

History of Western Civilization I

21:510:201:05 Fall 2015
Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:20 pm
Smith Hall 241

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Office: Conklin Hall 326
Office Hours: Thursday 2:30-3:30 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. 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 informal 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:

Participation and Attendance	20%
In-Class Writing Assignments (3)	25%
Midterm Exams (2)	25%
Final Exam	30%

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, we will discuss the document as a group, 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. **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.** Participation grades are not posted, however 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 (including deaths/funerals), 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 documentation of that absence as soon as possible (in the case of serious illness, bring a doctor's note to class the next time you attend). Extreme 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 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, 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 can include sleeping, wearing headphones during class, answering phone calls in the classroom, 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."

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.

T 9/1 **Course Introduction**

Unit One: The Ancient Mediterranean

Th 9/3 **The Ancient Near East: Government**
Burger, Ch 1, p. 1-16, 25-31
[Hammurabi's Code](#) (at least #21-25,127-143, 195-205)

T 9/8 NO CLASS – MONDAY SCHEDULE

Th 9/10 **The Ancient Near East: Religion**
Burger, Ch 1, p. 17-24
Egyptian Book of the Dead
Excerpts from Old Testament:
(Exodus 12, 20-22, 24)

T 9/15 **The Greek *Polis***
Burger, Ch 1-2, p. 32-64
Hesiod – Works and Days

Th 9/17 **Greek Culture**
Burger, Ch 2, p. 65-73
Plato – Allegory of the Cave
Aristotle – Politics

T 9/22 **IN-CLASS WRITING 1**
Homer – Odyssey

Th 9/24 **The Hellenistic Age**
Burger, Ch 2, p. 74-81
Plutarch – Life of Alexander
[Arrian – Speech of Alexander](#)
Epicurus – Letter to a Friend

T 9/29 **The Roman Republic**
Burger, Ch 3, 85-120
Twelve Tables
Julius Caesar – The Gallic War

Th 10/1 **The Roman Empire**
 Burger, Ch 3, p. 120-128; Ch 4, p. 131-141
 Virgil – The Aeneid
 Tacitus – Germania

T 10/6 **MIDTERM EXAM 1**

Unit Two: Medieval Europe

Th 10/8 **Early Christianity**
 Burger, Ch 4, p. 142-154
[Martyrdom of Perpetua](#)
 Eusebius - Conversion of Constantine

T 10/13 **Islam and Byzantium**
 Burger, Ch 4, p. 161-164
[Procopius – The Secret History](#)

Th 10/15 **Early Medieval Europe**
 Burger, Ch 4, p. 154-160, 165-180
[Gregory of Tours – History of the Franks](#)
[Capitulary for Saxony](#)

T 10/20 **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

Th 10/22 **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

T 10/27 **IN-CLASS WRITING 2**
[Letters of Innocent III](#)

Th 10/29 **High Medieval Culture**
 Burger, Ch 5, p. 211-220
[Jacques de Vitry – Student Life at University of Paris](#)
 Abelard – Historia Calamitatum
 Chrétien de Troyes – Lancelot

T 11/3 **The Late Middle Ages**
 Burger, Ch 5, p. 220-225
 Boccaccio – Decameron
[Anonimale Chronicle](#)

Th 11/5 **MIDTERM EXAM 2**

Unit Three: Early Modern Europe

- T 11/10 **Renaissance**
 Burger, Ch 5, p. 226-232
[Giorgio Vasari – Life of Leonardo](#)
[Petrarch - Letters](#)
- Th 11/12 **Reformation**
 Burger, Ch 6, p. 235-253
[Luther – Letter to the Archbishop of Mainz](#)
[Luther – Address to Christian Nobility](#)
[Ignatius – Spiritual Exercises](#)
- T 11/17 **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
- Th 11/19 **Religious Warfare**
 Burger, Ch 6, p. 251-261
[De Thou – St Bartholomew’s Day Massacre](#)
 Montaigne – Essay on Cannibalism
- T 11/24 **The Witch Hunts**
 Weisner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe*, p. 386-93
 Malleus Maleficarum
- Th 11/26 **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**
- T 12/1 **IN-CLASS WRITING 3**
 Trial of Suzanne Gaudry
- Th 12/3 **Early Modern State-Building**
 Burger, Ch 6, p. 260-268; Ch 7, p. 284-307
 Bossuet – Political Treatise
 Hobbes – Leviathan
- T 12/8 **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
- Th 12/10 **Exam Review**
- Th 12/17 **FINAL EXAM (3:00-6:00 pm)**