San José State University  
Department of Humanities  
Humanities 1B – Background of Western Culture and Society  
Lecture section 20, Seminar section 21, Spring 2017

Instructor: Johanna D. Movassat, Ph.D.
Office Location: Art Building 115
Telephone: 408-924-4336
Email: Johanna.Movassat@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: MW 7:30-9:00 a.m.; Thursday by appointment only

Class Days/Time:  
Lecture: T/Th 9:00-10:15  
Seminar: T/Th 10:30-11:45  
Classroom:  
Lecture: WSQ 109  
Seminar: Sweeney Hall 240

Prerequisites: Humanities 1A

GE/SJSU Studies Category: Over the four semesters of the course, the Humanities Honors Program satisfies G.E. Areas: A1 (Oral Communication), A2 (Written Communication 1A), A3 (Critical Thinking), C1 (Arts), C2 (Letters), C3 (Written Communication 1B), D2 (Comparative Systems), D3 (Social Issues), F1-2 (U.S. History and Constitution), and F3 (California Government).

Campus Emergency #s:  
Call 911;  
Escort: 4222

California State Government Contact Info:  
www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html

Faculty Web Page, CANVAS, MYSJSU Messaging, and Turnitin

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on the CANVAS course website at https://sjsu.instructure.com, and readings on Prof. Rostankowski’s faculty web page accessible through the Quick Links->Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through CANVAS and MySJSU.

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 and Student Learning Objectives**

**GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

**GELO1** 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.

**GELO2** Area A2: Written communication 1A 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.

**GELO3** Area A3: Critical thinking courses should help students learn to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and produce reasoning.

**GELO4** 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.

**GELO5** Area D2: Courses in this area will enable students to compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems.

**GELO6** 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.

**GELO7** Area US1-2-3: 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.

**Required Texts/Readings**

Specific course readings are available exclusively online at Prof. Cynthia Rostankowski’s website: [http://www.sjsu.edu/people/cynthia.rostankowski/](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/cynthia.rostankowski/)

You will be asked to have reading assignments from this source and the textbooks below available to you for class discussion during seminar sessions. Please make sure you do so either by printing the relevant material for the day, or having your electronic copy available in class.

**These texts are required:**


*Humanities 1B Reader*: Assignments listed refer to Prof. Rostankowski’s SJSU webpage found at www.sjsu.edu/people/cynthia.rostankowski/courses/Hum 1B.

**Other Readings**

Any other readings for the course will be announced in class, and made available either as handouts, or in an electronic format, as needed. To this end, students must be able to access the internet and must have a San Jose State library card.

**Library Liaison**

The Humanities Librarian is Peggy Cabrera. Please feel free to contact her and make an appointment for advice and assistance as you research your essay. Her email address is peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu. She is available by appointment in the King Library, at 408-808-2034.

**Classroom Protocol**

Please do NOT get into the habit of coming late to lecture or seminar. IF you are late, PLEASE enter the class quietly and take the first seat available. Treat the faculty, your fellow students and any and all guests with respect and courtesy. Respectful behavior includes silence when others are speaking, entering the room quietly and inconspicuously, leaving the room during session ONLY as a matter of greatest urgency, being attentive to the class in progress, raising your hand if you wish to be acknowledged, and refraining from all other interactions (personal and electronic) while class is going on.

TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF IN LECTURE AND SEMINAR!! Restrict the use of your computer only for note-taking and electronic text reference. I reserve the right to CLOSE your laptop if I see you busy with affairs outside the class’s purview.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

This course requires a significant amount of reading. Students are asked to read each scheduled 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 approximately four to six hours per week in doing only the readings for this course. It is not possible to work effectively in this course if you are to rely on the lectures and class discussions alone. Please BRING your texts to seminar so that we can discuss the readings.

Students will also be asked to complete a lecture midterm examination, and two final examinations (the lecture portion of the class and the seminar portion). Students will also be required to complete one speech each semester. The speech in Humanities 1B is five-eight minutes in length, and should be related to the topics of the semester. A complete full sentence outline of at least two pages is required, as well as a bibliography of sources. In preparation for the speeches, students will be provided with evaluation guidelines to help prepare and assess work.

Students will also be expected to write four short essays and two term papers. I will provide detailed instructions for all writing assignments on handouts distributed well before the due dates for each assignment. Assignments will be submitted to me, in hard copy in person, at the beginning of the LECTURE (not seminar) on the day they are due. An electronic copy of your writing assignment should also be submitted to TURNITIN (through Canvas). I will not accept any assignments submitted via e-mail (see below). NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted. Exams will be short-answer / written response, essay tests. I will provide specific information before the tests.

Never turn in the only copy of anything!!!! Always back up your work. Do not delete your work after it is submitted. I reserve the right to misplace an essay and request another copy.

Familiarize yourselves with the assignments and their due dates. Everything is listed on the syllabus and on the course website at CANVAS. Your grades will also be posted there. The semester ends when the semester ends. The numbers, in the end, cannot be changed; by the way, I also do NOT give incompletes – there is plenty of time for you to accomplish everything in this class to get a passing grade, as long as you manage your time and your assignments.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious academic offense with grave consequences. Please be scrupulous about documenting your sources. You are plagiarizing when you fail to cite your sources so that someone else’s words and ideas appear to be your own. Here are three common ways people plagiarize:

1. **forgetting to put quotes** around words or sentences you have copied directly into your text from another source, even if you’ve changed the word order and forgetting to include a citation;
2. **summarizing or paraphrasing** in your own words the work of someone else without citing the source;
3. **borrowing facts** that are not common knowledge (a fact is considered common knowledge if it appears without a reference to its author in three other general texts). Remember, information taken from your textbook, class lectures, or readings must be documented unless you are sure it is common knowledge.

