

**UNIV 7000**  
**Foundations of Liberal Studies**

**Required Text:** *The Art of Being Human*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition —Janero and Altshuler  
(with [www.myhumanitieskit.com](http://www.myhumanitieskit.com))

If you buy the new 10<sup>th</sup> edition from the University of Memphis, you will receive a bundle (at no extra charge) including the very helpful [www.myhumanitieskit.com](http://www.myhumanitieskit.com)., which will be a great asset to your textbook and to the course. However, if you choose not to buy the new book, you may use the older 9<sup>th</sup> edition, although there will be a charge if you choose to purchase [www.myhumanitieskit.com](http://www.myhumanitieskit.com), a supplement that is suggested but not required. For each module, the first set of assigned textbook pages will apply to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition; the second set will apply to the 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Course Description:**

UNIV 7000 is a course designed to show many of the connections in our lives. An analytical introduction to graduate liberal studies that focuses on the liberal arts, this course and its readings will reveal how past and present thoughts, perceptions, and actions reveal the human condition. The three most important emphases of this course are analytical reading, critical thinking, and academic writing.

**Course Objectives:**

- Ability to read and think critically
- Ability to respond insightfully to others' ideas
- Ability to express ideas in an organized and effectively structured standard form
- Ability to see connections in human experiences

**Course Topics:**

- The Humanities—Overview
- Literature
- Art and Music
- Religion and Morality
- Happiness and Love
- Life and Death
- Freedom

**Assignments:**

- Readings
- Discussion posts and responses for each module—35 pts.  
Initial post = 3; response to 2 classmates = 2
- Four response papers—20 pts. (5 pts. each)
- Two major papers—35 pts. (#1 = 15; #2 = 20)
- Final exam—10 pts.

- **Discussion Posts and Responses:**

Discussion posts and responses to classmates' discussions posts are an important part of this course. There are **two discussion requirements for each module**: you will post **your own discussions** by a certain date; then you will **respond to at least two classmates' posts** by a certain date. Your own answers should reveal depth of thought, and the answer to each question should be a minimum of 2-3 sentences; your responses to others' posts should also reveal depth of thought as well as respect for others' opinions, even if you disagree. Before you respond to someone, you should carefully review the discussion threads. Responses like "I agree" or "Great comment" without explaining why you agree or why you consider the comment "great" will cause you not to receive credit for that discussion response. Also, you do not have to respond to a classmate's answer to each question; you may respond to answers to a few specific questions, or you may respond overall. Whatever you choose to respond to, you need to respond fully. You will not receive a letter grade for each discussion, but the discussion posts will count a major part of your final grade.

- **Response Papers:**

In each of your four response papers, you will reflect on something you have read. Each of these responses should be approximately one page in length (Times New Roman, 12-point font). You may write one well-developed paragraph in which you support one major idea, or you may choose to write two paragraphs. The format for each response paper is not the essay format; each response should be one or two developmental paragraphs. Be sure to organize and edit carefully. You will receive a letter grade for each response paper.

- **Major Papers:**

You will submit two major papers. Each of these needs to follow the structure for an essay in which you include the following: a title page, a strong introduction which leads to a clear and focused thesis statement, strong supportive developmental paragraphs, and a powerful concluding paragraph. You should use either MLA or APA format. Of course these papers must be written in standard academic format. You will receive a letter grade for each paper.

- **Final Exam:**

For the final exam you will answer a series of discussion questions. You must write full, specific answers to the questions you select. The final exam should display your ability to think critically and to support fully. You will receive a letter grade.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO THE DROPBOX.

## Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

## Class Policies:

1. Most importantly, you must carefully **read and study all assignments**.
2. **Class discussion and interactivity** are very important. For each module you are required to participate in discussion forums as posted by the instructor. In addition, you must respond to at least two other students' discussions for each module.
3. Follow proper **MLA format or APA format** when you submit a paper.
4. Present academic papers that reflect **careful proofreading and editing**. Papers should be grammatically and mechanically polished.
5. Be disciplined and carefully follow **deadlines for submission** of work. Overall, there is no acceptance of late work.
6. Maintain **close communication with the instructor** of this course, who will try to answer any e-mail as soon as possible. Use either eCourseware or University of Memphis e-mail.
7. For any problems with online issues, please contact the **UM Help Desk at 901-678-8888** or at [www.helpdesk.memphis.edu](http://www.helpdesk.memphis.edu).

## Policy on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious offense. The University of Memphis regards plagiarism as academic dishonesty. Consequences of plagiarism include failing an assignment, receiving a lower course grade, and possibly even failing the course.

According to the University of Memphis Code of Student Conduct, plagiarism is “including, but not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” <http://exlibris.memphis.edu/help/plagiarism/index.html>

You might be plagiarizing if you:

- Submit someone else's work as your own
- Buy a paper from a website or other source

- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else's work without giving the original author credit
- Replace select words from a passage without giving the original author credit
- Copy any type of multimedia, computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else's work without giving the original author credit
- Build on someone else's idea or phrase to write your paper without giving the original author credit
- Submit your own paper in more than one course without permission.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

“Students who have a disability or condition that may impair their ability to complete assignments or otherwise satisfy the course criteria are encouraged to meet with the Student Disabilities Services Center to identify, discuss, and document any feasible instructional modification or accommodations.” [www.memphis.edu/sds](http://www.memphis.edu/sds)

### **Harassment:**

The University of Memphis believes it important to respond to insensitive and inappropriate behavior in a spirit of collegiality, mutual respect, and professionalism. If you believe that you have been the target of discrimination by another student, faculty member, or staff member (because of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or culture group membership), you can choose to pursue one or more of the following:

- Speak directly to the person whose behavior you consider to be inappropriate
- Speak to the instructor, the Department Chair (901-678-2716), or the University's Affirmative Action Officer (901-678-2713).
- Contact the Assistant Dean of Students (901-678-2298) in the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.