

# History of Western Civilization I

Mondays & Thursdays

1:00pm-2:20pm

21:510:201:05

Conklin 346

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**Instructor:** Deborah Morrison-Santana

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**Office Hours:** appointments available upon request

## Course Description:

This course will examine the main developments in the history of ideas and institutions from earliest times to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It will examine the expansion of politics, philosophy, art, and literature of Western culture in addition to the origins of the major religions of the world. Periods covered include the earliest known humans, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the early, high, and late Middle Ages, the Crusades, the Renaissance, the discovery of the New World, Reformation, and the Peace at Westphalia and the beginning of the modern state system. This historical material serves as a point of departure for discussion of present-day problems.

## Learning Goals:

Through class discussion, interaction with the instructor, and class presentations, students will practice their communication skills. The writing assignments aim to help students critically analyze course material, develop their own arguments, collect primary documents/evidence, and relate these historical materials to modern situations.

## Required Readings:

\* There are no required purchases for this course.

\* All required readings are available on Blackboard. Please make sure you have access to the course online as soon as possible.

## Grading:

Attendance/Participation – 20% (200 points)	A = 930 – 1000
Greek God/Goddess Presentation & Quiz – 10% (100 points)	B+ = 890 – 929
Newspaper Article Assignment – 10% (100 points)	B = 850 - 889
Tests – 30% (150 points each – 300 points total)	C+ = 800 - 849
Final Exam – 30% (300 points)	C = 750 - 799
	D = 700 - 749
	F = 699 – Below

100% - 1000 points total

**Midterm/Final Exams:** There are no make-ups of either exam.

## COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Attendance** is mandatory for this course and will be taken each class. Missing classes without proper documentation (i.e. a doctor's note) will affect your participation grade. Any student who misses **eight** or more sessions through any **combination** of **excused** and **unexcused** absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a fellow

student on what you missed (do not email me asking what you missed). Excessive lateness will also affect your grade.

2. **No personal technology devices allowed in class.** This means no cell phones, iPads, laptops, or any other kinds of electronic devices (unless needed for medical reasons, with the proper documentation). If you are caught using your phone or another device, you will lose participation credit for the day. Continuous use of these technologies will result in being asked to leave the classroom and lose participation credit for the day.
  3. **Academic Dishonesty:** Taking the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own without proper use of citation constitutes plagiarism and it is considered grounds for receiving an “F” for the course and suspension/expulsion from the university. All students are required to uphold the honor code. Please see Rutgers’ Academic Integrity Policy.
  4. Students should present official medical or legal documentation if they cannot fulfill any part of the course requirements. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances such as serious illness and/or legal obligations.
  5. **Open Communication:** I am always available to help you succeed in this course. You may see me during my office hours or reach me through email. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.
  6. **Your grade** is your responsibility and is non-negotiable. If you need a specific grade for your GPA, financial aid, academic standing, personal reasons, etc., you need to earn that grade by following the guidelines presented in this syllabus. Please do not contact me after the semester asking/begging for a better grade.
  7. All students are required to sign the **Rutgers Honor Code Pledge**. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.”
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## **Greek God/Goddess Assignment:**

Working in pairs or individually, you must make a presentation on one Greek God or Goddess. This should be about 5-10 minutes and should include: who is your god/goddess, what is their story, why they are important, how they affect us today, etc. Your presentation must be accompanied a printed out copy of your (typed) notes and/or the slides from your presentations (3 to a page only) as well as a bibliography. The purpose of this project is to learn about Greek Mythology. There are many characters that come into play; of course, we will not get to know them all, but hopefully with this project we can become familiar with many of them.

### **Presentation:**

- Your job is to present your God/Goddess/Mythological character to the class. You should provide:
  - Background information/story (where they fit into Greek mythology)
  - Their purpose in every day ancient Greek life
  - Any modern manifestations of the character. This is your chance to be creative and have fun.
- This presentation should be 5-10 minutes long.
- Do not simply read your notes. Interact with the class and teach us about your character.

