

HIST 1100- ANCIENT WESTERN CIVILIZATION Fall 2006

MWF 9:30-10:20 in MAIN 115

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Purpose: HIST 1100 is a survey of ancient Western Civilization. The primary purpose of this class is to present an **overview of the development of those civilizations considered to be "Western."** Thus, we will focus on the history of Europe, but we will also briefly consider Mesopotamia, the Byzantine Empire, and the rise of Islam. A secondary purpose of this course is to help you gain an **understanding of the historical process;** why some events make sense because they have come after others. Finally, this course should help you develop your abilities in **reading comprehension, essay writing and critical thinking.**

This is a survey course, with all the advantages and disadvantages that the name implies. In order to give you an overview of ancient Western civilization we will have to cover a lot of ground -- from ancient Mesopotamia (beginning about 3000 B.C.) to the Renaissance (approx. 1500 A.D.). About how many years is that? As you can see, this is **an enormous amount of material.** I will try to make sense of this unwieldy subject through clear and well-organized lectures, but **you need to take responsibility for your own learning by doing the reading, coming to class, and taking good notes.** Please note that I will not be able to cover every important topic in my lectures; **you will be responsible for the material covered in the assigned readings.** This is the reason why **good study habits are essential for success in the class:** if you don't have them already, you should plan to develop them during the course of this semester. I will be happy to help you in this process in any way I can. I hope you come away from this class with an **understanding of how our own civilization arose,** as well as a desire to study some of these cultures in greater depth, either through taking upper level history courses or by further reading on your own.

Class Etiquette: It is important, especially in a large class, that we all take great **consideration for others**. You may not realize it, but **coming in late or leaving class early is disruptive both to the professor and to other students**, so please try to avoid this as much as you can. **Reading the newspaper during class or doing homework and/or reading for another class** is also distracting to your instructor; **please don't do this**. **Cell phones ringing** during class is another distraction to be avoided. I will try to **start class on time every day and end the class promptly** when the class period is over. If we all **make an effort to show consideration to one another** then everyone can have a positive experience in this class. Rude, selfish or thoughtless behavior can have a strong negative impact on others.

Class Procedures: This class is fundamentally a **lecture class** (although reasonable discussion is invited and encouraged) and it features a **great deal of reading**. If you don't like to read or listen to lectures, please drop the class. (**The last day to drop w/out a notation on your transcript is Sept. 18; the very last day to drop is Nov. 15.**) This class also involves writing essays as part of the exams. If you don't feel comfortable taking essay exams, please drop the class.

Required Texts:

Noble, Strauss, et al., *Western Civilization vol. A*, 4th ed. (Houghton Mifflin)
Penguin Custom Editions, *The Western World* (Pearson Custom Publishing)

Grading: grades for the course will be determined as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 3 Exams | 20% each | 60% |
| 3 quizzes | 10% each | 30% |
| class attendance | | <u>10%</u> |
| | | 100% |

The grading scale will be: A (100-93); A- (92-90); B+ (89-88); B (87-83); B- (82-80); and similarly for the C and D range. F represents a grade below 60. There will be no curving of grades.

Please Note: It is your responsibility to keep all graded work that has been returned to you in case of discrepancy in recording grades.

Makeups: Exams, quizzes and other assignments can be made up **only in case of a serious medical emergency (prior notification and doctor's note required) and within one week of the original due date. Timely communication with your instructor is key.** No finals will be given before or after the scheduled time (Mon. December 11 from 9:30 - 11:20 AM).

Exams: There will be **three exams**, one every four to six weeks, **each counting for 20% of your grade.** Each exam will combine **both objective (or short answer) and essay questions.** The short answer questions will only concern material covered since the last exam, but the essays may deal with material covered earlier in the course. **The last exam will not be a true final:** it will have the same format as the other exams; it will only last an hour (although you may take the full 2 hours if you wish) and **it will count the same as the other exams.**

Quizzes: There will be **three quizzes during the semester**, consisting only of objective (short answer) questions; no essays. Each quiz will count for 10% of your grade. Please note that the quizzes will only take up half of the class period. There **will be a lecture following the quiz**, which you will be expected to attend.

Study Habits: **Keep up with the readings.** Cramming leads to failure. **See me immediately** if you are having trouble.