**Citations:** When you use information from your textbook, journals (from any of the university databases, i.e. JSTOR), books, labels, the wall text plaques at the museum, docents, readings, class lectures, or websites, you must document your sources. Put quotation marks around the passage you have copied and include an in-text citation (MLA). Even if you paraphrase you must cite! For MLA, you must include a WORKS CITED page.

**AVOID** the following: Wikipedia, Answers.com, About.com, ALL encyclopedias, ALL blogs, ALL sources that are NOT scholarly or peer reviewed.
A word on e-mails:
Do not e-mail requests for me to explain complex concepts or repeat lectures that you may have missed. I will not respond. However, if you are in an accident or the train has broken down or you are in the hospital (God forbid!), a quick email would be appreciated. Other than that, any questions you have should be asked in class.

Computer Problems?
Viruses, hard drive crashes, disk failures, program inconsistencies, printer out of ink, printer out of paper, inability to access internet, “the dog ate my assignment,” I’ve heard them all. Get a jump/flash drive and save your paper on it. You can print it out, or work on it anywhere a computer is available. Check out the Computer Center on the second floor of the Student Union: http://as.sjsu.edu/ascsc/index.jsp, if you need computer assistance.

Class Participation:
Part of your grade will be based on your participation in class, class discussions, and class group work (i.e. web site readings, questions/in-class discussions). I will take note of those people who do and do not participate. Participation requires doing the assignment, being ready to discuss the assignment with your fellow students in-group work, and presenting your findings to the class.

Extra Credit: I will give you the chance to earn some extra credit this semester. But DO NOT rely on this extra credit to pull up your grade. It can only help a little bit! ~1.5% of your total grade will be added if you complete the extra credit correctly.

Get to Know Me: My office hours are for you. Make sure you get to know me during the semester. I’m here to help you and sometimes I can, with a bit of advice, make your studying more successful.

Full G.E. Credit for the Humanities Honors Program:
All students in the Humanities Honors Program must maintain a minimum “C” or 2.0 GPA in order to get the G.E. credit that the program provides. Should you fall below that, you will get credit for having taken the course, but you will have to repeat the course or take other courses to satisfy some elements of your needed G.E. units.

Grading information
Seminar Specific Requirements:
It is important to keep up with the reading schedule as indicated in the Humanities 1B semester plan. Assignments specific to the seminar class include:
- Two term papers
  1 - Research paper (2000-2500 words)
  2 - Report on a visit to a cultural event (800-1000 words)
- Five quizzes (covering reading material and seminar discussion topics; I will drop the lowest score)
- Four short (1-2 pages each) informal writing assignments (approximately 600-800 words each)
- Speech (+ speech outline) and class participation
- Midterm Exam
- Final exams (2-part)
- Extra Credit (any pop quizzes and web-based assignments)

Per the University’s Credit Hour Requirement: 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 1 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.

**Course Grade Breakdown:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper #2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Quizzes (5 counted)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four short essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (1)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale:**

Percentages are as follows:

93-100 = A  
90-92 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
83-86 = B  
80-82 = B-  
76-79 = C+  
71-75 = C  
68-70 = C-  
64-67 = D+  
60-63 = D  
55-59 = D-  
below 54 = F

**Schedule of Assignment Due Dates (I reserve the right to change the schedule as I see fit):**

(PLEASE bring your respective texts to seminar, i.e. when I do a lecture on art I will expect you to bring Stokstad to the seminar.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., January 26</td>
<td>Class begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., Feb. 2</td>
<td>Quiz #1 (could include information on syllabus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, February 4</strong></td>
<td><em><em>WST Exam</em> (late registration begins January 24)</em>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>Last day to drop or withdraw without a &quot;W&quot; grade; last day to receive a refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., Feb. 9</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Feb. 14</td>
<td>Last day to add courses; last day to request grade change options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Feb. 21</td>
<td>Quiz #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Feb. 28</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., March 16</td>
<td>MIDTERM (in seminar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27-31</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK (campus closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., April 4</td>
<td>Quiz #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., April 11</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., April 18</td>
<td>Quiz #4; Topic for Research Paper Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, April 22</strong></td>
<td><em><em>WST Exam</em> (register by March 30)</em>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., April 25</td>
<td>Writing Assignment #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May 2</td>
<td>Quiz #5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tues., May 9        | Term Paper #1 – Research Paper Due with Annotated Bibliography  
                     | Hard copy DUE in LECTURE; submit electronically on TURNITIN.com |
| Tues., May 16       | Term Paper #2 – Cultural Event Due  
                     | Hard copy DUE in LECTURE; submit electronically on TURNITIN.com |
MON., MAY 22  9:45-12:00 noon Seminar Exam (bring TWO yellow books)
TUES., MAY 23  7:15-9:30 Lecture Exam (WSQ 109)

The lowest of your five quiz scores will be dropped.

There is **no make-up opportunity for quizzes** (don’t miss more than one) and/or exams.

Speeches will be given in the seminar on Thursdays between April 6-May 11. I will make a sign up sheet available soon.

Times and dates of the final exams are listed above. Don't plan any trips until the 23rd of May!!!

*For information on the WST Exam go to http://testing.sjsu.edu/wst/

**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/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/