

# SYLLABUS

## San José State University Humanities Department Humanities Honors 2A, Fall 2017, Seminar Section 21

<b>Instructor:</b>	David Mesher
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8:00-8:30, 16:30-17:00 (& appointment)
<b>Class Days/Times</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00-10:15 (lecture); 10:30-11:45 (seminar)
<b>Classroom:</b>	Washington Square (WSQ) 109 (lecture); Clark (CL) 238 (seminar)
<b>Section Code:</b>	43784 (lecture); 43785 (seminar)
<b>Class Web Page:</b>	<a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/people/d.mesher/hum2a/">http://www.sjsu.edu/people/d.mesher/hum2a/</a>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Permission of Humanities Honors Coordinator
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	Over the four semesters of the course, the Humanities Honors Program satisfies areas: <b>A1</b> (Oral Communication), <b>A2</b> (Written Communication 1A), <b>A3</b> (Critical Thinking), <b>C1</b> (Arts), <b>C2</b> (Letters), <b>C3</b> (Written Communication 1B), <b>D2</b> (Comparative Systems), <b>D3</b> (Social Issues), <b>F1-2</b> (U.S. History and Constitution), and <b>F3</b> (California Government)

### Course Format Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

All written work in this course will be submitted and returned on Canvas – submitted by students in RTF (Rich Text Format, an option available in all word processors) and returned marked in PDF (Portable Document Format). To open returned material, students should (1) download the file to their device, without trying to open it; (2) open the latest version available of Adobe Reader (a free PDF program – other PDF programs may not work); and (3) drag the downloaded file onto the open Reader window.

### Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Links for course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, and readings can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/d.mesher> . Written assignments for this class will be submitted on the Canvas learning management system course website (<http://sjsu.instructure.com> ). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

## Course Description

Humanities 2A offers an integrated, interdisciplinary introduction to ideas, events and arts of Western and world culture that have influenced people and led to the creation of modernism and contemporary globalism. We look at the development of World culture from a variety of perspectives. Our aim is to develop an understanding of the significant values, institutions and attitudes that have contributed to producing the complex global culture we share today. During 2A, we consider the Post-Reformation transformations of Europe, as well as the extension of new concepts of liberty and reform alongside practices of world-wide colonial oppression and exploitation. The rise of the middle and working classes as a reaction against the aristocracy, and intellectual changes spawned by mathematical rationalism and scientific empiricism in its many contexts direct the new ideas of politics and economics.

## 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.

## GE Learning Outcomes (LO)

L01 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.

L02 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.

L03 Area A3: Critical thinking courses should help students learn to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and produce reasoning.

L04 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.

L05 Area D2: Courses in this area will enable students to compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems.

L06 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.

L07 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

Baird, F. E. and Kaufmann, W. (editors) *Philosophic Classics: From Plato to Derrida*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (Prentice Hall). ISBN 9780205783861.\*

Equiano, Olaudah. *The Life of Olaudah Equiano* (Dover). ISBN 9780486406619. (Will not be used in Humanities 2B).

Heffner, R., ed. *A Documentary History of the U.S.*, expanded and updated 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013 (Signet). ISBN 9780451466471.\*

Heinrichs, Jay. *Thank You for Arguing*, revised edition 2013. ISBN: 9780385347754.\*

Puchner, M. et al., *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, 3rd ed., Volumes A, B, C; Norton, 2012. ISBN 9780393933659. (Will not be used in Humanities 2B).

Puchner, M. et al., *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*, 3rd ed., Volumes D, E, F; Norton, 2012. ISBN 9780393933666.\*

Stokstad, Marilyn and Michael W. Cothren, *Art History Portable* in six volumes, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson / Prentice Hall, 2013. (Art History Portable Edition). ISBN 9780205969876.\*

Thoreau, H.D. *Civil Disobedience* (Dover). ISBN 9780486275635.\*

**Humanities 2A Reader:** available online at your seminar's home page. You will be asked to have reading assignments from this source 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. Class participation will be negatively affected when students do not bring assigned readings to class.

<p><b>*Books marked with an asterisk (*) will be used in subsequent semesters. Please retain them.</b></p>
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## Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

### Library Liaison for English courses

- Peggy Cabrera, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library
- Voice: 408-808-2096 — Email: [Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu](mailto:Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu)
- Website: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/humanities>

## Classroom Protocol

**Preparation and Participation:** Students should come to class having read the day's assignment and prepared to discuss it. Opportunities for such contributions may take the form of small-group or full-class discussions; in either situation, individual students may be called upon by the instructor to answer a question, interpret a passage, or express an opinion.

**Quizzes:** The best way to measure how carefully you are reading the texts, and how much of that reading you retain (at least for a day or so) is with short quizzes at the beginning of the class period. The quizzes will only cover significant information from that day's reading assignment, though that information may not be the sort readily accessible to you in plot summaries, outlines, or any other manner other than personally experiencing the text yourself. If you read well ahead of the assigned schedule, be sure to review your notes and come to class with a fresh and detailed impression of the works. A pattern of doing poorly on these quizzes should be taken as an

indication that you are not doing the reading, or not reading attentively enough, or not reading with the care and analysis necessary to be successful as an educated person and devotee of the humanities.

**Resource Person:** Texts and images from around the world may present a particular challenge to students because of specialized vocabulary and unfamiliar plants, animals, geography, and names (for people, places, and things), as well as cultural differences, historical references, and other allusions and usages. Several times during the semester, each student will be designated one of two or three “resource persons” for the day’s reading assignment; and will be on call that day to explain to the class any problematic terms or references in the text.

