History of Western Civilization 1

Svanur Pétursson  
svanurp@gmail.com  
Office: Conklin Hall 337  
Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5 pm and by appointment  

This course gives students an overview of the major events and developments in European history, from ancient times to roughly 1700. In this class, students will regularly practice their writing skills with written assignments and a final paper, and will have many opportunities to express their ideas verbally in class discussions. In both the written assignments and the class discussions, students will develop their analytical skills by identifying the course readings’ main theses, supporting arguments, evidence, assumptions, and rhetorical strategies.

Course Requirements:
1. Participation in class discussion. Students will be expected to read the assigned texts before the class (by date indicated on the syllabus). On days that are marked especially for discussion you will be expected to have carefully read all the primary source documents and be ready to discuss them.
2. Analysis of Primary Source Documents. Three assignments spread out throughout the semester, 2-3 pages each.
3. Take Home Midterm, 5-6 pages (typed and double-spaced), due October 3rd.
4. Take Home Final Exam, 5-6 pages (typed and double-spaced), due December 20, by 6 pm.

Grading:
In-class participation: 10%
Primary source Analysis: 30% (10% each)
Take Home Midterm Exam: 30%
Take Home Final Exam: 30%

Required Books:

The books are available at New Jersey Books, 167 University Avenue (corner of University and Bleeker) and at the University Book Store and at online retailers.

Attendance policy:
Attendance is required. If you miss more than four classes, your grade will be lowered by a third of a grade (from B+ to B, for example). If you miss more than six classes, your grade will be lowered by one full grade (B+ to C+, for example). 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.

Late papers and exams:
Papers and exams are due on the dates announced in class or indicated below. Unless discussed with me IN ADVANCE, late assignments will have their grades lowered.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):
Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University. 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 examination / assignment.”

Course Website
You will find a copy of this syllabus at the Blackboard course website (blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu), in case you should lose this one. From time to time, I will also post additional materials (images that we discuss in class, texts that I discuss in lectures which are not in the textbooks, etc.) If there are any changes to the syllabus, I will announce these in class and then post them on the website. I will also use the electronic roster to send e-mails to all students, if there are announcements to be made.

Topics and Schedule of Readings

1. Thurs. 9/3: Introduction

2. Tues. 9/8: Athens and Jerusalem
   The Making of the West, 37-73
   The Book of Exodus, chapters 19-20 (Sources, 39)
   Tyrtaeus of Sparta and Solon of Athens (Sources, 51)

3. Thurs. 9/10: The Golden Age of Greece
   The Making of the West, 75-100
   Plato, The Apology of Socrates (Sources, 62)

4. Mon. 9/14: The Hellenistic World
   The Making of the West, 100-137
   Epicurus (Sources, 95)

5. Thurs. 9/16: Rome
   The Making of the West, 139-190
   The Twelve Tables (Sources, 101)
   Cicero, “Cultivating Justice and Piety” (Sources, 114)
   Notices and Graffiti Describe Life in Pompeii (Sources, 128)

6. Mon. 9/21 Discussion. ANALYSIS 1 DUE

7. Thurs. 9/24: The Birth of Christianity
   The Making of the West, 190-225
   Arius, Letter to Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria & the Nicene Creed (Sources, 141)
   Augustine of Hippo (Sources, 143)

8. Mon. 9/28: Byzantium
   The Making of the West, 225-244, 252-257
   Procopius, Secret History (Sources, 154)
   Life of St. Theodore of Sykeon (Sources, 164)

9. Thurs. 10/1: New Kingdoms
   The Making of the West, 257-273
   Life of Lady Balthild, Queen of the Franks (Sources, 167)
   Pope Gregory the Great, Letters (Sources, 172)

10. Mon. 10/5: Discussion
11. Thurs. 10/8: Carolingians and their World
The Making of the West, 287-309
General Capitulary for the Missi (Sources, 175)

12. Mon. 10/12: The Rise of Islam
Midterm topics distributed
The Making of the West, 244-252, 283-287
Qu’ran, suras 1, 53, 98 (Sources, 158)
Jihad and Jizya (Sources, 161)

13. Thurs. 10/15: Commercial Revolution
The Making of the West, 311-329.

14. Mon. 10/19: Church Reform
Take Home Midterm DUE
The Making of the West, 335-343
Commenda contracts (Sources, 193)
Sources of the Investiture Conflict (Sources, 197)

15. Thurs. 10/22: The Twelfth-Century Renaissance
The Making of the West, 345-360
Peter Abelard, Story of my Misfortunes (Sources, 211)

16. Mon. 10/26: Heights of Medieval Culture
The Making of the West, 360-369.
Chrétien de Troyes, Lancelot (Sources, 220)

17. Thurs. 10/30: Defending the Borders of Christendom
The Making of the West, 329-333, 369-379
Pope Urban II’s speech at Clermont (Sources, 199)
Ibn al-Athir, response to the first crusade (Sources, 201)
Chronicle of Solomon bar Samson (Blackboard)
Thomas of Monmouth (Sources, 243)

18. Mon. 11/2: Discussion. ANALYSIS 2 DUE

19. Thurs. 11/5: Thirteenth-Century Transformations
The Making of the West, 381-408
Franciscan Piety (Sources, 226)
Hadewijch of Brabant (Sources, 240)
Thomas Aquinas (Sources, 235)

20. Mon. 11/9: The Crisis of Late Medieval Society
The Making of the West, 411-427
The Black Death (Sources, 254)
Geoffrey Chaucer (Sources, 262)

21. Thurs. 11/12: Renaissance Humanism
The Making of the West, 427-448
Giovanni Rucellai and Leonardo Bruni (Sources, 271)

22. Mon. 11/16: Discussion

23. Thurs. 11/19: The Protestant Reformation
The Making of the West, 458-481
Martin Luther, Freedom of a Christian (Sources, 287)
John Calvin, The Necessity of Reforming the Church (Sources, 289)
St. Ignatius of Loyola, A New Kind of Catholicism (Sources, 291)

24. Mon. 11/23: Clash of Worldviews
The Making of the West, 483-496
The Edict of Nantes (Sources, 296)

Thurs. 11/26: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

25. Mon. 11/30: Discussion. ANALYSIS 3 DUE

26. Thurs. 12/3: The New World
The Making of the West, 451-458
Bernal Díaz del Castillo (Sources, 278)
Lienzo de Tlaxcala (Sources, 283)
Bartolomé de la Casas (Sources, 284)
Olaudah Equiano (Sources, 338)

27. Thurs, 12/4: Scientific Revolution and Witchcraft
The Making of the West, 497-511
Trial of Suzanne Gaudry (Sources, 310)

28. Thurs. 12/9: Class Review and Take Home Final Topics distributed

Take-Home Final: TBD