

History of Western Civilization I

21:510:201:07 Fall 2016
Monday and Wednesday 4:00-5:20 pm
Hill Hall 204

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Office: Conklin Hall 326
Office Hours: Monday 5:30-6:30 pm
or by appointment

Course Summary

This course is an introduction to the history of Europe from the birth of civilization in the Fertile Crescent to the European Enlightenment in the eighteenth century. This course combines lectures, textbook reading and analysis of primary source material to cover the major political, institutional, social and cultural developments across this long period of history.

Students in this course will learn to think critically about historical process: both the events and ideas that shaped the foundations of modern Western culture and how historians have shaped the interpretation of those events. A strong emphasis will be placed on the use of primary sources – original documents written during the period being studied – to come to a better understanding of the past. Students will learn how to place these documents into their proper context and use them to make a historically-significant argument, both in the course of class discussion and in written assignments. Class discussion will require students to engage with the readings, the instructor and their peers, practicing their public speaking as well as critical thinking and analytical skills.

Texts

The textbook for the course is: Michael Burger, *The Shaping of Western Civilization, Volume I: From Antiquity to the Mid-Eighteenth Century* (University of Toronto Press, 2013). The ISBN number is 9781442607569. This book is available from the campus Barnes and Noble bookstore as well as NJ Books. Reading from the textbook will be assigned for each class session. All additional readings can be found on the Blackboard course site or linked from the syllabus.

Course Assignments and Grading

Students will be graded on the following:

Quizzes	10%
In-Class Writing Assignments	25%
Midterm Exams	25%
Final Exam	25%
Participation and Attendance	15%

Quizzes: Textbook quizzes will be given once a week, either on Monday or Wednesday. The date of each quiz will not be announced beforehand. The quiz will take place during the first five minutes of class. These quizzes will consist of a single question from the assigned reading for that

day's class. The questions are designed to be fairly easy, so that anyone who has kept up with reading should do well. The purpose of these quizzes is to ensure that every student is doing the reading. If you are late to class and miss the quiz or absent on a quiz day, you will NOT be able to make it up. Students with excused absences must make an appointment with me to make up their quiz. Since I understand that things happen and occasionally you cannot arrive to class on time or you cannot finish the reading, I will drop your two lowest quiz grades. There will be no quizzes on the days of exams or in-class writing assignments.

In-Class Writing Assignments: There will be three in-class writing assignments during the semester – one for each unit. For each of these assignments, you will be expected to come to class with a copy of the primary source document you read for that day. During class, you will discuss the document in small groups, focusing on what it can tell us about the time period in which it was written. After this discussion, you will write a short essay about the document. This is not meant to be an exam, but a writing workshop – you will be able to consult with one another and with me about the document and about your essay, although the main ideas in the essay should be your own.

Exams:

There will be three exams in this course: two in-class midterm exams and one semi-cumulative final exam. The first midterm will cover material from the first unit of the course, the second midterm will cover material from the second unit, and the final exam will cover the entire course, focusing heavily on material from the third unit. There will be very short in-class reviews before the two midterm exams, and a full class period of review before the final exam (a final exam study guide will also be provided). All three of these will be essay exams, asking students to identify people and events, answer a few short essay questions and one longer essay. The final exam will be substantially longer than the in-class midterm exams.

Students are required to be present for exams and in-class essays. Any student who misses one of these assessments for any reason that does not fall under Rutgers' official excused absence policy will automatically be penalized ten points. The assessment must be made up within one week of the originally-scheduled date or the student will receive a zero. **It YOUR responsibility to make arrangements with me about missed exams. If you know you will miss an exam or in-class writing day, please email me as soon as possible (ideally beforehand) to schedule your makeup.** If the scheduled makeup is missed as well, the student will lose the opportunity to make the assessment up and will receive a zero.

Participation and Attendance:

Students are expected to attend lecture and participate in class discussions and activities. Participation means active engagement with the class during discussions and group work. Students will be graded on their participation during each individual class session. In order to receive full participation credit for a class session, a student must ask a question or contribute to the discussion more than once during that session. While the goal is consistent participation from all students, I understand that everyone has some off days. Therefore, **at the end of the semester, each student's lowest three participation grades will be dropped.** Students are welcome to contact me at any time to find out their current participation average in the course.

Attendance at every class session is **REQUIRED**. **Any student who accrues more than three unexcused absences will have his or her final grade lowered by two points per additional absence.** These three unexcused absences are meant to help the student account for those things that always come up during a semester: a bad cold, car breakdown, family event, court date, etc. Use these absences wisely. Rutgers' official excused absences do not count toward these three. According to the Rutgers catalog, "the recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions" (http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/pg23613.html). If one of these situations applies, please notify me as soon as you know that you will be absent and provide me with some sort of documentation of that absence as soon as possible (in the case of a serious illness, bring a doctor's note to class the next time you attend). Emergency situations (ex. hospitalization, coma, extradition) will be handled on a case by case basis. If you do have such an emergency, please contact me about it as soon as possible. In extreme situations which affect your performance in all of your courses, you should also get in touch with an academic dean who can help mediate between you and your professors and get you back on track.

All students are also expected to be on time for every class. Class will begin promptly at 4:00 and will often begin with important announcements, so every student should make an effort to arrive on time. **Lateness of more than twenty minutes will count as half an absence.**

**** Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F. ****

Note on Communication:

Remember that communication is important in any student-teacher relationship. If you are having any sort of trouble with the course, please do not hesitate to contact me about it. The longer you wait, the worse it can get. Better to talk with me early so we can set about solving the problem together than waiting until it affects your final grade.

