

History of Western Civilization I

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Office Hours: TBA (and by appointment)

Course: 21:510:201:05
Day/time: M (2:30), W (1:00)
Classroom: Hill 204
Course Term: Fall 2014

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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. 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.

REQUIRED TEXT

- *Arts and Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities, Volume I* (4th Edition) by Janetta Rebold Benton and Robert Di Yanni, ISBN# 978-0205816606
- Electronic Handouts via email and Blackboard
- Web Sites announced in class well in advance of due dates

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course the student should:

- 1) have a broad understanding of the major historical events from ancient times to the middle of the eighteenth century, which formed Western Civilization.
- 2) be able to use historical sources (primary and secondary) to form and defend an original argument.
- 3) be able to analyze and closely read historical sources and understand and explain their significance.
- 4) Be able to identify the reasons for the fall (destruction) of major civilizations over the centuries that cover this time period.

GRADING

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes (four @ 5%)	20%
Research Paper	20%
Mid-Session Exam	20%
Final Examination	30%

FINAL GRADING SCALE

A = 90 – 100 **B+** = 87 – 89 **B** = 80 – 86 **C+** = 77 – 79 **C** = 70 – 76 **D** = 60 – 69 **F** = 0 – 59

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class Participation:** All students are expected to be prepared each day to discuss the readings and issues during class. Participation in class discussions will be worth 10% of your final grade. If there are no volunteers, I will begin to call on students randomly. If participation is poor, I will administer pop quizzes in addition to the quizzes already scheduled for the course that will count towards your participation grade. In order to excel in this portion of your grade, students must participate on a weekly basis by answering questions posed in class.

2. **Quizzes:** There will be four quizzes throughout the semester, two before the Midterm Exam and two before the Final Exam. They will be administered on the days listed under the course schedule below and will be held at the start of class (the first 15 to 20 minutes of class). **Quizzes cover material previously discussed in class, as well as the readings due on the day of the quiz.** Each quiz is worth 5% of your overall grade.

3. **Research Paper:** The paper is to be seven to ten pages in length. It must be based on primary source research. Three (3) different primary sources must be incorporated into the paper. A primary source is typically a contemporaneous account of the events described. Secondary sources may also be used but must be scholarly, peer reviewed sources (books and peer reviewed journals). The research paper may focus on any topic covered in the course. It should try to explore, contrast and comprehensively analyze the selected issue as a proposition. (For example: Was the Augustan Principate a continuation of the oligarchic Republic or a radical departure from the Roman system and how?) Students should provide footnotes and a full bibliography. You may not cite Wikipedia or the textbook in your bibliography. Students may use the research and annotation style of their choosing (APA, MLA, etc.), as long as it is consistent throughout. Students will be graded on the originality of argumentation, thoroughness in research and presentation. Students should focus on primary sources whenever possible. Title and topics of paper must be approved by me before proceeding to search for sources.

4. **Midterm Exam:** The Midterm Exam will be a closed-book exam. It will contain choices of short essay questions.

5. **Final Exam:** The Final Exam will be a cumulative exam (although the majority of questions will be from the second half of the course) and will follow the same format as the Midterm. It will also be a closed-book exam.

GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

1. More than four unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade. For example, five absences will turn an A grade to a B+; six will turn an A into a B; seven will turn an A into a C; more than seven will result in failure. Excused absences relate to doctor's appointments, transportation troubles, athletic commitments, etc. You must be able to provide proof of these absences should a discrepancy arise. However, you cannot pass this course if you have more than seven total absences (excused and unexcused combined). Unexcused lateness counts as ½ an absence. You will be warned ahead of time if you are chronically late. **Note: **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. **

2. All work must be submitted by its due dates. Work handed in late will receive a lowered grade (five points for each day it is late).
3. A **plagiarized** essay will result in a grade of **F** for the course. It will also be reported to the Dean of Students, which could lead to academic probation and/or expulsion. Citations must conform to the research and annotation style of your choosing (APA, MLA, etc.).
4. All papers must be word-processed using **Times New Roman, 12-point font**. Use one-inch margins on all sides of each page, double space and left-justify. Indent the first line of every paragraph five spaces. Number pages consecutively.
5. Keep an extra printout of all drafts of your papers as you write. Make a back-up flash drive as your paper progresses.
6. **No extra credit** will be allowed or accepted once the course is completed. If you want a good grade in this class, I suggest you do all the necessary preparation and work now, at the start of the semester.
7. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to acquire the notes from your classmates, not the professor. Exchange email and/or other contact information with classmates early in the semester.
8. All communication will be conducted via e-mail. My schedule is very flexible. I am on the campus of NJIT on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and arrangements can be made to meet on any of these days, if made in advance. **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. It is better to talk with me early so we can set about solving the problem together rather than waiting until it affects your final grade.
9. **Conduct:** Please refrain from disruptive behavior, such as eating, carrying on conversations, excessive comings and goings, 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 be asked to leave the classroom.** Rude and disrespectful behavior includes sleeping, wearing headphones during class, answering phone calls in the classroom or being occupied in any other activity that is unrelated to the class.

