

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

**HUMA 1301 001**  
MWF 8-8:50 MC 2. 410

**Exploration of the Humanities**

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### **Professor Contact Information**

Dr. Joan E. Mortensen

Office Hours: After class –in McDermott Library Lobby & By appointment (my office Jo 5. 708)

E-mail: [jmorten@utdallas.edu](mailto:jmorten@utdallas.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Wei Shao: [wxs092020@utdallas.edu](mailto:wxs092020@utdallas.edu)

**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

None.

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### **Course Description**

Dragons, Cowboys and Samurai

This class explores the cross cultural connections between America, China and Japan by studying the historical origins and significance of cowboys, dragons and samurai as cultural icons. Students will compare and contrast three genres of film and literature: the western, the martial arts tale and the samurai story. Students will investigate in what ways the cowboy, martial arts master and samurai have come to be “heroes” embodying a particular national essence.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will apply considered analysis and respond to works in the humanities as an example of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles.

Students will examine and analyze a variety of works from the humanities, particularly those connected to literature and philosophy.

Students will analyze and critically evaluate such works in the context of culture, society and values as well as be able to compare and contrast the works with each other.

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

*Required Readings:*

*Books:*

- 1) John Allyn, *The Story of the 47 Ronin*- Tuttle Publishing
- 2) Bruce Thomas, *Bruce Lee: Fighting Spirit*-Blue Snake Books
- 3) Jack Shafer, *Shane*-Bantam Books
- 4) William B. Cody: *An Autobiography of Buffalo Bill Cody*
- 5) Benjamin Hoff: *The Tao of Pooh*

*Electronic Reserve:*

*Eiji Yoshikawa, Musashi (Hardcopy also on reserve; book also available for purchase)*

The electronic course reserves page for HUMA 1301 003 can be found at the following link:

<http://utdallas.docutek.com/> - search under Mortensen

This page is only accessible with a password. The password will be distributed in class.

Class Handouts will also be available on Elearning.

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**Assignments & Academic Calendar**

**Readings listed under class date should be done before class.**

**UNIT 1: Dragons –See Elearning –Folder Unit 1**

**Week 1:**

August 26: Class Introduction – Dragons, Samurai, and Cowboys

August 28: Western Dragons:

**Reading:** St. George and the Dragon Slayer (handout)

August 30: Asian Dragons

**Reading:** 4 Dragon Story; Praying for Rain, Yellow Emperor (Handout)

**Week 2:**

**Sept. 2: Labor Day holiday**

Sept. 4: The Dragon Emperor: Reading - The First Emperor (handout)

Sept. 6 The Dragon Emperor: Film *Hero*

**Elearning Journal Due Before Class (by 7:45 AM)**

**Week 3 Film: Hero**

Sept. 9 The Hidden Dragon:

**Reading:** The Tao of Pooh: pp. 1-21

Sept. 11 Hidden Dragon:

**Reading:** Tao of Pooh: pp. 22-65

Sept. 13: **Reading:** Tao of Pooh: pp. 66-90  
Reading: Elearning article: "Is Hero a Paean to Authoritarianism?"  
**Journal due before class.**

**Week 4: The Woman Warrior:**

Sept. 16. Reading: Elearning: *Maiden of Yueh*  
*Reading: Elearning: Excerpts – The Art of War*

Sept. 18. Reading: Handout: Mulan poem

**Sept. 20. Unit test. (No journal due)**

**Unit 2: Samurai**

**Week 5**

Sept 23. Samurai History: The Battle of Sekigahara  
Sept. 25: Samurai History  
Sept. 27: **Reading:** Eji Yoshikawa, *Musashi*, Chapters 1 ("The Little Bell") thru  
Chapter 4 ("The Dowager's Wrath")  
**Journal Due Before Class**

**Week 6**

Sept: 30: Zen and the Samurai  
Oct. 2: Bushido: *Musashi & Book of the 5 Rings*  
**Reading:** *Musashi*, Chapters 5-8; and conclusion  
*Book of 5 Rings - handout*  
Oct. 4: Musashi in Film  
**Reading:** Elearning link: 10 Oxherding Pictures  
**Journal Due Before Class**

**Week 7**

Oct. 7: The Tokugawa Peace  
**Reading:** Allyn, Chapters 1-5  
Oct. 9 The 47 Ronin Incident  
Oct. 11 The 47 Ronin  
**Reading:** Allyn, Chapters 6-10,  
**Journal Due Before Class**

**Week 8**

Oct. 14. The 47 Ronin in Film  
**Reading:** Allyn, Chapters 11-20  
Oct. 16: The 47 Ronin in Film

**Oct. 18: Unit 2 Test**

**UNIT 3 Cowboys**

**Week 9**

Oct. 21: Cowboys and Samurai: *Yojimbo* and *A Fistful of Dollars*

Oct. 23: America's Movement West

Excerpt: "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (Elearning)

