzō, *The Book of Tea*

Native American Texts
- Tecumseh
- Sitting Bull
- Chief Joseph

Week 13 Resistance to Dehumanization

- Ghandi
- Omar b. Said
- Toussaint L'Overture

Week 14 Human Makers

Exam

Class Etiquettes

Electronic Devices: Mobile phones, ipads, laptops, tablets or any other electronic devices are principally not to be used during class. So please do not place them on the desk! If you desperately need to use a device, please make a case for it. The reason for this 'ban' is that they can often be very distracting for students.

Email and Communication: One of the most important ways professors will communicate with you is via email, in order to send additional information and readings. 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.