Course Policies

Conduct: Please refrain from disruptive behavior, such as eating, carrying on conversations, excessive comings and goings, texting, or inappropriate internet usage. Silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices during class. Any student whose conduct is disruptive to the class will be asked to leave and will not be given credit for attendance or participation on that day.

Any student whose conduct is rude and disrespectful will receive negative participation points for the day (taking away from positive participation during another class session). Rude and disrespectful behavior includes sleeping, wearing headphones during class, answering phone calls in the classroom, texting, doing other homework, or being occupied in any other activity that is unrelated to the class.

Academic Integrity: Anyone caught cheating on an assignment will be dealt with according to university policy. The most common form of cheating is plagiarism. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, ask *before* beginning your assignment. If there is evidence that a student has committed any violation of academic integrity, the matter will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, which will determine the appropriate sanctions. Rutgers University's full Academic Integrity Policy can be found at this address:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf.

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

Accommodations: 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 contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

Syllabus: All students are expected to have read the syllabus in its entirety and agree to abide by its policies. Likewise, I agree to abide by the syllabus throughout the semester, only adapting or updating it when absolutely necessary (for example, when the university cancels classes because of inclement weather). In such cases, a revised syllabus will be made available as soon as possible.

Schedule

The listed texts should be read *before* class on the date they are listed. Some primary source readings are linked off of the syllabus. The others can be found on the Blackboard course site.

W 9/7 **Course Introduction**

Unit One: The Ancient Mediterranean

M 9/12 **The Ancient Near East: Government**
Burger, Ch 1, p. 1-16
Hammurabi's Code

W	9/14	The Ancient Near East: Religion Burger, Ch 1, p. 17-24 Egyptian Book of the Dead Book of Exodus and Deuteronomy
M	9/19	The Greek <i>Polis</i> Burger, Ch 2, p. 39-64 Hesiod – Works and Days
W	9/21	Greek Culture Burger, Ch 2, p. 65-73 Plato – Allegory of the Cave Aristotle – Politics
M	9/26	IN-CLASS WRITING 1 Homer – Odyssey
W	9/28	The Hellenistic Age Burger, Ch 2, p. 74-81 Plutarch – Life of Alexander Arrian – Speech of Alexander Epicurus – Letter to a Friend
M	10/3	The Roman Republic Burger, Ch 3, 85-120 Twelve Tables Julius Caesar – The Gallic War
W	10/5	The Roman Empire Burger, Ch 3, p. 120-128; Ch 4, p. 131-141 Virgil – The Aeneid Tacitus – Germania
M	10/10	MIDTERM EXAM 1

Unit Two: Medieval Europe

W	10/12	Early Christianity Burger, Ch 4, p. 142-154 Martyrdom of Perpetua Eusebius - Conversion of Constantine
M	10/17	Islam and Byzantium Burger, Ch 4, p. 161-164 Procopius – The Secret History

- W 10/19 **Early Medieval Europe**
Burger, Ch 4, p. 154-160, 165-180
[Gregory of Tours – History of the Franks](#)
[Capitulary for Saxony](#)
- M 10/24 **The High Middle Ages: The State**
Burger, Ch 5, p. 195-199, 205-211
[Liudprand of Cremona – Embassy to Constantinople](#)
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle on William the Conqueror
- W 10/26 **The High Middle Ages: The Church**
Burger, Ch 5, p. 181-186; 200-204
[Pope Gregory VII – Dictatus Papae](#)
Ibn Munqidh – On the Franks in Palestine
- M 10/31 **IN-CLASS WRITING 2**
[Letters of Innocent III](#)
- W 11/2 **High Medieval Culture**
Burger, Ch 5, p. 211-220
Abelard – Historia Calamitatum
Chrétien de Troyes – Lancelot
- M 11/7 **The Late Middle Ages**
Burger, Ch 5, p. 220-225
Boccaccio – Decameron
[Anonimale Chronicle](#)
- W 11/9 **MIDTERM EXAM 2**

Unit Three: Early Modern Europe

- M 11/14 **Renaissance**
Burger, Ch 5, p. 226-232
[Giorgio Vasari – Life of Leonardo](#)
[Petrarch - Letters](#)
- W 11/16 **Reformation**
Burger, Ch 6, p. 235-253
[Luther – Letter to the Archbishop of Mainz](#)
[Luther – Address to Christian Nobility](#)
[Ignatius – Spiritual Exercises](#)
- M 11/21 **European Expansion**
Burger, Ch 6, p. 261-268
Sepulveda – On the Reasons for the Just War Among the Indians
Las Casas – In Defense of the Indians

W	11/19	NO CLASS – FRIDAY SCHEDULE
M	11/28	Religious Warfare Burger, Ch 6, p. 251-261 De Thou – St Bartholomew’s Day Massacre Montaigne – Essay on Cannibalism
W	11/30	The Witch Hunts Weisner-Hanks, <i>Early Modern Europe</i> , p. 386-93 Malleus Maleficarum
M	12/5	IN-CLASS WRITING 3 Trial of Suzanne Gaudry
W	12/7	Early Modern State-Building Burger, Ch 6, p. 260-268; Ch 7, p. 284-307 Bossuet – Political Treatise Hobbes – Leviathan
M	12/12	Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment Burger, Ch 7, p. 272-283; 307-320 Locke – On Knowledge, Second Treatise on Government Galileo – Letter to Don Benedetto Castelli
W	12/14	Exam Review
W	12/21	FINAL EXAM 3-6 pm (tentative)