

Fall 2009 Humanities Courses

THE LATE, GREAT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

W. Jack Hicks

HUM 1 – Lecture (2 units)

HUM 1D –Discussion (2 units)

HUM 1/1D is designed to fulfill GE requirements in topical breadth and writing experience. Concurrent enrollment in HUM 1 is required to enroll in the HUM 1D discussion section for 4 GE units. Lecture only can be taken for 2 units & no GE units.

Called “an island near to the terrestrial paradise” in a 16th century Spanish romance, California has long been an icon of boundless love, sunny freedom and instant fortune. But dreams of El Dorado have had darker companion nightmares. The state has a history of crisis and disaster and nervous predictions warn that the future holds more monumental surprises. We examine natural and manmade crisis in California—earthquakes and floods, The Border and immigration and doomsday cults—in literary texts, films and a personal appearance by a leader of The People’s Temple cult, a survivor of a 1978 mass suicide that took 900 lives in the jungles of South America.

Grading

(1) *A Dangerous Place* by Marc Reisner; (2) *Seductive Poison* by Deborah Layton; (3) *Crossing Over* by Ruben Martinez; several films, including “Zoot Suit” and “Chinatown”

Grading

Midquarter exam, short paper and final exam.

ADAM & EVE

Noah Guynn

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HUM 1D –Discussion (2 units)

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How does Scripture shape our identities and beliefs? Are those identities and beliefs stable, or do they change? Does the meaning of Scripture change along with our identities and beliefs? Does Scripture have a single, truthful meaning? Or is it open to interpretation? In what ways have interpretations of Scripture been used to dictate moral

conduct, social relationships, and political behavior? How does the way in which we interpret Scripture define our relationships with God and other people? In particular, how do interpretations of Scripture determine our understanding of gender, sexuality, and race?

This course will seek answers to these questions by examining the story of God's creation of the world and of Adam and Eve in Jewish and Christian sacred texts and commentaries from the tenth century BCE through today. Specifically, we will investigate the basic accounts of Creation in the Old Testament (Gen. 1-3); (2) the ways in which different authors from different periods of history have interpreted (or improvised on) those accounts; and (3) the ways in which spiritual insights derived from the interpretation of sacred texts give shape to moral, social, and political issues.

Grading

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 70%

The two-unit discussion sections (HUM 001D) are optional. Students will receive separate grades for their work in the sections. The TAs will assign grades with approval from Prof. Guynn.

Texts

Eve and Adam, Kvam