

HIST 1100 -WESTERN CIVILIZATION I: Ancient and Medieval Fall 2008
MWF 9:30-10:20 in ESLC 046

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Purpose: HIST 1100 is a survey of Western Civilization in the ancient and medieval periods. Our primary purpose is to present a historical overview; we will spend most of our time on Greece, Rome and the early 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**; particularly the impact of watershed events. 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? Clearly, we are going to cover **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, taking good notes, and keeping up with any changes in the syllabus.** 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.** For this reason, **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 possible. **Reading the newspaper during class or doing homework for another class** is also distracting to your instructor; **please don't do this.** **Cell phones ringing during class** is another no-no. I will try to **start class on time every day and end the class promptly** when the class period is over, so please try to avoid closing your books and rustling papers during the last five minutes of class. If we all **make an effort to show consideration to one another** then everyone can enjoy the class.

Class Procedures: This class is a **lecture class** (although discussion is also 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. 15; the very last day to drop is Nov. 12**). 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 Text:

Noble, Strauss, et al., *Western Civilization vol. A*, 4th ed. (Houghton Mifflin)

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.

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 the Schedule of Classes for information on what constitutes academic dishonesty and what the possible penalties are.

The Early Alert Program: USU has developed an Early Alert Program for students who are having difficulties in their classes. **I will submit the names and A numbers of students who do poorly on tests or quizzes, or who have an inordinate number of absences,** and they will then get in touch with you. This program will put you in touch with counselors and academic advisors who can help you overcome your roadblocks to academic success. Also, **please feel free to talk with me, the Graduate Assistant or the Undergraduate Teaching Fellow about any difficulties you may be having in the class.**

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 DAY

Note: Numbers refer to chapter. page of *Western Civilization*, vol. A.

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings DUE Today</u>
M	8/25 - Introduction; BC & AD	
W	8/27 – Lecture 1: Origins and Mesopotamia; Watershed Events	1.3-21 & 31-35
F	8-29 – Lecture 2: Assyrians & Babylonians; Direction of History?	2.39-45 & 66-67;
<u>Week 2</u>		
M	9/1 - Labor Day - No Class	
W	9/3 – Lecture 3: Persians and Israelites	2.45-57
F	9/5 – Lecture 4: Early Greece	2.57-62
<u>Week 3</u>		
M	9/8 - Catch up and Review	Review
W	9/10 - Quiz 1; Lecture 5: Homer and the Dark Age	Study for Quiz 2.62-65
F	9/12 – Lecture 6: Greek Alphabet and the Rise of the Polis	3.69-76
<u>Week 4</u>		
M	9/15 – Lecture 7: Sparta	3.76-79
W	9/17 – Lecture 8: Athens and the Persian Wars	3.79-91
F	9/19 – Lecture 9: The Peloponnesian War & Classical Age	3.91-103
<u>Week 5</u>		
M	9/22 - Catch up and Review	Review
W	9/24 - Exam 1	Study for Exam
F	9/26 –Lecture 10: Rome: Monarchy & Republic	5.137-149
<u>Week 6</u>		
M	9/29 – Lecture 11: Republican Expansion	5.149-160
W	10/1 – Lecture 12: End of the Republic	5.160-169
F	10/3- Catch up and Review	Review

Week 7

M	10/6 - Quiz 2 ; Lecture 13: Augustus	Study for Quiz
W	10/8 -Lecture 13: Augustus' Reforms; Pax Romana	6.173-182
F	10/10 - Lecture 14: Roman Architecture & Gladiators	6.182-188 & 200-201

Week 8

M	10/13 – Lecture 15: Crisis of the 3 rd Century & Early Christianity	6.188-199
W	10/15 – Lecture 16: Constantine's Reforms & The Rise of Christianity	7.203-217
R	10/16 We will NOT have class today; too confusing!	
F	10/17 - Fall Break - no class	

Week 9

M	10/20 – Lecture 17: The Rise of Germanic Kingdoms; Did the Roman Empire Fall?	7.217-228
W	10/22 - Review	Review
F	10/24 - Exam 2	

Week 10

M	10/27 – Lecture 18: The Islamic East and the Byzantine Empire	8.239-253
W	10/29 – Lecture 19: The Carolingian Empire	8.253-262
F	10/31 – Lecture 20: Society in the Time of Charlemagne	8.263-273

Week 11

M	11/3- Lecture 21: The Carolingian Renaissance	8.263-273
W	11/5 – Lecture 22: Heirs of the Carolingian Empire; The Battle of Hastings and the Magna Charta	9.275-300
F	11/7 – Lecture 23: The Crusades	9.300-315

Week 12

M	11/10 – Lecture 24: Economics & Society of the High Middle Ages	10.317-333
W	11/12 – Lecture 25: Medieval Universities	10.333-352
F	11/14 – Quiz 3 ; Lecture 26: Gothic Architecture	Study for Quiz

Week 13

M	11/17 - Lecture 27: Calamities and Conflicts	11.355-66 & 390-91
W	11/19 – Lecture 28: Medieval Towns and The Hundred Years War	11.367-378
F	11/21 – Lecture 29: Joan of Arc – Part I	11.378-389

Week 14

M	11/24 - Lecture 30: Joan of Arc – Part II	Handout
W	11/26 - Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class	
F	11/28 - Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class	

Week 15

M	12/1 - Lecture 31: The Renaissance in Florence	12.393-402
W	12/3 - Lecture 32: The Rediscovery of Classical Learning	Handout
F	12/5 – Lecture 33: Art and Architecture of the Renaissance	12.402-410

Exam Week

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