

Dr. Jon Cowans
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Class meets: MW 6-10pm, Conklin 424

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WESTERN CIVILIZATION I
21:510:201 (01548) Sec. B6 (Summer 2016)

This course examines Western Civilization from ancient times to roughly the 1600s. The main requirements are to attend class regularly and to do every reading by the evening we discuss it.

READINGS

Course reader, available **only** at Porta Print, 33 Halsey Street, 973 622-1828

GRADING

TESTS: There will be a midterm on Mon. June 20 and a final exam on Wednesday, July 6 in the classroom. The format for these tests will be a series of short essays (1/2 to 1 page). The final is comprehensive but will emphasize the material from after the midterm. See the exam instructions in the course reader.

LECTURE QUESTIONS: Each evening consists of *two* sessions, one before and one after break. At the end of each session, you must hand in a 3x5 card with your name and at least one brief question or comment on the material covered in that session. In order to receive credit, your card must contain a question or comment on the material for that session.

Each unexcused absence lowers this score by ten points, so missing an entire evening without a documented excuse lowers this score by twenty points. Arriving late or leaving early three times without securing permission equals one unexcused absence. If you believe an absence should be excused, it is your responsibility to provide written documentation. No excuses will be accepted after the final exam.

Your overall course grade will fall by five points for each unexcused absence starting with the third one. Any student who misses six or more sessions for any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course and should withdraw before the deadline to avoid getting an F.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Everyone is required to participate regularly in class discussions, either by asking questions or by making relevant comments. Your overall score will reflect both the quality and quantity of your participation. You must speak at least once in every session to earn a score of 90 or higher. Quality of participation requires demonstrating familiarity with the assigned readings. Sleeping, texting, cell-phone usage, disruptions, repeatedly leaving the room during class, and failing to pay attention all lower this score. Laptops are not allowed in this class.

QUIZZES: Because this class is built around discussion of the readings, it is essential that you come to class having done all the readings carefully. To ensure that you do so, there will be several unannounced quizzes. Each quiz will consist of about ten short but specific questions about that evening's readings. The lowest grade on the quizzes will not count.

Lecture questions	5%
Class participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm	25%
Final exam	40%
	100%

Wed. June 1: The Hebrews

Genesis (R-1)

Exodus (R-2)

The Book of Joshua (R-3)

The Old Testament (excerpts) (R-4)

Mon. June 6: Greece in the Archaic Era

Will Durant, "The Gods of Greece" (R-5)

Greek Myths (R-6)

Homer, "The Iliad" (R-7)

Will Durant, "The Olympic Games" (R-8)

Xenophon, "On Management of the Home" (R-9)

Wed. June 8: Greece in the Classical Era – Humanism & Democracy

Critias, "The Origins of Religion" (R-10)

Hippocrates, "The Sacred Disease" (R-11)

Sophocles, "On Humans" (R-12)

Thucydides, "On the Writing of History" (R-13)

Plato, "The Republic" (R-14)

"A Summary of Athenian Democracy" (R-15)

Pericles, "The Funeral Speech" (R-16)

"Athenian Views of Democracy" (R-17)

Mon. June 13: Rome

"The Twelve Tables" (R-18)

H.I. Marrou, "Roman Education" (R-19)

Dionysius, "On Patronage" (R-20)

Cicero, "On the Command of Cnaeus Pompeius" (R-21)

Q.L. Vespillo, "Funeral Eulogy" (R-22)

Wed. June 15: Rome

Polybius, "The Roman Army" (R-23)

Will Durant, "Roman Transport, Engineering, and Trade" (R-24)

David Braund, "Patronage in Roman Imperialism" (R-25)

A.N. Sherwin-White, "Roman Imperialism" (R-26)

Roman Wealth and Corruption (R-27)

Sallust, "The Moral Situation in Rome" (R-28)

Livy, "Cato's Speech on Roman Women" (R-29)

Mon. June 20: MIDTERM; Christianity

MIDTERM

Isaiah (R-30)

Will Durant, "Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean" (R-31)

The Gospel According to Matthew (R-32)

The Epistles (R-33)

Revelation (R-34)

Wed. June 22: The Middle Ages

St. Augustine, "Confessions" (R-35)

Tertullian, "What Has Jerusalem to do with Athens?" (R-36)

Lothario dei Segni, "On the Misery of the Human Condition" (R-37)

Sprenger & Kramer, "The Hammer of Witches" (R-38)

Pope Gregory, "Papal Authority" (R-39)

Morris Bishop, "Feudalism" (R-40)

Feudal Documents (R-41)

"The Customs of the Manor of Dernale" (R-42)

Christine de Pizan, "A Noblewoman's Duties" (R-43)

Mon. June 27: The Late Middle Ages & the Renaissance

Adelard of Bath, "Natural Questions" (R-44)

John of Salisbury, "The Well-Ordered Commonwealth" (R-45)

"The Advent of Table Manners" (R-46)

Cercamon, "Troubadour Love Song" (R-47)

Petrarch, "Reflections on the Times" (R-48)

Leonardo Bruni, "On Learning and Literature" (R-49)

Pico della Mirandola, "On the Dignity of Man" (R-50)

Leonardo da Vinci, "On the Arts" (R-51)

Baldesar Castiglione, "The Courtier" (R-52)

Wed. June 29: The Reformation & Counterreformation

Martin Luther, "Writings" (R-53)

Ulrich von Hutten, "Letter to the Elector of Saxony" (R-54)

Political cartoons (R-55)

Pope Adrian VI, "Instruction to the Papal Legate" (R-56)

Ignatius of Loyola, "Letters" (R-57)

Will Durant, "The Wars of Religion" (R-58)

Nicolaus Copernicus, "On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres" (R-59)

Wed. July 6: Final Exam