

# San José State University

## Honors Humanities

### HUM 1B, Background of Western Culture and Society

#### Class 28325, Section 41, Spring 2013

<b>Instructor:</b>	Andrew F. Wood, Ph.D, Professor of Communication Studies
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<b>Homepage:</b>	<a href="http://www.professorwood.com">http://www.professorwood.com</a>
<b>Course webpage:</b>	<a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/1B-HUM/">http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/1B-HUM/</a>
<b>Office hours:</b>	Tuesday, Thursday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Sign up via <a href="http://profwood.youcanbook.me/">http://profwood.youcanbook.me/</a> )
<b>Class days/time:</b>	Tuesday, Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
<b>Classroom:</b>	Sweeney 240
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Department consent required
<b>Peer Mentor:</b>	<b>Nichole Yang</b> ( <a href="mailto:nicholexyang@gmail.com">nicholexyang@gmail.com</a> ). Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., or by appointment. Location: Clark Hall front desk

#### Catalog Description

To the seventeenth century. Institutions, thought and literary and artistic expression of the ancient world, medieval society and early modern Europe. Written expression and oral discussion. Entire sequence satisfies GE Areas A1, A2, A3; C1, C2, C3; D2, D3; F1, F2, F3.

#### 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

This course will aim to accomplish the following: Each student will have the opportunity to consider some of the significant ideas and other creations of humankind. Students will be able to become familiar with the *milieu* that yielded these important works. Students will be able to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of women and diverse cultural and religious groups in the movement of civilizations. Also, an aesthetic and poetic awareness regarding the many means of communication will be cultivated. Students will be encouraged to express their understanding, experiences and views in not only written discourse but also in by means of public speaking and of course, in group discussions.

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 Readings

Baird, F.E. (Ed.). (2010). *Philosophic classics: From Plato to Derrida* (6th ed.). Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0205783864

Bullock, R. & Weinberg, F. (2011). *The little seagull handbook*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 0393911519

Coogan, M.D. (ed.). (2010). *New Oxford Annotated Bible* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0195289595

Graff, G. & Birkenstein, C. (2009). *They say, I say: The moves that matter in academic writing*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 039393361X

Machiavelli, N. (1992). *The Prince*. Mineola, NY: Dover Thrift. ISBN: 0486272745

McInerney, D.Q. (2005). *Being Logical: A guide to good thinking*. New York: Random House. ISBN: 0812971159

Puchner, M., et al. (Eds.). (2012). *Norton anthology of world literature* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (Vols. A-C). New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 0393933652

Shakespeare, W. (1992). *Othello*. Mineola, NY: Dover Thrift. ISBN: 978-0486290973

Stokstad, M. & Cothren, M. (2010). *Art history, portable editions* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) (Vols. 1-6). New York: Prentice Hall. ISBN: 020500461X

**We will also use a *Humanities 1B Reader* (link available on [course website](#)).  
Each of these readings will be used in subsequent semesters.  
Please retain them.**

## Classroom Protocol

*Student Conduct:* It is your responsibility to know what constitutes improper behavior at San José State University. This information can be found in the SJSU university catalog and on this website:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/Students/>. Sanctions for improper behavior can include removal from the class.

*Attendance:* In this class, we will frequently discuss issues and concepts that cannot be found in the assigned readings. Therefore, your participation is required. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get class notes or other necessary information from a colleague. Accordingly, you should fill out the Peer Contact Information component, which is located at the end of this syllabus.

*Make-ups:* Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period noted on the syllabus. Unexcused late assignments may be made up before finals week. However, I deduct 10 percent per 24-hour period after the assignment is due.

*Tardiness:* Be seated when class begins. I reserve the right to mandate a personal behavioral contract if you are excessively tardy.

*Extra Credit:* I do not offer extra credit. Given the many resources I make available in this class, I believe that every student has an opportunity to earn 500 points. Moreover, grading extra assignments for students who request "extra credit" is unfair to other students who work within the 500-point limit.

*Mobile devices:* 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: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/mobile-device-policy.html>. During examinations, portable electronic devices may never be used (except under supervision at the Disability Resource Center).

*FAQ:* Read the Frequently Asked Questions page at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/faq.html>

## Dropping and Adding

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops and academic renewal. I recommend that you review SJSU Student Information resources at: <http://info.sjsu.edu/>

## Assignments and Grading Policy

**Critical Thinking Assignment** (25 points - meets CLO 2, 3, and 4): Select and analyze one *brief* excerpt from one of our Augustine readings. In one to two pages (typed, double-spaced, standard margins, Times New Roman, 12 point font – the same for all assignments in this class), answer the following question: To what degree is this statement persuasive (and why)? Support your well-reasoned analysis with at least two arguments. Additional instruction:

- Download and attach gradesheet to final draft: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/gradesheet.pdf>

**Experiencing Art Essay** (25 points - meets CLO 2, 3, and 4): Analyze a painting, piece of sculpture, or performance that you encounter in person [Share your topic with me early in the semester]. In one to two pages, develop an essay whose body points accomplish the following goals in turn: (1) Describe the artwork in terms of content, aesthetics, and experience, and (2) Use that artwork as a lens to affirm or critique an idea found in one of our course readings. Support your well-reasoned analysis with at least two quotations from that reading. Additional instructions:

- Download and attach gradesheet to final draft: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/gradesheet.pdf>
- Provide a ticket stub, a photograph, or some other souvenir from your artwork encounter.

