

San José State University
Humanities Department
Humanities 1B, Background of World Cultures and Society,
Seminar Section 21, Fall, 2015

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Cynthia Rostankowski, Ph.D. & Lou Ann Trost, Ph.D. |
| Office Location: | Clark Hall 441 Clark Hall 414G |
| Telephone: | 408-924-4508 408-924-4747 |
| Email: | Cynthia. Rostankowski@sjsu.edu Louann.Trost@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | Thursdays 4:30-6:30, Mondays & Wednesdays 2:00-3:00, Wednesdays 1:30-2:30, and Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00-3:00, by appointment and by appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:45 (lecture) and 12:00-1:15 (seminar) |
| Classroom: | Lecture: Boccardo Business Center 004 Seminar: Sweeney Hall 240 |
| 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), D2 (Comparative Systems), D3 (Social Issues), US1-US2 (U.S. History and Constitution), and US3 (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. Professor Trost will also message you through the MySJSU system.

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 (9 units): 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 US 1-2-3: 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, 5th ed.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson / Prentice Hall, 2013. (Art History Portable Edition) ISBN 9780205969876.

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

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 (Optional)

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.

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 |
|--|-----------------|--------------|
| Exegetical Speech (outline about 2 pages) required | day of | 5% |
| Mid-term examination (in seminar) required | 21 October | 10% |
| Final Exam (Lecture, 9:45 a.m.) required | 15 December | 10% |
| Final Exam (Seminar, 9:45 a.m.) required | 10 December | 15% |
| Critical Thinking Essay (3 pages) required and rewritable | 28 September | 10% |
| Research Essay Project Topic (1-2 pages) required and rewritable | 5 October | 5% |
| Research Essay Project: Research sources (1-2 pages) required and rewritable | 14 October | 5% |
| Research Essay Project: Essay (4-5 pages) required and rewritable | 4 November | 5% |
| Experiencing art essay (three pages) required and rewritable | 16 November | 5% |
| Journals, quizzes, etc. (ten in all, 1% of grade each) | day of | 10% |
| Class participation | | 20% |

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.

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

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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 section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated

material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory,

alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on



Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.