

# Redesigning Introduction to Humanities

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## Background

HUM 110 (Introduction to Humanities), the gateway course for the Humanities Program, explores the question “What does it mean to be human?” as a way of introducing students to the humanities through various themes.

HUM 110 fulfills requirement 2.1 (Written Communication) of the KU Core and enrolls mostly freshman and sophomore non-majors. The diverse backgrounds of these students is an asset to the course and creates an environment in which students can learn from one another.

## Redesign Goals

Take greater advantage of existing student interest in the course by:

1. Updating course **themes** and curriculum **guidelines**
2. Making clear to students that the course provides instruction in practical, **transferrable skill sets** (e.g., critical thinking, moral reasoning, articulating ideas, appreciating diversity, evaluating evidence, etc.)
3. Helping students see the relevance of HUM 110 by engaging them in **opportunities outside the classroom**
4. Revise **course description** to accurately represent the teaching being done in this course

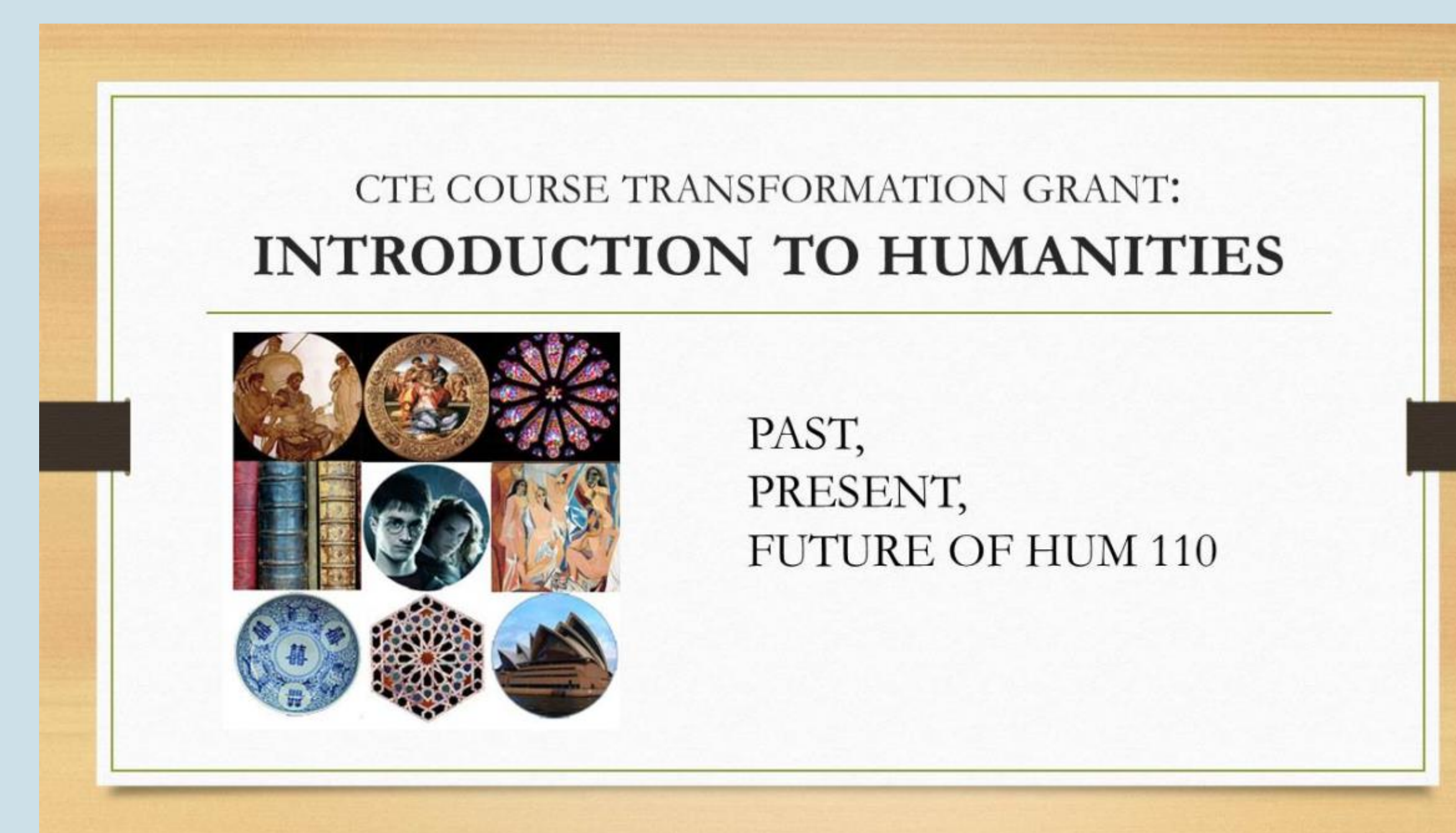
## Planning

To plan the redesign of HUM 110, we:

- Held a faculty workshop to gauge instructor goals and solicit feedback on a proposed revision of curriculum guidelines
- Created a database of funding and award opportunities appropriate for HUM 110 students
- Created a database of articles attesting to the value of the skills learned in HUM 110 in various workplace settings

## HUM 110 Planning Workshop and Redesign

In Spring 2019, we hosted a workshop to bring Humanities faculty together to discuss the past, present, and future of HUM 110. We discussed proposed revisions to the curriculum guidelines, updated the course themes, and brainstormed ways to apply humanities skills to the workplace.



## Humanities in the Workplace

Future iterations of HUM 110 will include a unit (or its equivalent over the semester) on the value of skills covered in HUM 110 to various workplaces. This unit may include readings, in-class activities, or assignments.

Courses will also include an assignment that makes connections outside the classroom (writing contests, internships, grants, etc.)



## Proposed Updated Course Themes

What does it mean to be human? Courses focus on 1-4 of the following themes:

*Justice*      *Spirituality and Faith*  
*Technology*      *Sex and Love*  
*The Body*      *(In)tolerance*  
*Play and Creativity*      *Ecology*

## Next Steps

- One-on-one conversations with current HUM 110 instructors to collect readings, multi-media texts, and assignments that work well in current courses
- Creation of a “menu” of teaching units – one for each course theme – based on the materials provided by instructors
- Administer surveys to gauge student understanding and engagement with current HUM 110 courses, to be repeated after the course redesign
- Continue working on the revised course description