**Research Essay** (50 points - meets CLO 2, 3, and 4): Demonstrate your understanding of one central historical figure, event, or idea addressed in this semester. In two to three pages, accomplish the following goals in turn: (1) Provide an objective overview of your topic, explaining it to a non-specialist reader, and (2) Identify two or more extent, specific contemporary perspectives (scholarly arguments, popular attitudes, etc.) on your topic. Note: Your introduction should inspire reader interest and your conclusion should relate to your introduction in an insightful way. Additional instructions:

- Include at least four sources from books or scholarly articles. No newspapers, magazines, or web-only resources are permitted for this assignment.
- Download and attach gradesheet to final draft: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/gradesheet.pdf>

**Course Examinations** (Midterm (50 points), Final Exam-Lecture (100 points), and Final Exam-Seminar (100 points) – 250 points total - meets all CLOs): Each exam invites you to synthesize the knowledge gained throughout the course, typically in the form of short- and long-form responses to questions posed by the faculty team.

**English 1A Exam** (50 points): A common essay final, graded holistically. This assignment must be attempted in order to pass the class.

**Exegetical Speech** (50 points – meets CLO1, 2, 3, and 4): Deliver a five to seven-minute speech designed to explain a text we are reading this semester. You may speak about how this reading can help us in our lives, or you may explain some particular aspect of the reading that might be unclear to your audience. Organize your speech around three main points, each supported by vivid and compelling evidence. Deliver your speech in a calm, confident, and professional manner. Formal citations are not required. I encourage you to show me an outline prior to your speech. The Exegetical Speech must be attempted in order to pass the class.

- Learn more: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/1B-HUM/speech.pdf>

**Participation** (50 points - meets all CLOs): Relate disparate ideas, integrate meaningful references to course readings, and help keep the conversation going. Near the end of the semester, you will submit a half-page assessment of your participation, along with a proposed numeric score (out of 50) for this classroom component. As required, and in consultation with you, I may opt to revise that score.

Critical Thinking Argument (due February 21)	_____ out of	25 points	(5%)
Midterm Exam (scheduled March 21)	_____ out of	50 points	(10%)
Research Essay (due April 4)	_____ out of	50 points	(10%)
Experiencing Art Essay (due May 2)	_____ out of	25 points	(5%)
English 1A Exam (scheduled May 4)	_____ out of	50 points	(10%)
Participation Self-Assessment (due May 9)	_____ out of	50 points	(10%)
Final Exam – Lecture (scheduled May 15)	_____ out of	100 points	(20%)
Final Exam – Seminar (scheduled May 21)	_____ out of	100 points	(20%)
Exegetical Speech (schedule TBD)	_____ out of	50 points	(10%)

Total	_____ out of	500 points	(100%)
A+ = 485 points	A = 465-484 points	A- = 450-464 points	
B+ = 435-449 points	B = 415-434 points	B- = 400-414 points	
C+ = 385-399 points	C = 365-384 points	C- = 350-364 points	
D+ = 335-349 points	D = 315-334 points	D- = 300-314 points	
F = 299 and fewer points			

## University Policies

### Academic integrity

You must be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentaffairs/>. "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José 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."

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty. Plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or using another person's ideas without giving proper credit) and/or cheating on tests will result in a failing grade and University sanctions.

"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 Americans with 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 visit 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 new Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. In addition, computers are 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, screens and monitors.

### SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center in Clark Hall 126 is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. The 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. More information is available at [sjsu.edu/writingcenter](http://sjsu.edu/writingcenter).

### Peer Mentor

Peer Mentors 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. Your Peer Mentor is **Nichole Yang** ([nicholexyang@gmail.com](mailto:nicholexyang@gmail.com)).

### Peer Contact Information (folks to call if you have questions about a missed class)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## HUM 1B Spring 2013 Class Schedule

*Subject to change with reasonable notice.*

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Notes</b>
January 24		We will discuss general course concepts and activities.
January 29 January 31		We will discuss Critical Thinking Assignment.
February 5 February 7		We will discuss Exegetical Speech Assignment.
February 12 February 14		We will discuss speech organization
February 19 February 21	Critical Thinking Assignment (Due Thursday)	We will discuss eye contact and vocal technique.
February 26 February 28		We will discuss platform movement.
March 5 March 7		We will select days for Exegetical Speeches.
March 12 March 14		We will discuss Research Essay.
March 19 March 21	Midterm Exam (Thurs.)	We will discuss Experiencing Arts Essay.
March 26 March 28	Spring Break	We will not meet during this week.
April 2 April 4	Research Essay (Due Thursday)	
April 9 April 11	Exegetical Speeches	
April 16 April 18	Exegetical Speeches	
April 23 April 25	Exegetical Speeches	
April 30 May 2	Experiencing Art Essay (Due Thursday)	
May 4	English 1A Exam (8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.)	Exam takes place on Saturday. Bring yellow exam booklets.
May 7 May 9	Participation Self-Assessment (Due Tuesday)	
May 15	Final Exam – Lecture (7:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.)	Exam takes place on Wednesday.
May 21	Final Exam – Seminar (9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)	Exam takes place on Tuesday. Bring green exam booklets.