

San José State University
College of Humanities and the Arts/Department of Humanities
HUM 1B: Background of Western Culture and Society
Lecture Section 10, Seminar Section 13, Spring 2009

Instructor:	David Mesher
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Office Hours:	Tues. & Thurs. 8:00-8:45, 4:30-5:30
Class Days/Time:	Lecture: Tues. & Thurs. 9:00am to 10:15am Seminar: Tues. & Thurs. 10:30am to 11:45am
Classroom:	Lecture: WSQ 109 Seminar: BBC 203
Prerequisites:	Humanities 1A
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Entire four semester sequence satisfies GE Areas A1,2,3; C1,2,3; D; F1,2,3.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the Humanities 1B course materials, such as the syllabus and major assignment handouts, may be found on the seminar web page at www.sjsu.edu/depts/jwss/hum1b. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

Course Description

During this semester we will explore aspects of the continuing diversification of civilization in parts of Asia, Africa and Europe. Interrelationships among the religions of the Book (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) as well as humanistic perspectives are considered from historical, artistic, philosophical and literary perspectives. The rise of new social and political institutions is explained in terms of cultural, economic and other value shifts during the era traditionally called the Middle Ages. The movements of people and their cultural boundaries motivate also the re-thinking of arts and ideas; the Renaissance concludes this semester.

Course Goals This course aims to accomplish the following:

- Students will have the opportunity to consider notable significant ideas and other creations of humankind.
- Students will become familiar with the various cultural contexts that yielded these important works.
- Students will be able to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of diverse cultural and religious groups as well as women in the movement of civilizations. Also, an aesthetic and poetic awareness of many means of communication will be cultivated.

- Students will be encouraged to explore and express their understanding, experiences and views not only in written discourse, but also in group discussions, speeches, and other means of expression.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO), if applicable

This course will be successful if:

- Students can develop well-formed arguments for their positions and express them effectively in written and spoken discourse.
- Students can analyze and critically consider the works and ideas they will encounter.
- Students can express attitudes and emotions in response to the course content to which they will be exposed.
- Students will recognize the significance of what they read, see and hear, and be able to recognize connections among people and times.
- Faculty can learn from student needs and responses so as to be able to provide richer, more meaningful educational experiences.
- Write research essays, and accomplish all stages of research and development of materials necessary to do so competently.

Required Texts/Readings

Please see the Humanities 1B Lecture/Reading Schedule for complete information regarding required course texts and the Humanities 1B Reader (available electronically). This document is available both as a hard copy handout, and electronically on the course Blackboard site, and on the individual websites of your instructors.

Classroom Protocol

In order to develop an understanding of the wealth of material to be treated this term, it will be vitally important for you to attend classes regularly and to be well prepared for your classes. In your Humanities 1B Reader on line, you will find a complete Course Description with suggestions for handling the work of the course successfully. Please read the information offered there, and be sure to ask your instructor if you have any questions. Also, please be sure to bring the appropriate texts for each day's assignment with you to class, since they may be needed during class. All reading assignments for this course are required and their dates and locations are to be found in the lecture syllabus for Humanities 1B.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops is available at info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html. Information about late drops is available at www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy; Student and Faculty Responsibilities

This course requires a significant amount of reading. Students are asked to read each required assignment prior to coming to class. This means that the readings listed by date on the reading assignment schedule are to be read before the day those readings are listed. This also means that students are to strive to understand the readings as well, not merely go through the motions of poring over pages. Since the readings are often challenging, they should also be a source of questions to keep in mind while listening to lecture, and to ask about during seminar. Expect to spend from four to six hours per week just to accomplish the readings for this six-unit course. It is not possible to work effectively in this course if one were to rely on the lectures and class discussions alone.

In order to assure the most effective learning experience for you the student, your professor is required to assess the ways you have mastered the materials comprising the various components of the course. "Assessment" means nothing more than gathering information about your learning experience, and offering feedback on your expressions of that learning. Some of this information will be used to assign grades to your work, and some is used to suggest ways that the course can become more beneficial and effective in meeting your learning needs. The university requires that professors explain and justify their assessment methods, and so enable your best understanding of what will be asked of you.

Your written assignments for this course are listed below. Those indicated with an asterisk (*) are required, that is, they must be completed and turned in to your instructor in order for it to be possible for you pass the course (although completing them is, of course, no guarantee of passing). Assignments indicated with a second asterisk (**) are both required and may be re-written so you may have the opportunity to improve your work, and hence, your grade for the course. You are required to present a speech this semester, and you must turn in an outline for your speech on the day of your presentation. More details about the speech requirement are to be found in your speech assignment handout. Your speech will be part of your course grade this semester.

Over the course of this semester you will be asked to turn in several journal installments, as well as several alternative assignments totaling five in all. You will have many reading options for journaling that will be offered. These options succeed in accomplishing several productive outcomes: they motivate you to keep up with the course reading, they offer an opportunity to think deeply about some aspect of the reading, they motivate you to respond interactively about the reading, and they will also be useful in reviewing readings to prepare for exams.

Your instructor reserves the right to revise assignments or due dates, should the need arise.

Course Assignments, Grading and Dates

Assignment	Date due	Value
*Speech (outline 1-2 pgs)	Thursdays 26 Feb.—16 April	5%
*Mid-term examination (in seminar)	19 March	10%
*English 1A Examination	SATURDAY , 9 MAY, 8:00-10:00am	10%
Final examinations		
*Lecture exam WSQ 109	Tuesday, 19 May, 7:15-9:30am	10%

*Seminar exam BBC 203	Monday, 18 May, 9:45-12:00noon	10%
History/Arts/Literature essay project		
**Topic (1 pg)	24 Feb.	5%
**Thesis & annotated bibliography	10 March	5%
**Essay (6 pgs)	7 April	10%
*Experiencing art essay (4 pgs)	anytime up to 5 May	5%
*Critical thinking essay (3 pgs)	23 April	10%
*Journals etc. (five in all) 1% each	throughout the semester	5%
Class participation (including quizzes)		15%

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills

assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>.