

Western Civilization I

Fall 2014

Instructor: Raymond J. Dansereau

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Class Meetings: TTH, 2:30-3:50

Room: Eng-209

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:10- 2:10 or by appointment

Office: tba

Course Number: 510:201

Description:

To an Roman Citizen, living in Rome in the aftermath of the the sack of the city by Germanic invaders, it must have seemed the world was ending. Rome had not seen enemy forces in its city in nearly a thousand years, with the empire having stood for hundreds; now that all seemed over. Yet, with the fall of Rome, the world did not end; in the east the Roman empire continued as the Byzantine Empire, while in the West, from the ashes of Rome rose a new culture. This culture grew out of a mix of ancient Rome, of Christianity, and of the culture of the Germanic invaders. Over the next hundreds of years, what we recognize as European and Western culture grew out of these three sources. Europe saw feudalism and the rise of the modern state, Gothic cathedrals, the beginnings of science and the universities, crusade, inquisition, Church reform, popular religions, famine, plague, reformation, Renaissance, and the eventual discovery of New Worlds. This studies the development of medieval civilization out of the ruins of Rome, and the making of what came to be Europe.

Course Aims:

By the end of this course the student should:

- Have a broad understanding of the major historical events from the fall of Rome to Renaissance and Reformation Europe.
- Be able to use historical sources to form and defend an original argument
- Be able to analyze and closely read historical sources and understand and explain their significance.
- Have an understanding of the historical method, how it works, and how to apply it.

Required Books:

Beowulf

Song of Roland

Einhard's Life of Charlemagne

Tragical History of Dr. Faustus

A Man for all Seasons (1966, movie)

- The rest of the reading materials will be provided uploaded to Blackboard, which students should check regularly.

- IMS: Internet Medieval Sourcebook (online)

Structure:

Every class will consist of some mixture of lecture and discussion of assigned readings. Students will consequently be expected to have read all the assigned readings before class.

Grading:

Participation: 10%

Midterm: 20%

Paper 1: 10%

Paper 2: 15%

Paper 3: 15%

Final exam: 30%

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is passing someone else's work off as your own; this can be intentional (trying to take credit for someone else's work), or unintentional (forgetting to cite). In either case, it is a serious offence and may result in automatic failure from the course. To avoid this, carefully cite all ideas not your own in text according to the following formula (author, page number). It is not usually necessary to cite material from class lectures (since this is considered common knowledge).

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every major assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment."

Attendance and deadlines:

Students are permitted three unexcused absences. Further unexcused absences will cost a student 3 points off of his or her final grade for each additional class missed. Eight or more missed

classes (whether excused or not) will result in automatic failure of the course. Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the class.

Students will write 3- two page papers over the semester based on the assigned readings. Papers will be due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized a full letter grade (10 points). All late work must be turned in by the last day of class of the semester for credit. Work turned in after that time will not be accepted.

Schedule of Classes:

The Ancient World

1. **Tues. 9/2:** The World of Ancient Greece I: the Warrior and the Wanderer
- First class, no readings.
2. **Thurs. 9/4:** The World of Ancient Grece II: the Poet and the Politician
- selections from Book 8 of the *Illiad*
3. **Tues 9/9:** The World of Ancient Greece III: the Philosopher and the Artist
- selections from Book 10 of the *Odyssey*:
4. **Thurs. 9/11:** The “Eternal City”: From Roman Republic to Empire
- Selections from Stoics, Sceptics, and Epicureans
5. **Tues. 9/16:** Empire and Religion: Rise of Chrisitanity to Constantine
- Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15.
- The passion of Perpetua and Felicity,
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/perpetua.asp>
6. **Thurs. 9/18:** The World of Late Antiquity: Rome and Byzantium
- Life of St. Anthony of Egypt, selections, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/basis/vita-antony.asp>
7. **Tues. 9/23:** The Eternal City Falls: German Invasions and Rise of Islam
- *Beowolf*, Pact of Umar, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jews-umar.asp>

The Medieval World

8. Thurs. 9/25: The Conversion of Europe and Benedictine Monasticism

- *Beowulf*, Conversion of Clovis, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gregtours1.asp>
- “The Rule of St. Benedict” excerpts <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/rul-benedict-excerpt.asp>

