

**WESTERN CIVILIZATION:
ANTIQUITY TO THE 17TH CENTURY**

History 111N (Call #: 11025-5)
TR: 5:30-7:18 (Bolz Hall 0436)
WI 2009

Dallas J. DeForest
Dulles 028 (Museum of Classical Archaeology)
Office Hours: W 1-3
Email: deforest.6@osu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the study of history. Its primary purpose is therefore to introduce students to the methods used by historians when researching and writing history. Typically, it covers the political, social, economic and cultural history of Western Civilization from antiquity to the early 17th century. It investigates ancient Greece and Rome, the western European middle ages, as well as the Renaissance and Reformation and details such historical phenomena as the emergence of the Greek polis, the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman world, the fall of the Roman empire, Renaissance humanism and the religious division of Europe during the Reformation. Throughout the course we will focus on the analysis of primary sources and the construction of historical narratives and arguments from these. Attention will also be given to major achievements and important developments in the West during this time that help us understand more fully the long-term evolution of Western ideas and institutions, many of which have their origins in our period of study.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should:

- Have gained an understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural history of ancient, medieval and early modern Western history
- Be able to analyze historical evidence (primary sources) and generate arguments and conclusions from this evidence
- Have improved oral and written communication skills

COURSE TEXTS

There are two required texts for this course, available at SBX:

1. *Exploring the European Past: Texts and Images* (Thompson Publishing)

This text is a customized reader made specifically for this course. Make sure you get the one marked with my name on the cover. It should have the following modules in it:

1. How Free Were the Athenians? Athenian Democracy and Society in the Classical Period.
2. The Emperor Augustus: Beneficent Monarch or Tyrant?
3. The Triumph of Christianity in the Roman Empire: The Interpenetration of Cultures
4. The Fall of the Roman Empire: Catastrophe or Continuity?
5. Charlemagne: Faith, Tradition, and Power
6. The Crusades

2. M. Burger, *Sources for the History of Western Civilization*, vol. 1 (UTP Press)

This book contains the remainder of the readings for the course, but is currently at press. It should be available by the second week of the quarter at SBX (perhaps slightly earlier).

CLASS FORMAT AND GRADING SYSTEM

Class Format: The course will be taught in lecture format. Since there is no assigned textbook for the course, the lectures will emphasize basic historical content (please note that I will not post my lecture notes). I anticipate that lecture will be interactive, however, so students should feel free to ask questions of the material as class goes along.

Carmen Discussion: The major discussion component of this course will take place online. Each student will be placed in a small group of 8-10 students and will be expected to make 3-4 meaningful posts per week, based on the course readings. Posts should pose insightful questions gleaned from the primary sources, or respond in a thoughtful manner to other students' posts. Posts that simply regurgitate what has already been said, or merely say "I agree" and so forth will not count toward discussion grade points. But do try to remember that this is meant to be an online discussion, not an essay writing contest. Please try to keep posts relatively short and conversational in tone, but meaningful for our learning objectives. I will monitor each group, posing questions and responding to your posts daily. Students may make their posts beginning the day before the reading is to be done and two days after this date. So, for example, if a reading is listed for Tuesday, January 13, posts begin on January 12 and end on January 15 for this topic. Naturally, if there is a desire, we can continue discussion on certain topics for a longer period of time. Likewise, it is okay (and a good idea) to reference past readings if they relate to current ones.

Critical Essays: Each student must complete two critical essays (1000-1200 words). The essays will be framed around a thematic question(s) and will ask you to incorporate material gleaned from lecture, Carmen discussion and (especially) the readings for the course.

Final Exam: The exam will be cumulative and consist of two sections. Section one will be passage identifications from the course readings, while section two will be essay format.

Carmen Discussion: 20%

Two Critical Essays: 40% (20% each)

Cumulative Final Exam: 40%

A: 92.6 and above

B: 82.6-87.5

C: 72.6-77.5

D: 62-67.5

A-: 89.6-92.5

B-: 79.6-82.5

C-: 69.6-72.5

E: below 62

B+: 87.6-89.5

C+: 77.6-79.5

D+: 67.6-69.5

In order to pass the course, you must pass the final exam with at least a 62 and complete both critical essays.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Enrollment: All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair of the Department after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student

Academic Misconduct: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term academic misconduct includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. All instances of alleged academic misconduct will be reported to the committee.

