Write a brief essay (4-5 pages long) on one of the following topics:

1. The society of Genesis is patriarchal. In general, men are the heads of their families and do business with one another; while women, as wives, run the households. So, this world appears to have two parts—the public sphere and the private sphere. Based on the stories in Genesis, does the appearance of two separate spheres represent the reality? Answer this question by looking closely at two examples from the following list: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and his wives, Judah and Tamar.

2. Deception plays a large role in the stories recounted in Genesis, most notably centered on Jacob (Israel) and his family – Jacob and Esau, Rachel and Leah, Judah and Tamar, and Joseph and his brothers – but also including Abraham telling people that Sarah was his sister. All of these deceivers are God’s people, His partners in the Covenant. What explains the role of deception among God’s friends? Answer this question using two of the examples.

In writing your essay, play close attention to pp. 8-16 of the Humanities Handbook and to discussions of this material that take place in your sections. Turn in your essay at the end of lecture on Thursday, February 1.

At the same time, you need to send an electronic copy to the anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com. Let us remind you that, if you use other people’s words as if they were your own, you are committing academic dishonesty, which at UCSD is severely punished. It is also very easy to discover.