**Reading:** Cody, *An Autobiography* Chapters 1-3

**Oct. 25** Buffalo Bill

**Reading:** Cody, *An Autobiography*, Chapters 4-5

**Journal Due Before Class**

#### **Week 10**

Oct. 28: Buffalo Bill

**Reading:** Cody, Chapters 6-13

Oct. 30 The Wild West Show

**Nov. 1: One Page draft of paper due.** (worth 5 points of project grade)

**Journal Due Before Class**

#### **Week 11**

Nov. 4: The Western: Popular Fiction

**Reading** Jack Shaefer, *Shane*, Chapters 1- 3

Nov. 6: Shane: A Hero? Shane and Musashi?

**Reading:** Shane-4-8

Nov. 8: Shane:

**Reading:** 9-10

**Journal Due Before class.**

#### **Week 12**

Nov. 11: Shane: Conclusion

**Reading:** Complete Shane

**Nov. 13: Unit 3 Test**

Nov. 15: **Samurai Cross the Pacific:** *Magnificent Seven* and *Seven Samurai*  
Samurai films and Westerns

**No Journal this week.**

#### **Unit 4: Transnational Myths**

##### **Week 13 Transnational Myth: The Last Samurai**

Nov. 18; The Last Samurai: The History

**Reading:** Elearning Link: Web: MIT Visualizing Cultures: Black Ships and Samurai-John Dower's Essay.

Nov. 20: *The Last Samurai* – Film

**Reading:** Saigo Takamori –Elearning link: Web:

[www.squidoo.com/saigo-takamori](http://www.squidoo.com/saigo-takamori)

**Nov. 22: Final Paper Due- No Journal This Week**

## THANKSGIVING BREAK – Nov. 25 thru 29

### Week 14 Transnational Myth: Kung Fu in the USA

Dec. 2: Kung Fu and American TV

**Reading:** Bruce Thomas, *Bruce Lee: Fighting Spirit*, Chapters 1-3

Dec. 4: Bruce Lee

**Reading:** Bruce Thomas, *Bruce Lee*, Chapters 4-13, 20

Dec. 6: Enter the Dragon

**Reading:** *Bruce Lee Fighting Spirit*: Chapters 23, 24

**Journal Due Before Class**

### Week 15

December 9: Ip Man-Bruce Lee's teacher

**Reading:** *Bruce Lee, Fighting Spirit* : Chapters 30-33

December 11 Class Conclusion

**Reading:** *The Tao of Pooh*, pp 141-155

**Journal Due Before Class**

***Final examination : Time will be posted.***

### Grading Policy

**Three In-Class tests** are required for the class. Four In-class tests (including the final) are given. If you take all four tests, I will drop the lowest grade. No makeups will be given.

**An analytic paper is required for the class. All required elements must be completed by student in order to pass the class.**

**Most weeks you must submit a short journal entry on Elearning. These journal entries must be submitted by 9:45 AM on Friday. No late entries will be accepted.**

**10 percentage points are awarded for class participation** (attendance, in class worksheets, quizzes, online free discussion board etc.) Attendance will be taken each class. You must be present when role is taken.

Test 1: 20%

Test 2: 20%

Test 3: 20%

Final Paper: 20%

Required Journals 10%

Class Participation, attendance, free journal, worksheets 10%

Grade Range -90-100 A; 80-89 B; 70-79 C; 60-69 D; 59 and less F

I follow the following guidelines in awarding + and -. 70-72 C-; 73-75 C; 76-79 C+; 80-82-B-; 83-85 B; 86-89 B+; 90-91 A-; 92+ A;

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### Course & Instructor Policies

Much of the material covered in the lectures is not in the reading. Hence, class attendance is important and will be noted. If you cannot attend class, you should ask someone to take notes for you and pick up the class handouts. **When you attend class, you are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class. If you need to leave early, I need to know before the beginning of class.**

**No text messaging. Non-class related use of electronics will mean points deducted from the final grade. In the case of inappropriate laptop use, you will receive one warning, and then if that warning is ignored, you will be asked not to bring the laptop back to class.**

**Please bring the books we are studying to class with you.**

**If you wish to speak in class, raise your hand.**

**SUBMITTING PAPERS:** You must submit the final paper online using the turnitin.com utility as well as submit a hardcopy at the beginning of class on the due date

For a paper to be considered on time, BOTH the hardcopy and the turnitin.com version must be submitted on time.

**Late papers: 10 points will be deducted if either the hardcopy or the turnitin.com copy of the paper is late. 30 points will be deducted if both copies are turned in late. The last day a late paper will be accepted is Dec 9th.**

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### Field Trip Policies

#### Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

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### Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained

in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). **This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.**

### **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

**Email shall not be used to transmit information regarding grades.**

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any

class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

## **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.



It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***