Background in Western Culture and Society II: 
Medieval and Renaissance Studies 
Humanities 1B (Spring 2017)

Instructor: Prof. Susan Scaff 
Dept/Univ: Humanities Department, San Jose State University
Office: Clark 443 
Email: susan.scaff@sjsu.edu 
Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:00-1:30, and by appointment 
Seminar: Tu/Th 10:30-11:45, Sweeney 241

CLASS DESCRIPTION: Interdisciplinary studies of the medieval and Renaissance periods in Europe and around the world

CANVAS: The class will use a Canvas website. Essays will be submitted on this site. Announcements will also be posted regularly on the evening before each class.

Submit your work for essay assignments in Microsoft Word by uploading the document into its window in Assignments.

WORKLOAD: As per university ruling: “Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus” (quoted university policy). For this seminar this means that you can expect 4-6 hours of preparation time for each seminar.

ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Coming to class, informing the teacher in advance if on a rare occasion you have to miss class or leave class early, staying through the entire class after the quiz, contributing to discussion, responding when called upon, using computers for class work only, abstaining from using all devices on speech days.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>Regular short answer quizzes (nearly every period) posing questions on a reading assignment and the lecture. Your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1: Thematic Analysis</td>
<td>Essay of 4-5 double spaced pages (plus bibliography) on a theme in a work that we have read so far this semester. Instruction sheet posted in Canvas under Assignments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Prewriting Papers (4)
Four short written assignments preceding Essay 2 that are required for the essay to be accepted for grading: Paper Topic, Annotated Bibliography, Abstract, Two Documented Paragraphs (from essay draft). Detailed description of each prewriting posted in Canvas under Assignments.

### Essay 2: Comparison
Research Essay of 7-8 double spaced pages (plus bibliography) comparing a common theme in two works from the syllabus. Two scholarly sources from the library required. Instruction sheet posted under Assignments in Canvas.

### Midterm
Common midterm for all seminar sections, given in seminar. Covers lecture material. Paragraph answer for each question.

### Speech
Formal presentation of about five minutes (or a little longer). Assignment description in Canvas.

### Lecture Final
Common final. Paragraph answer format. Covers the lecture material since the midterm.

### Seminar Final

### Grades and Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>every class</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>nearly every class</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prewriting Papers (for Essay 2)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>April 25 (PW 1) May 1 (PW 2) May 5 (PW 3) May 9 (PW 4)</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech, speak from notes, hand in printed outline at speech</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>on assigned date</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Final</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>May 23, 7:15-9:30</td>
<td>Lecture hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Final</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>May 22, 9:45-12:00</td>
<td>Seminar room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLASS POLICIES

Grading Criteria: All written assignments will be graded on:

1. attention to the prompts and following instructions
2. thoroughness and thoughtfulness
3. clarity
4. sufficient length (as long as stated in the assignment)
5. good English
6. documentation and proper use of MLA Style
7. professional presentation (for essays: heading or title page, title, appropriate font, double spacing, page numbers)

Incomplete: A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only under these circumstances: (1) the student has an emergency at the end of the semester preventing completion of the class; (2) the student has completed 70% of the course work by this point in the semester; (3) the student has kept in touch about his or her situation and requested the Incomplete in a timely manner.

(Note that for the Incomplete to be processed, the student and the teacher must sign the required Incomplete request form before the end of the semester that is submitted to the Humanities Department.)

Attendance Policy: While attendance as such will not be figured in course grade, according to University Policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit for all members of the class,” and in this class participation counts 10%.

If you cannot make class because of illness or emergency, you must let me know right away. (Email is the best way to reach me.) Students who contact me by the time of the class missed may make up the work for excused absences (illness and official university activities). For extended absences owing to accident or illness, I must see a doctor’s note.

As noted in the description of the Participation grade above, accountability around attendance issues makes up a part of your Participation grade.

Late Work: Grade on an essay will be marked down according to this timeline: ½ grade off for each 24-hour day late (extensions for emergencies only arranged at the time, not after the fact).
Incomplete: A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only under these circumstances: (1) the student has completed 70% of the course work toward the end of the semester; (2) the student has an emergency at the end of the semester preventing completion of the class on time; (3) the student has kept in touch about his or her situation and requested the Incomplete in a timely manner before (not after) the work is due.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and any other form of dishonest scholarship will result in a failure on the assignment and possibly in the course. Please also consult the university policy.

Classroom Protocol
You are required to attend regularly, arrive on time, turn off your cell phones, use your laptops wisely (for notes, not games or web work), and treat each other with respect. Class sessions will combine lecture and discussion with emphasis on participation, so listening skills are crucial for class success, and speaking up is important. As explained under Attendance Policy above, I expect you to notify me by phone or email if you have an emergency that keeps you from class; indeed, doing so will prevent your absence on that day from affecting the participation portion of your course grade.

University Policies
Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page: http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/”

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

LO1 Area A1: Oral Communication courses should cultivate an understanding of the social, psychological, political and practical significance of communication, with special emphasis on the roles of public communication in a free society. LO2 Area A2: Written communication IA courses should cultivate an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing at the university. LO3 Area A3: Critical Thinking courses should help students learn to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and produce reasoning. LO4 Areas C1-2-3: Arts and Letters courses should give students knowledge and understanding of significant works of the human intellect and imagination. Courses should enable students to participate in social and cultural communities associated with artistic and literary endeavors, enriching their personal and professional lives. LO5 Area D2 (on diversity): Courses in this area will enable students to compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems. LO6 Area D3: Social Issues courses will enable students to apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels. LO7 Area F1-2-3: Courses in American Institutions (US History, US Constitution, and California Government) should expose students to alternative interpretations of the historical events and political processes that have shaped the social, economic, and political systems in which we live.