Cultural Foundations II

Class Code: CFII-UF 9102.085

Instructor Details: Mahnaz Yousefzadeh
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Phone number: 07435360877
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00; Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00; 1:00-2:00

Class Details: Tuesdays 2 pm – 5 pm
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites: N/A

Class Description: This course examines the arts produced within diverse cultural traditions across the globe from the rise of Islam at the beginning of the 7th century to the global empire building of the late 17th/early 18th century. The course explores the distinctive conventions and traditions of different media, and the development of cultural traditions from their ancient foundations to the early modern period through successive influences and assimilations, both local and external. Diverse cultural traditions are also considered in relation to one another: by direct comparison of works even in the absence of historical cultural contact; by consideration of mutual interactions, exchanges and contestations; by the assertion of cultural dominance; and by resistance to such assertions.

Students will be encouraged to consider modes by which cultural transmission occurred during the period studied and to make cross-cultural connections between various parts of the world, discussing different traditions through the examination of particular genres (e.g., lyric, religious architecture). We will conduct close reading of both literary and visual texts and the practice of interdisciplinary modes of analysis. In addition to following the development of the arts in Christendom/Europe, the course pays extended attention to at least one other culture's artistic development during this period.

Course will meet once a week for a three hour seminar which will take place at NYU building on Bedford square, as well as at the British Museum. Weekly consultation of the class website for announcements, instructions, and assignments is required.

Desired Outcomes:

Familiarity with ontology of art, the essence and limit of rhythmical arts (poetry and dance) and arts of rest (sculpture and painting)

Familiarity with a range of artistic expressions cultural systems

Familiarity with interdisciplinary methodologies, and thinking historically

Ability to think the implications of different constructions of time.
Assessment Components

Participation in class and on course website 20%; Two response papers, 8 double-spaced pages total, 30%; Midterm, 20%; Final Exam 30%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Outstanding performance
Grade B: Good performance
Grade C: Satisfactory performance
Grade D: Poor Performance
Grade F: Below minimum for passing

Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.
NYU London Absence policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

**Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.** See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

**Absence reporting for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non- illness reasons**

Absence requests for **non-illness** reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office **prior** to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

**Further information regarding absences**

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of
each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early
departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are
never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting
point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in
your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be
submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford
Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to
academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a
penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension
fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data,
in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether
intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to
www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late
submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit
either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in
the class.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with
other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an
account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact luke.harper@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Marilyn Stokstad: Art History, Custom Edition for NYU
Hafiz, The Green Sea of Heaven, Translation by Elizabeth Grey (White Cloud Press)
Dante Alighieri, Inferno, Translated by Marc Musa (Penguin Classics)
Nezami, Layla and Majnun, Rudolf Gelpke and Omid Safi
Rumi, Selected Poems (Penguin Classics)

Additional Texts will be available on the course website in PDF format as well as links to external sources.

• Introduction to the course and its methodology.  Text, Image, and Practice.
  http://www.britishmuseum.org/channel/object_stories/bsl/room_33_china,-south_asia/video_borobudur_buddha_head.aspx
January 29
- Entry from History of the World in 100 images

**Session 2**
February 5
- Ferdowsi, *Book of Kings* (932-1025)
- Omar Khayyam, *Rubaiyat* (1048-1131)
- Nezami Ganjavi, *Layla and Majmun* (1141-1209)

**Session 3**
February 12
- Selections from the Quran.
- Suhrawardi (1155-1190?)
- Rumi (1230-1275)

**Session 4**
February 19
- Hafiz (1315-1390)
- Stockstad

*First Paper Due*

**Session 5**
February 26
- Beowulf, Selections
- Song of Roland, Selections

**Session 6**
March 5
- Dante, *Inferno* (1265-1321)

**Session 7**
March 12
- Renaissance Courts: The Medici, Shah Abbas, Mughal, Ottoman
- Piero Della Valle,
- The Medici Press.

**Session 8**
March 19
- Visit to the Mughal Exhibit at the British Library

**Session 9**
April 9
- Midterm
Session 10
April 16
• Renaissance Courts Continued

Session 11
April 26
• Moliere, Tartuffe

Session 12
April 30
• Racine, Phaedra
• Second Essay Due

Session 13
May 7
• Stokstad

Session 14
May 14
• Review

Session 15
May 21
• Final Exam

Classroom Etiquette
Students are expected promptly arrive to class. I ask that you do not use Laptops, cellphone, ipods and ipads in classroom, unless specifically required and approved for a specific class assignment/activity.

Required Co-curricular Activities
January 30th, Asia House.
Regular class visits to the British Museum.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Regular consultation of course website for co-curricular activities.

Your Instructor
Mahnaz Yousefzadeh teaches the Humanities in the Global Liberal Studies Program at New York University. She received a Ph.D. in Modern European History at the SUNY Binghamton in 2002, and is the author of City and Nation in the Italian Unification: The Centenary Festivals of Dante Alighieri
Her current project is entitled *Florence’s Maiden Mediterranean Voyage: Felice Brancacci’s Visit to the Sultan, the Ordeal of the Florin, and the Healing Power of Masaccio’s “Tribute Money”*, forthcoming with Olschki, 2012. She has extensive experience developing place-based curriculum. Her experiential approach to learning and teaching begins with the Vicchian premise ‘we can know only that which we have created’. She has taught at NYU’s La Pietra campus, as well as an innovative online seminar with students in 5 different NYU global campuses. She founded and directed "The Mediterranean, A Post-Colonial Sea," an NYU summer program in Southern Italy and Sicily in 2007-2008.