Perspectives on the Twentieth Century: The West in a Global Context
Hum 128 Fall 2018 (Sec 80 - 45045)
San José State University
Humanities Department

Instructor: Lisa L. Stenmark
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Office Hours: ONLINE: Mondays, 5-6 p.m. (and by appt)
See Schedule for in person appts

Course Format: THIS IS AN ONLINE COURSE, so you will need a reliable internet connection and some
familiarity with computers.

Course Description (Catalog): Literature and the arts of selected world cultures contextualized in significant events
and concepts of the twentieth century, such as two world wars, totalitarian systems, the revolt against colonial
powers, modernity and postmodernity, and the global challenge to western hegemony.

GE Area: V
Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion
of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W
is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all
students.

Learning Outcomes:
• Students shall be able to compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic
structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.
• Students shall be able to identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how
they have influenced American culture.
• Students shall be able to explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external
pressures.

University Policies (Required)
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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

Required Texts: Primary texts are available online. There are several novels in this class, and students will be
required to write a critical response to two of them (one from the beginning of the semester, and one from the end).
See Canvas for details.

Course Requirements and Assignments:
Meetings (3 @ 10 pts ea) 30 points (total)
Online Quizzes (20 pts ea, top 10) 200 points (total)
Online Forum (15 pts ea, top 10) 150 points (total)
Critical Response: Fiction (2@50 ea) 100 points (total)
Art Response (2@35 each) 70 points (total)
Final Exam (online) 50 points

Total: 600 Points

(379 or less/fail, 380/D; 400/D+; 420/C; 440/C; 460/C+; 480/B; 500/B; 520/B+; 540/A-, 560/A)
**Meeting:** Students will meet with the professor in person at least three times during the semester. These may be in a group setting or in person (there will be a sign up on Canvas). I recommend coming in before your critical response papers—this is a great way to improve your writing and your grade.

**Quizzes:** There will be a quiz every week, worth 20 points each—only the top 10 grades will count.

**Online Forum:** Students must post at least FOUR (4) substantive entries a week discussing readings, videos, etc. You may initiate a discussion or respond to other posts, and you can talk about anything that you want, as long as you make specific references to course material. “Arendt is hard. I hate her!” or “The Sorrow of War was cool!” is not substantive. Substantive is “I like how Arendt describes freedom as an essential quality of humanity” (followed by citation) or, “When Bao Ninh says (quote) it is disturbing because (followed by reason)” or “I disagree/agree with your point because (followed reason).” Get the idea? 10 points each, the top 10 grades count (so you can skip several weeks).

**Note:** Posts that include name calling, insults, hate speech or excessive "shouting" (using all caps) will be deleted. Repeat offenders will be denied access to the discussion, with resulting repercussions to your grade. To regain access, you will have to speak to me in person (on online). Don't respond to rude or offensive posts, because your response may also be deleted (regardless of how respectful or responsive it is) and your grade might suffer. Report the offensive post to me.

**Critical Response to Fiction:** You will be required to complete TWO (2) papers in response to the novels that we are reading in this class. There are five novels, and you may choose one from the first half of class (War of the Worlds or Black No More) and one from the second half (Canticle for Leibowitz, Space Merchants or Parable of the Sower). Due dates are listed on the syllabus and the online schedule.

**Final Exam:**
There will be a short final exam, the date is on the schedule. Questions will be posted in advance. See canvas for details.

**Contacting Professor.** Use Canvas, not e-mail, and then only for brief questions that require no more than a sentence or two for a response. In depth issues should be addressed in person—in my office or online—and you can either sign up for the regular appointments or contact me if those times don't work. PLEASE. If issues arise during the semester and you fall behind, talk to me ASAP so we can make arrangements. DO NOT wait until the end of the semester, because by then my hands will likely be tied, and you will likely end up with an F (policy on this is strict). I hate this......
Week One: The White Man's Burden
(week ending 8/27)
Readings: Kipling, "White Man's Burden," Adas, Machines as the Measure of Men (Intro, Ch 1, excerpts)
The Philosophy of Colonialism: Civilization, Christianity, and Commerce

Week Two: Imperialism in Art and Literature
(Week ending 9/3)
Readings: Orwell, Shooting an Elephant; Arendt, "Imperialist Character" 304-320
NOTES: Fri 8/31 last day to drop