Attendance: **Class attendance is extremely important to your success in this class; it counts for ten percent of your grade.** I expect you to **come to class every day with your reading assignment completed, ready to pay attention and take good notes in class. I plan to take attendance every day.**

Each student is allowed **three personal days to be absent** with no questions asked. This is equivalent to a full week of classes. Any **unexcused absences beyond the three personal days will result in points taken off the student's attendance grade** as follows: each student is given 100 attendance points at the beginning of the semester. **Each unexcused absence will result in three points subtracted from his/her attendance grade.** Thus, if a student is absent six times during the semester (i.e., two weeks worth of classes), that would be three absences beyond the three that are allowed, and would result in an attendance grade of 100 - 9 or 91. **The attendance grade will count for 10% of the student's final grade.** Although this

policy may seem a bit punitive, I believe it is a fair way to reward those students who come to class consistently throughout the semester. **If you must be absent because of illness or any other circumstance beyond your control, please let me know,** and I may excuse your absence.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty of any kind will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. See page 110 of the Schedule of Classes for information on what constitutes academic dishonesty and what the possible penalties are.

This information is available in Braille and large type format upon request.

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor, provided that written or verbal notice is given in class.

SCHEDULE: ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE SPECIFIED DAYWC = *Western Civilization* WW = *The Western World***Note: If you have a reading due in WW, bring that book to class.**

| <u>Week 1</u> | <u>Lecture Topic</u> | <u>Readings DUE Today</u> |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| M | 8/28 - Introduction; BC & AD | |
| W | 8/30 - Origins and Mesopotamia Watershed Events | WC 1.3-21 |
| F | 9/1 - Assyrians & Babylonians Is history going forward, backward, or around in circles? | WC 2.39-45 & 66-67; |
| <u>Week 2</u> | | |
| M | 9/4 - Labor Day - No Class | |
| W | 9/6 - Persians and Israel | WC 2.57 |
| F | 9/8 - Early Greece | WC 2.57-65 |
| <u>Week 3</u> | | |
| M | 9/11 - Catch up and Review | Review |
| W | 9/13 - Quiz 1 ; Homer and the Dark Age study for quiz | |
| F | 9/15 - Greek Polis and Sparta | WC 3.69-79 |
| <u>Week 4</u> | | |
| M | 9/18 - Athens | WC 3.79-85 |
| W | 9/20 - The Classical Age | WC 3.85-103 |
| F | 9/22 - Athenian Democracy | WW 12-30 |
| <u>Week 5</u> | | |
| M | 9/25 - Catch up and Review | Review |
| W | 9/27 - Exam 1 | Study for Exam |
| F | 9/29 - Rome: Monarchy & Republic | WC 5.137-149 |

Week 6

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|
| M | 10/2 - Rome: To World Empire | WC 5.149-160 |
| W | 10/4 - End of the Republic | WC 5.160-169 |
| F | 10/6- Review | Review |

Week 7

| | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| M | 10/9 - Quiz 2 ; Augustus | Study for Quiz |
| W | 10/11 -Augustus and the Julio Claudians | WC 6.173-182 |
| F | 10/13 - Pax Romana; Roman Architecture | WC 6.182-201 |

Week 8

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| M | 10/16 - Reforms in the Empire & the Rise of Christianity | WC 7.203-217 |
| W | 10/18 - Germanic Kingdoms & the Roman Empire in the East | WC 7.217-228 |
| F | 10/20 - Fall Break - no class | Handout Readings |

Week 9

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|
| M | 10/23 - Did the Roman Empire Fall? | Handout Readings |
| W | 10/25 - Review | Review |
| F | 10/27 - Exam 2 | |

Week 10

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| M | 10/30- The Carolingian Empire | WC 8.257-262, WW 90-97 |
| W | 11/1 - The Carolingian Renaissance | WC 8.262-66 |
| F | 11/3 - Manuscripts and Scriptoria | WC 8.266-273 |

Week 11

- M 11/6- Economic Growth; Battle of Hastings WC 9.275-300
 W 11/8 - New States & Crusades WC 9.300-315
 F 11/10 - Crusades WW 98-107 and Handout; WC 9.306-13

Week 12

- M 11/13 - Social Orders; Medieval Towns WC 10.317-335
 W 11/15 - Medieval Universities and the Medieval Mind WC 10.335-45
 F 11/17 Gothic Architecture WC 10.345-352

Week 13

- M 11/20- **Quiz 3** Review
 W 11/22 - **Thanksgiving Break - no class**
 F 11/24 - **Thanksgiving Break - no class**

Week 14

- M 11/27 - Adversity and Recovery WC 11.355-68 & 390-91;
 Joan of Arc WW 255-268
 W 11/29 - Late Medieval Culture in Italy WC 11.368-389
 F 12/1 - Humanism and Culture in Italy WC 12.393-402

Week 15

- M 12/4 - The Rediscovery of Classical Learning WW 277-288
 W 12/6 - Human Dignity & Renaissance Art WC 12.402-417
 F 12/8 - Catch up & Review

Exam Week

- M 12/11 - **Exam 3 @ 9:30-11:20 AM**