RUTGERS HONOR CODE

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge on every major assignment (papers, quizzes, exams, assignments, etc.). 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."

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The listed texts should be read **before** class on the date they are listed.

W 9/3 **Course Introduction**; Review Syllabus; Course Described; History/Culture/Civilization

M 9/8 **Prehistoric & Mesopotamia**: Ch. I, pgs. 1-17 & The Epic of Gilgamesh pgs. 38-42

W 9/10 **The Civilization of the Nile**: Ch. I, pgs. 17-37 & Egyptian Book of the Dead pgs. 43-44
Hammurabi's Code (electronic handout)

M 9/15 **Aegean Culture and Early Greece**: Ch. II, pgs. 48-62; Homer's *Iliad* / *Odyssey* pgs. 69-76

W 9/17 **Classical and Hellenistic Greece**: Ch. III, pgs. 78-105; Discussion on the differences of Greek City States (electronic handouts); The Phalanx (electronic handouts)

M 9/22 **Continue Classical Greece**: Ch. III, pgs. 78-105 & Herodotus and the Persian Wars pgs. 106-108. **QUIZ# 1** (All previous materials, plus today's readings)

W 9/24 **Continue Classical Greece**: Ch. III, pgs. 78-105 & The Peloponnesian War; Thucydides and the History of the Peloponnesian War pgs. 108-110; Plato from *The Apology* pgs. 117-119

M 9/29 **Continue The Hellenistic Age**: Discussion on Alexander the Great; Changes to the Phalanx (electronic handout); Timeline of Alexander the Great (electronic handouts)

W 10/1 **Roman Civilization**: Ch. IV, pgs. 126-151, Romulus to the highpoint of the Roman Republic; The Twelve Tables; the Marian reforms (electronic handouts).

EMAIL TITLE OF RESEARCH PAPER

M 10/6 **Roman Civilization**: the end of the Republic; The 1st Triumvirate, Julius Caesar, the 2nd Triumvirate (electronic handouts)

W 10/8 **Roman Civilization**: Augustus and Pax Romana; The rise and fall of the Empire; Virgil – The Aeneid; Marcus Aurelius – Meditations; **QUIZ# 2** (All plus today's readings)

M 10/13 **Judaism, Early Christianity and the Byzantine Civilization**: Ch. V, pgs. 170-199; Constantine and Theodosius (Christianity)

W 10/15 **Continue Byzantine Civilization**; Justinian (electronic handout)

M 10/20 **MIDTERM EXAM**

W 10/22 **Islamic Civilization**: Ch. VI, pgs. 214-234; excerpts from the Qur'an.

M 10/27 **Early Middle Ages, the Rise of the Church and the Carolingians**: Ch. XI, pgs. 354-369
Song of Roland; **ALL SOURCES FOR PAPER SHOULD BE FINALIZED**

- W 10/29 **Continue Middle Ages:** Charlemagne, Feudalism and William the Conqueror; The Bayeux Tapestry (description of the Norman conquest); Anglo-Saxon Chronicle on William the Conqueror
- M 11/3 **The Late Middle Ages:** Crusades, Commerce and Scholasticism; Pope Urban II speech at Claremont; Timeline and highlights of the first five Crusades (electronic handouts)
- W 11/5 **Gothic and Late Middle Ages:** Ch. XII, pgs. 382-406; Plague and Recovery
The Hundred Years War – Battle of Agincourt and new warfare; **QUIZ# 3 (from Islamic Chapter to today's readings)**
- M 11/10 **The Renaissance in Italy:** Chapter to be provided electronically; Machiavelli's *The Prince*, (electronic handout)
- W 11/12 **Continue The Renaissance:** The Medici's Influences; Michelangelo; Humanism
- M 11/17 **The Renaissance in Northern Europe:** Chapter to be provided electronically; Reformation and the Counter Reformation; Luther's 95 Theses (electronic handout)
- W 11/19 **Continue The Renaissance in Northern Europe:** Religious Warfare – the Thirty Years War; Gustavus Adolphus (electronic handouts); **ROUGH DRAFT OF PAPER**
- M 11/24 **The Baroque Age:** Chapter to be provided electronically; Hobbes & Locke (electronic Handout); Constructional Monarchy in England (Civil War); **QUIZ# 4 (Islamic chapter to today's readings)**
- W 11/26 **NO CLASS – FRIDAY SCHEDULE**
- M 12/1 **The Eighteenth Century:** Chapter to be provided electronically; Enlightenment
FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE (Hard copy in class and submit to Blackboard)
- W 12/3 **Continue The Eighteenth Century:** Revolutions; Declaration of Ind. (electronic handout)
- M 12/8 **Exploration and Conquest – The New World:** Chapter to be provided electronically; Cortes – Letter on Aztecs; Sepulveda – On the Reasons for the Just War Among the Indians
- W 12/10 **Continue Exploration and Conquest:** New World impact on Europe (Old World); Triangle Trade / Transatlantic Slave Trade

Final Exam: TBA (exam will be administered during finals week)

Note: Due to time constraints and other unforeseen occurrences, we may not be able to cover all the above material. The instructor may also assign additional material as he sees fit. Students will be notified of changes well in advance.