9. Tues. 9/30: Charlemagne’s Europe

- Einhard’s *Life of Charlemagne*
- Capitulary for Saxony, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/carol-saxony.asp>

10. Tues. 10/2: The Viking Invasions, Islam on the March, Rise of “Feudalism”

- Ibn Fadlan, description of the Vikings
- Feudal Oaths, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/feud-oath1.asp>
- A Charter of homage and fealty, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/atton1.asp>

11. Tues. 10/7: The Gregorian Reform, Church/State Conflict, Agricultural and Commercial Revolutions

- Henry IV Letter of Pope Gregory VII, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/henry4-to-g7a.asp>
- Gregory VII, deposition of Henry IV, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/g7-ban1.asp>
- Town Charter, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/lorris.asp>

12. Thurs. 10/9: The Crusades I

- *Song of Roland I*

13. Tues. 10/14: The Crusades II

- *Song of Roland II*
- **Paper 1 Due**

14. Thurs. 10/16: The Twelfth Century Renaissance

- Abelard, “History of My Misfortunes” <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/abelard-sel.asp>
- Abelard, “Sic et Non, selections: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1120abelard.asp>
- RW Southern, -selections on anselm

15. Tues. 10/21: From Epic to Romance I: The Twelfth Century Religious Movement and Monasticism

- William of Thierry, “Clairvaux,” <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1143clairvaux.asp>

- Bernard of Clairvaux, "On Love of God,"
http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bernard/loving_god.toc.html or "On the Four Degrees of Love"
<https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/study/module/bernard/>

16. Thurs. 10/23: From Epic to Romance II: St. Francis

- Celano's *Life of St. Francis*, selections, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/stfranc-lives.asp>

- Erec and Enide, selections: http://www.gutenberg.org/files/831/831-h/831-h.htm#link2H_4_0006 (vv. 411-488, 547-690, 747-862, 863-1080)

17. Tues. 10/28: Mid-Term exam

18. Thurs. 10/30: Heresy and Orthodoxy: Albigensian Crusades and Inquisition

- Peter des Vaux de Cernay, selections *Historia Albigensis*

- Rainier Sacconi, description of Catharism, selections

19. Tues. 11/4: Gothic Europe and Rise of Universities: Faith and Reason in Concord and Conflict

- Aquinas, selections

Tertullian, "On Pagan Learning" <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/200Tertullian-pagan.asp>

- **Paper 2 due**

20. Thurs. 11/6: The Fourteenth Century: Calamity and Vivacity

- Selections from *Decameron*

Renaissance and Reformation Europe

21. Tues. 11/11: The Italian Renaissance I- Origins and Humanism

- Petrarch, "Letter to Posterity," "Ascent of Mount Ventoux",

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/petrarch-ventoux.asp>

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/petrarch/pet01.html>

22. Thurs. 11/13: The Italian Renaissance II- Artwork and Politics

- Vasari on Leonardo da Vinci, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/vasari1.asp>

- Selections from *The Prince*, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/prince-excerpt.asp>

23. Tues. 11/18: The Protestant Reformation I: Background and Luther's Reformation

- Martin Luther, selections, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/luther-freedomchristian.asp>

24. **Thurs. 11/20:** The Protestant Reformation II: Calvin, England, France

- Discussion, *Man for All Seasons* (1966, movie)
- Cranmer on Henry VIII's divorce: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/cramner-hen8.asp>

25. **Tues. 11/25:** The Catholic Reformation

- Ignatius of Loyola, "Spiritual Exercises" (excerpts)
- <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/loyola-spirex.asp>

11/27: **Thanksgiving Break**

26. **Tues. 12/2:** The Witch Hunts

- *Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*

27. **Thurs. 12/4:** The Scientific "Revolution"

- *Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*
- Bacon, selections from *Novum Organum*, selections:
<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/Bacon/novorg.html>
- **Paper 3 due**

28. **Tues. 12/9:** The New World

- Pope Paul III, "Sublimus Dei," http://www.newadvent.org/library/docs_pa03sd.htm
- Sepulveda, "Reasons for Just War Among the Indians,"

Final Exam