

Online Course Proposal:

A History of Christmas

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Course Design

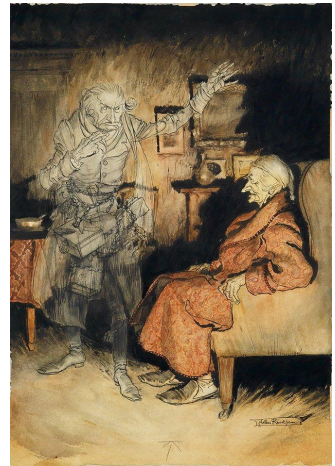
Learning Objectives

- To *identify* and *describe* key events in the history of the Christmas holiday.
- To *develop* research skills by researching peer-reviewed academic literature on the history of Christmas.
- To *create* an annotated, five-song Christmas playlist that encompasses the religious, historical, and cultural breadth and depth of the holiday.

Course Prototype

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NTExMDczMTYyMzl2?cjc=fnnbhus>

- Assignment #1: Weekly Reading Journal
- Assignment #2: Journal Article Worksheet
- Assignment #3: Capstone Project



Needs Analysis

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) is looking to develop its online course offerings further. However, the school is concerned with proactively and constructively addressing concerns for greater diversity at the school.
- Due to its location, many online courses operate at UTM. Religious studies, where this course is located, is a compulsory subject of the Philosophy Major, and an online course for the Philosophy Major is already existing. The establishment of this online course will contribute to the enhancement and development of existing online majors.



Learner Analysis

Student body

- Majority of students are undergraduates
- Growing interest in online courses
- Two-thirds are female
- 77% identify as caucasian
- Majority of student body (and state population) identifies as Protestant Christian
- Only 3% are international



Course response

- Undergraduate class with no prerequisites
- Fully online
- Explores religious diversity by including units on:
 - Christmas in other Christian sects (Catholic, Orthodox, etc.)
 - Secular folklore from various cultures
 - The relationship between Hanukkah and Christmas

Technology Analysis

- Requires access to a laptop or tablet with a stable internet connection
- Uses a university provided LMS such as Canvas or the free Google Classroom platform
- Uses university provided services such as Zoom and a help desk



Theoretical Foundations

Student-centered learning environments

- The fostering of community
- Establishing of “social presence”
- Developing instructor immediacy
- Engaging students in social construction of knowledge through collaboration and inquiry

Safe and caring learning environments

- Ethical concern
- Accessibility and open educational resources

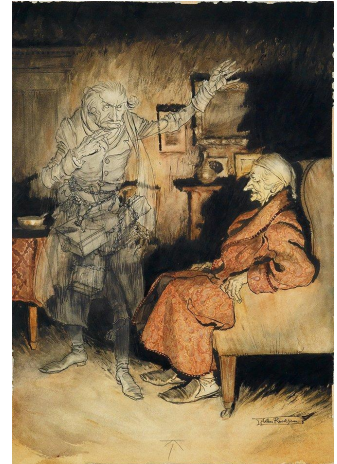
Learning Assessment and Course evaluation



Course Design

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A fully online, asynchronous study of the historical evolution of Christmas

Course Prototype

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Topics include:

- The birth of Christ and early Christian observations
- Christmas as a high holy day
- Christmas and the Protestant Reformation
- “A Christmas Carol” and the Victorian Christmas revival
- The evolution of Christmas carols and music
- Celebrations across different cultures
- The history of folkloric figures such as Santa Claus and Krampus
- Also a look at the growing prominence of Hanukkah in modern Yuletide festivities



Course Design

Major Assignments

- Assignment #1: Weekly Reading Journal
- Assignment #2: Journal Article Worksheet
- Assignment #3: Capstone Project