**\*\*\* PRESENTATIONS ARE ON 9/25 AND 9/28 AND ORDER WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED. IF YOU ARE CALLED UPON TO PRESENT AND YOU ARE NOT PREPARED, YOU WILL FAIL THIS ASSIGNMENT \*\*\***

**\*\*\* A QUIZ OF THE GREEK GODS/GODDESSES WILL BE THE NEXT CLASS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE PRESENTATIONS\*\*\***

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## **Newspaper Article Assignment:**

There are many critical international issues happening in the world today that are directly related to historical events or eras we've discussed in this class. For this assignment you must find a recent news article (from a credible source – email me if you are unsure of a source) about a current event and write a paper about how the article relates to an event or era discussed in this class. This is not an informative paper, but rather you must use critical thinking to discuss how the current event is related to the history we've discussed and how it differs. Compare and contrast the present with the past using course readings, lectures, and outside sources if necessary to supplement your paper. The supplemental sources should not be the main focus of your paper; your analysis of the newspaper article chosen is.

Cite everything with **footnotes** (with full bibliographic information in them).

\*\*\* Your answer must be about 5 pages (no more, no less), typed, DOUBLE SPACED, and 12-point Times New Roman font, one inch margins. You will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation, and following directions. Remember, this is 15% of your final grade; it should be a well thought out response with a beginning, middle, and end. \*\*\*

**This paper is due on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (by the beginning of class)  
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED for any reason.**

### **Guidelines:**

- Be specific. I want you to really think about this article and your response to it and how it fits into our course.
- Avoid replacing arguments with examples. Use examples to illustrate a general claim, not as a replacement for them. Examples by themselves tend toward selection bias and hasty generalizations.
- I am interested in content, not clever rhetorical flourish. Thus, avoid filler material... DO NOT USE BLOCK QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLES OR READINGS. Direct quotes should be no longer than 2 sentences, MAXIMUM.
- **IF YOU DO NOT CITE, EVEN WHEN YOU PARAPHRASE, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM. PLAGIARIZED PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED EITHER BY AN F ON THE PAPER OR THE COURSE AND WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN.**
- PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER. You will be marked off for typos, punctuation errors, and/or major disorganization.
- The heading of your paper should be your name ONLY.
- 1-inch margins all around
- The paper is to be 5 pages long. Not less, not more. (No cover page).

**\*\*\* SUBMIT YOUR PAPER THROUGH TURN-IT-IN ON BLACKBOARD \*\*\***  
(I will not accept it any other way)

**Course Schedule (subject to change):**

	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING/ASSIGNMENTS DUE</b>
TH 9/7	Introduction	
M 9/11	The First Civilizations	Code of Hammurabi
TH 9/14	Origins of Judaism	Book of Job
M 9/18	Ancient Greece	"Thucydides in the Modern World"
TH 9/21	Ancient Greece (continued)	<i>Lysistrata</i> (play)
M 9/25	Greek God Presentations	
TH 9/28	Greek God Presentations	
M 10/2	The Roman Republic	Twelve Tables
TH 10/5	The Roman Empire	"The Deeds of the Divine Augustus"
M 10/9	Origins of Christianity	The Gospel According to Peters & Spielvogel excerpts 1
TH 10/12	The Fall of the Roman Empire	Spielvogel excerpts 2
M 10/16	<b>Test #1</b>	
TH 10/19	Late Antiquity & The Medieval World	Spielvogel excerpts 3
M 10/23	Origins of Islam	Excerpts from the Quran
TH 10/26	Early Middle Ages (750-1000)	"So you're related to Charlemagne?" - The Guardian
M 10/30	High Middle Ages (1000-1300)	Magna Carta
TH 11/2	The Rise of Kingdoms and the Growth of Church Powers	Crusades reading
M 11/6	The Late Middle Ages	Black Death reading
TH 11/9	Discovery of the New World	"Columbus' Confusion about the New World" - Smithsonian
M 11/13	<b>TEST #2</b>	
TH 11/16	Renaissance	Excerpts from Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i>
M 11/20	Renaissance (continued)	
T 11/21	The Reformation	Marin Luther's "95 Theses"
TH 11/23	THANKSGIVING	NO CLASS
M 11/27	Early America	"The Shocking Savagery of America's Early History" - Smithsonian Magazine *** Newspaper Article Assignment DUE***
TH 11/30	Witches and Witchcraft	"Inside the Salem Witch Trials"
M 12/4	Peace at Westphalia & the Modern State System	Peace at Westphalia excerpt
TH 12/7	The Ancient World & Today	Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations"
M 12/11	LAST DAY - Final Exam Review	