

History of Western Civilization I

Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00am – 11:20am
21:510:201:01
Conklin 346

Instructor: Deborah Morrison-Santana

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30-12:30pm (Hill 720) and 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 17th 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:

* 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 10% (100 points)	B+ = 890 – 929
Greek God Quiz – 5% (50 points)	B = 850 - 889
Newspaper Article Assignment – 15% (150 points)	C+ = 800 - 849
Tests – 25% (125 points each – 250 points total)	C = 750 - 799
Final Exam – 25% (250 points)	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, smart watches, 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 & Respect:** 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. Additionally, please always show me and everyone in the class respect. If you are being disrespectful, you may be asked to leave.
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.”
8. Policy on Students with Disabilities: “Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or contact odsnewark@rutgers.edu.”

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 your presentation notes and bibliography (due the first day of presentations). 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 2/12, 2/14, and 2/19 AND THE ORDER OF PRESENTERS 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*****

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 Tuesday April 30th (by the beginning of class – thought Turn-It-In on Blackboard) - 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.
- 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.
- Use footnotes with full bibliographic information, including URLs
- 1-inch margins all around
- The paper is to be at least 5 FULL pages long. Not less. (No cover page).
- Choose a credible source and avoid 24-hour news channels (i.e. CNN, FoxNews, MSNBC). If you are confused about a source, please don't hesitate to contact me).

	TOPIC	READING/ASSIGNMENTS DUE
T 1/22	Introduction	
TH 1/24	The First Civilizations	Code of Hammurabi & Mesopotamia Reading
T 1/29	Ancient Egypt & Origins of Judaism & Theological Anti-Semitism	Ancient Egypt Reading
TH 1/31	Ancient Assyria	Ancient Assyria Reading
T 2/5	Ancient Greece	"Thucydides in the Modern World"
TH 2/7	Ancient Greece & the Hellenistic World	<i>Lysistrata</i> (play)
T 2/12	Greek God Presentations	All Powerpoint and Summaries due
TH 2/14	Greek God Presentations (continued)	
T 2/19	Greek God Presentations (continued) & The Roman Republic	GREEK GOD QUIZ (in class) & <i>Twelve Tables</i>
TH 2/21	The Roman Republic & Roman Empire	"The Deeds of the Divine Augustus"
T 2/26	Test #1	
TH 2/28	Origins of Christianity & its Spread	Spielvogel excerpts 1
T 3/5	The Fall of the Roman Empire	Spielvogel excerpts 2
TH 3/7	Late Antiquity & the Origins of Islam	Spielvogel excerpts 3 & Excerpts from the Qu-ran
T 3/12	Early Middle Ages (750-1000)	"So you're related to Charlemagne?" - The Guardian
TH 3/14	High Middle Ages (1000-1300)	Magna Carta
3/16 - 3/24	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)	
T 3/26	High Middle Ages - in-class FILM	
TH 3/28	High Middle Ages - in-class FILM	
T 4/2	The Rise of Kingdoms and the Growth of Church Powers	Crusades reading
TH 4/4	Test #2	
T 4/9	The Late Middle Ages	Black Death reading
TH 4/11	Discovery of the New World	"Columbus' Confusion about the New World"
T 4/16	Early America	"The Shocking Savagery of America's Early History"
TH 4/18	Renaissance	Excerpts from Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i>
T 4/23	The Reformation	Marin Luther's "95 Theses"
TH 4/25	Witches and Witchcraft	"Inside the Salem Witch Trials"
T 4/30	Peace at Westphalia & the Modern State System	Samuel Huntingtons's "Clash of Civilizations" *** Newspaper Article Assignment DUE***
TH 5/2	LAST DAY OF CLASS - Final Exam Review	