

**San José State University
Humanities Department
Humanities 1B, Background of Western Culture and
Society, Spring, 2013**

Instructor:	Cynthia Rostankowski, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-5:00, Wednesdays 12:00-4:00, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-10:15 (lecture) and 10:30-11:45 (seminar)
Classroom:	Dudley Moorehead Hall 208
Prerequisites:	Permission of Humanities Honors Coordinator
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Over the four semesters of the course, the Humanities Honors Program satisfies 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)
California State Government Contact Information	www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/cynthia.rostankowski> or accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are also responsible for regularly checking with the new messaging system through MySJSU. This will be used for updates, etc. I encourage you to check your MySJSU account at least once a week.

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), if applicable

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

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 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.

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: 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.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Machiavelli. *The Prince*. (Dover) ISBN 0486272745

Baird, Forrest E., *Philosophic Classics: From Plato to Derrida*, 6th edition, (Pearson) ISBN-10: 0205783864, ISBN-13: 9780205783861

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard, College Edition. Michael D. Coogan, et al. 4th ed. (Oxford UP) ISBN 0195289595.

McInerny, D.Q. *Being Logical: A Guide to Good Thinking*, Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2005. ISBN 9780812971156.

Stokstad, Marilyn and Michael W. Cothren, *Art History, Portable* in six volumes, 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson / Prentice Hall, 2010. ISBN 9780205004607.

- Puchner, M. et al., *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, 3rd ed., Volumes A, B, C; New York: Norton, 2012. ISBN 9780393933659.

- Graff, Gerald, et al, *They Say, I Say*, 2nd ed., New York: Norton, 2009. ISBN 9780393933611.

- Bullock, Richard, Francine Weinberg, *The Little Seagull Handbook*, New York: Norton, 2011. ISBN 780393911510 All three Norton titles – ISBN 9780393915594 (for the SJSU bundle).

Shakespeare, William. *Othello*. Dover, ISBN 978-0486290973.

Humanities 1B Reader: Available online at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/cynthia.rostankowski/courses/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 will need 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. Her office hours are 2nd floor Reference Desk, Tuesday & Wednesdays, 11-12 at the M L King Jr. Library. Her office phone number is 408-924-2249. She is also available by appointment in the King Library, at 408-808-2034.

Electronic Devices Policy

To help foster the best possible learning environment for yourself and those around you, please avoid doing anything in class that might distract the attention of others. Mobile technology can be especially disruptive. During lectures, portable electronic devices may be used only for class-related purposes such as taking notes; otherwise, they must be turned off. During seminars, portable electronic devices may only be used in accordance with your seminar instructor's guidelines. During examinations, portable electronic devices may never be used (except under supervision at the Disability Resource Center).

http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf

Classroom Protocol

Each person is of intrinsic worth and is thus worthy of respect in all interactions; please keep this awareness at the forefront of your considerations as you enter and exit your lecture and seminar classrooms, and as you comport yourself in those classes (and in all of your other classes as well). Treat 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. This specifically includes refraining from cell phone use in any way during class, and engaging in the use of your computer only for note-taking and electronic text reference.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/calendar-spring.html) web page located at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/calendar-spring.html>. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

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 one were to rely on the lectures and class discussions alone. A variety of writing assignments will be assigned for this course, and they will differ among instructors, but all instructors will assign topics that meet the writing requirements for the various core areas. **Please see the chart in this section** for additional information about the specific kinds of written assignments you will be asked to accomplish. Students will also be asked to complete a lecture mid term examination, and final examinations for both the lecture portion of the class as well as the seminar portion. Students will also be required to complete one speech each semester. The specific guidelines for each semester's speech are to be found in the *Humanities Reader* <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/cynthia.rostankowski/courses/1B/>

In Humanities 1B, one speech will again be required, and will be graded. As indicated by Professor Hinerman in his *Handbook*, this semester you will be asked to present a five minute "exegetical" speech. The exegetical speech arises from the early church. It is the form used by Augustine, and in Augustine's time, there was a constant level of concern that the presenter of a speech (whether a bishop or church elder) do an adequate job explaining the texts of the Bible to the audience. Since many in the congregation had a

limited knowledge of traditions from the Hebrew Bible, and of how to apply the New Testament message to their everyday lives, the speechmaker's interpretation of what the biblical text "really meant" was very important to the average Christian who wished to live a "biblical/ethical" lifestyle.

Written Assignments

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 in the table below. Some are indicated as "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). Other assignments are indicated as both "required and rewritable" and are both required and may be re-written so you may have the opportunity to improve your work. As in the past two semesters, you will be required to present a speech, 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 described in your *IB Reader*. Although completing journal assignments is not required, it will be difficult to succeed well in class without accomplishing them, since they are based upon the scheduled readings, and their evaluative worth may become pivotal in determining your end-of-semester grade. Failure to complete and turn in a journal in a timely way will be recorded as an "F" for that work. Due dates for journals will be listed in the journal handout.

Please note that the professor may change any of the following information for the benefit of the class, should the need arise. Any change will be announced in class, and via MySJSU, if necessary.

All coursework will be evaluated in terms of letter grades A+ through F, with the values of the letter grades as follows:

Chart of Grades

A+ = 4.3	A = 4.0	A- = 3.7
B+ = 3.3	B = 3.0	B- = 2.7
C+ = 2.3	C = 2.0	C- = 1.7
D+ = 1.3	D = 1.0	D- = 0.7
F+ = 0.3	F = 0	

Chart 2: Assignments

Assignments	Due Date	Value
Speech (outline about 2 pages) required	day of	5%
Mid-term examination (in seminar) required	21 Mar.	10%
Final Exam (Lecture, 7:15 a.m.) required	15 May	10%
Final Exam (Seminar, 9:45 a.m.) required	21 May	10%
Critical Thinking Essay (3 pages) required and rewritable	26 Feb.	5%
Research Essay Project Topic (1-2 pages) required and rewritable	7 Mar.	5%
Research Essay Project: Research sources (1-2 pages) required and rewritable	19 Mar.	5%
Research Essay Project: Essay (4-5 pages) required and rewritable	18 Apr.	5%
Experiencing art essay (three pages) required and rewritable	25 Apr.	5%
Journals, quizzes, etc. (ten in all, 1% of grade each)	day of	10%
English 1A Exam 8:00-10:00 a.m. SATURDAY, location TBA, required	4 May	10%
Class participation		20%

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires 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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) 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 your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 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 [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> 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, as a part of Peer Connections. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's Peer Tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit [the LARC website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/) for more information at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

Peer Connections

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](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/) is located at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/>.