Plagiarism (the use of someone else's ideas/work as your own) will not be tolerated in this class. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and those found guilty will fail the course. **Remember: if you can find it online, so can I.** If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, these websites may be of assistance: http://cstw.osu.edu/writingCenter/handouts/research_plagiarism.cfm
<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

GEC: This course fulfills one of the GEC historical sequence requirements and the international issues western (non-United States) course requirement.

SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Week 1

Tuesday, January 6

Introduction: Syllabus overview and course expectations
Pre-industrial societies; History: methods and sources

Thursday, January 8

Early Greece and the Rise of the Polis
Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 69-108 (Homer, *The Iliad*)
Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 108-24 (Plutarch, *Life of Solon*)

Week 2

Tuesday, January 13

Classical Greek Civilization: Citizens and City-States
Reading: *ETEP* 1: How Free Were the Athenians?
NB: Skip the abbreviated *Lysistrata* found in the ETEP reader
Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 124-46 (Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*)
Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 146-74 (Plato, *Symposium*)

Thursday, January 15

The Rise of Macedon and Alexander the Great
Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 174-97 (Plutarch, *Life of Alexander*)
Suggested Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 197-217 (Material Evidence Concerning the Greek World)

Week 3

Tuesday, January 20

The Hellenistic World
Reading: TBA

Thursday, January 22

Early Rome and the Roman Republic
Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 217-22 (Cicero, *Letters*)
Reading: Burger, *Sources*, 222-31 (Quintus Cicero, *Letter to his Brother*)

Week 4

Tuesday, January 27

Augustus and the Formation of the Roman Empire

Reading: *ETEP 2: The Emperor Augustus*

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 232-70 (Vergil, *Aeneid*)

Thursday, January 29

Roman Imperial Society and Culture (1-2nd centuries)

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 277-282 (Pliny the Younger, *Letters*)

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 283-289 (Papyri from Oxyrhynchus)

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 291-309 (*Book of Matthew*, John, *Book of Revelation*, Perpetua, *The Martyrdom of St. Perpetua*)

Week 5

Tuesday, February 3

The Third Century Crisis and the Reforms of Diocletian and Constantine

Reading: TBA

FIRST CRITICAL ESSAY DUE (submit in Carmen dropbox)

Thursday, February 5

The Later Roman Empire: Society and Culture (4-5th Centuries)

Reading: *ETEP 3: The Triumph of Christianity in the Roman Empire*

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 310-334 (Augustine, *Confessions*)

Week 6

Tuesday, February 10

Justinian and Byzantium

Reading: *ETEP 4: The Fall of the Roman Empire: Continuity or Catastrophe?*

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 349-353 (Sidonius, *Letters*)

Thursday, February 12

Heraclius and Islam

Reading: TBA

Week 7

Tuesday, February 17

Early Medieval Europe and Charlemagne

Reading: *ETEP 5: Charlemagne: Faith, Tradition and Power*

NB: Skip the abbreviated Einhard, *Life*, in ETEP

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 391-405 (Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*)

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 406-413 (*The Dooms of King Alfred*)

Thursday, February 19

The Last Invasions and the Papal Reform Movement

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, 414-420 (*Documents*, Gregory VII et. al.)

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, 447-474 (Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council)

Week 8

Tuesday, February 24

The Crusades

Reading: *ETEP* 6: The Crusades

NB: Skip the abbreviated Robert the Monk entry in *ETEP*

Reading: Burger, *Sources*, pp. 421-429 (*Speech of Urban II* and crusader letters)

Thursday, February 26

Popes, Kings, Emperors and the Emergence of National Monarchies

Readings: TBA

Week 9

Tuesday, March 3

Economic Life: Towns, Merchants and Trade

Readings: TBA

SECOND CRITICAL ESSAY DUE (submit in Carmen dropbox)

Thursday, March 5

High and Late Medieval Society and Culture (12-14th Centuries)

Readings: TBA

Week 10

Tuesday, March 10

The Renaissance and Humanism

Readings: TBA

Thursday, March 12

The Reformation

Readings: TBA

FINAL EXAM PART ONE

Final Exam Week: March 16-19

The essay portion of your final exam will be a take home. It will be due at 5:00pm Tuesday, March 17, and should be submitted in the Carmen dropbox.