**Written Work:** There will be three formal essays assigned during the semester: a short (1000 words and counting 10% of the final grade) “critical thinking” essay at the beginning, a short (also 1000 words and counting 5%) “affective” art essay at the end; and in between a multi-part research project, consisting of an initial research report (500 words and counting 5%); a rough draft (1500 words and counting 5%), and the final draft (1500 words and counting 10% of the final mark in the course). There will also be one midterm (10%), a short-answer final exam (15%) and an essay final exam (15%). In addition, students will each give a formal speech of persuasion in front of the class, this semester in the form of a four-person debate (5%); and quizzes will help determine the remaining 20%, along with participation in class, the timely completion of readings and written work, serving as the resource person, and other measures of participation. Grading will be on a 100-point scale for each assignment. For the final mark, an average for all coursework of 100-97 will be an A+, 96-94 an A, 93-90 an A-, 89-87 a B+, 86-84 a B, 83-80 a B-, 79-77 a C+, 76-74 a C, 73-70 a C-, and so on.

**Submission of written work:** All written work must be double-spaced (and without a cover page), follow standard MLA or APA format (your choice, but you must be consistent), and be submitted online only, through the course Canvas page (<http://sjsu.instructure.com>), by the beginning of the lecture on the days they are due. Essays submitted on Canvas are automatically sent to Turnitin.com, as well, to check for plagiarism. Late work will only be accepted by prior arrangement. Do not email or leave at my office any work for this class, unless I specifically ask you to do so. Corrected papers will be returned online (in your Canvas account) in pdf format; you will find the grade in my comment at the end of your essay, and not in the Canvas “gradebook.”. Please keep a copy of all work submitted on disk, and retain all graded work returned until the end of the semester. Students should anticipate a significant delay in the return of late work. Please note that many people find it harder to proofread work on a computer screen than in printed form and, if that is true in your case, you may want to print out your final draft and make corrections to that, before submitting the finished file online. Finally, remember that I will also be keeping a copy of your marked work during the semester so that, when you submit an essay, I will begin by reviewing the technical mistakes you made in the previous one, and looking to see if you have made any progress in those areas. You, too, should take the time to review those errors, and improve your writing.

## **Classroom Conduct**

Please treat everyone – classmates, guests, and even the instructor – with respect and courtesy at all times, and comport yourself accordingly, in the classroom, and while entering or leaving it. During class, electronic devices, including phones, tablets, and laptops, may only be used for purposes related to classwork at that moment, such as note-taking; please remember that University policy recognizes any unauthorized use of mobile phones or other technological devices during an examination as grounds for failing the examination. Even during breaks, please

refrain from eating in the classroom, and avoid other activities and behavior that might distract or upset others.

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Speech (full-sentence outline)	-	5%
Critical Thinking Essay (1000 words)	9/28	10%
Midterm Exam	10/17	10%
Research Essay – Proposal (500 words)	10/26	5%
Research Essay – Rough Draft (1500 words)	11/9	5%
Research Essay – Final Draft (1500 words)	11/28	10%
Experiencing Art Essay (1000 words)	12/5	5%
Final Exam (Essay)	12/18	15%
Final Exam (Short-Answer)	12/19	15%
Class participation, resource, quizzes, etc.	-	20%

### **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/>.

### **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <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."
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - 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."

In this course, prior consent by the instructor and other students must be obtained before any audio or video is made, and use of that recording must be limited by whatever restrictions are requested by those recorded.

## **Hum 2A Seminar Schedule, Fall 2017**

This schedule is subject to modification. If you miss class, please check for changes on the class web page at [www.sjsu.edu/people/d.meshher/hum2a/](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/d.meshher/hum2a/). All seminar sessions will include a discussion of the day's readings and lecture. Speech/debate topics will be assigned during the first

week of the semester. Other written assignments will be distributed on the seminar web page two weeks before their due dates, as listed below.

August	24	Thursday	Introduction
	29	Tuesday	
	31	Thursday	
September	5	Tuesday	Debate Session #1 (Faith and Logic)
	7	Thursday	
	12	Tuesday	
	14	Thursday	Debate Session #2 (Women and the Enlightenment)
	19	Tuesday	Debate Session #3 (Adam Smith)
	21	Thursday	
	26	Tuesday	
	28	Thursday	Critical Thinking Essay due
October	3	Tuesday	
	5	Thursday	
	10	Tuesday	Research Essay proposal due
	12	Thursday	
	17	Tuesday	<b>Midterm</b> in seminar
	19	Thursday	Debate Session #4 (Social Contract and Personal Liberty)
	24	Tuesday	
	26	Thursday	Debate Session #5 (What Cost Revolution?)
	31	Tuesday	
November	2	Thursday	Research Essay rough draft due
	7	Tuesday	
	9	Thursday	
	14	Tuesday	
	16	Thursday	Debate Session #6 (Industrial Revolution and Nature)
	21	Tuesday	
	23	Thursday	<b>Thanksgiving - No class</b>
	28	Tuesday	Research Essay final draft due
	30	Thursday	
December	5	Tuesday	Arts Essay due
	7	Thursday	
	18	Monday	<b>Final Exam, 9:45 – 12:00 noon, CL 238, Essay (bring exam booklet(s))</b>
	19	Tuesday	<b>Final Exam, 7:15 – 9:30 am, WSQ 109, Short Answer</b>