Week Three: Race: Representation and Science
(Week ending 9/10)
Readings: Hale, Races on Display (excerpts), Rieder, Colonialism and the Emergence of SF (1-12; 25-33),
Adas, Machines as the Measure of Men (Ch 5, 292-318)
Novel: War of the Worlds
NOTES: Monday 9/10 Last Day to Add
Sign up for Meetings for War of the Worlds

Week Four: A World at War: Art and Politics (I)
(Week ending 9/17)
Readings: The Great War Readings (links online), Adas, Machines as the Measure of Men (Ch 6, 365-81; 383-88); Art Between the Wars Readings (links online)
DUE: Critical Response: War of the Worlds (Friday, Sept 14)
Feb 17 — Docent tour of Museum

Week Five: The Harlem Renaissance (Art and Politics (II))
(Week ending 9/24)
NOVEL Schuyler, Black no More
NOTES: Sign up for Meetings for Black No More

Week Six: The Mexican Revolution (Art and Politics (III))
(week ending 10/1)
Readings: Watch: Mexico in WWI and The Storm that Swept Mexico
Dario, "To Roosevelt," "Greetings to the Eagle"
Readings on Mexican Modernism
DUE: Friday, September 28: Critical Response to Black No More

Week Seven: The Rise of Machines and the Failures of Capitalism
(week ending 10/8)
Readings: Photo Essays: Intro to 20th C. Photography; Depression Photos: Evans – Subway Passengers,
Readings on Dorothea Lange, Every Picture Tells a Story
Watch: Metropolis (the first 10 minutes—stop after the scene with Moloch!)
Modern Times (Charlie Chaplin)

Week Eight: Totalitarianism: Bureaucracy, Ideology and Propaganda
(Week ending 10/15)
Readings: Arendt "Origins of Totalitarianism," Eichmann in Jerusalem
IBM Organizes the Holocaust
Watch: Riefenstahl, Triumph des Willens, Olympia (Excerpts)
Riefenstahl Readings
DUE: Friday, October 12: First Art Response
Week Nine: Facing Evil (week ending 10/22)
           “Godzilla and the Bravo Shot”
Watch: Gojira
Novel: *Canticle For Liebowitz*
NOTES: Sign up for Meetings for *Canticle For Liebowitz*

Week Ten: A Culture of Consumption (week ending 10/29)
Readings: Galbraith, *The Dependence Effect*: Gottlieb, Dystopian Fiction East and West: Art Readings
Novel: *Space Merchants*
NOTES: Sign up for Meetings for *Space Merchants*
DUE Friday October 26: Critical Response to Miller *Canticle for Liebowitz*

Week Eleven: Revolution, Violence and Non-violence (I) (week ending 11/5)
Readings: Beckett, *Algiers vs Fanon*
           Orwell, *Reflections on Gandhi*;
           Watch: *Battle of Algiers* (1966)
DUE Friday November 2: Critical Response: *Space Merchants*

Week Twelve: Revolution, Violence and Non-violence (II) (week ending 11/13)
Readings: Baldwin: *Letter from a Region in my Mind*
           King, *Birmingham*
Watch: *Struggle in the Fields*
NOTE: Veterans Day is 11/12 so this week’s assignments will be due on Tuesday 11/13

Week Thirteen: Revolution, Violence and Non-violence (III) (week ending 11/19)
Readings: *Year of the Barricades: Global 1968*
           *Fists of Freedom: Art Readings*
           BONUS: *The Atlantic: 1968, Year in Pictures*
Watch: *Hearts and Minds*
NOTE: THANKSGIVING is on 11/22, There are no assignments due on Monday, 11/26
NOTES: Sign up for Meetings for *Parable of the Sower*

Fourteen: Solidarity and Difference (Art and Politics IV) (week ending 12/3)
Readings: Audre Lorde, *Age, Race, Class, and Sex*, *bel hooks, Sisterhood: Political Solidarity between Women*
           *Anzaldua, Borderlands*
NOVEL: *Parable of the Sower*
DUE: Friday, November 30 Critical Response to *Parable of the Sower*

Week Fifteen: Globalization, Solidarity and Difference (week ending 12/10)
Readings: *Poetry, Guerilla Girls, Artbound*
           The Great Wall of Los Angeles and scroll through images
Watch: “Tank Man”
DUE Friday December 7: Second Art Response

NOTE: Monday, December 10 is the Last Day of Class. No extensions or assignments accepted after this date.
FINAL: FRIDAY – December 14 (online – 1945-2200)