

# History of Western Civilization 1

Svanur Pétursson

[svanurp@gmail.com](mailto:svanurp@gmail.com)

Office: Conklin Hall 337

Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5pm and by appointment

21:510:201:03

Mondays/Thursdays 1:00-2:20

Smith Hall 244

Fall 2015

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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
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:

- Lynn Hunt et al.: *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures: Volume 1, to 1750* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. ISBN: 9780312672690
- Katharine J. Lualdi: *Sources of the Making of the West: Volume 1, to 1750* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. ISBN: 9780312576110

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**