

WESTERN CIVILIZATION: ANTIQUITY TO THE 17TH CENTURY

History 111
TR: 3:30-5:18
Journalism Building 304
Winter 2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the political, social, economic and cultural history of Western civilization from antiquity to the early seventeenth century. It investigates ancient Greece and Rome, the 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 major political institutions, social practices and cultural attitudes and ideas that shaped Western civilization as well as its important achievements. We will also pay close attention to the aspects of pre-modern Western history 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.

The course also serves as an introduction to the discipline of history and one major goal, therefore, will be to familiarize you with the methods historians use when studying the past. This involves the ability to approach historical documents and other evidence critically and to construct narratives, arguments and historical theories from them. As such, we will spend a good deal of time focusing our attention on the analysis of primary source material and drawing conclusions about the past based on this material.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should:

- Have gained a better understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural history of ancient, medieval and early modern Western history
- Be able to analyze historical evidence and generate arguments and conclusions from this evidence
- Have an improved ability to express ideas and produce persuasive arguments in the clear, sophisticated style of an educated individual

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

- Attend class with a look of intellectual curiosity
- Have completed the day's reading assignments and be prepared to discuss them intelligently and professionally
- Be respectful of the instructor and fellow students during lecture, discussion and the rest of our time together

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM

Each student must select a combination of assignments from those listed below that equals 100%. Nothing beyond the first 100% of material submitted will be accepted. Nothing is mandatory; the choices are yours to make based on your interests, skills, and preferences. But you must complete 100% worth of material to pass the course. Any student who submits less than this amount will fail automatically. Additional information can be found on Carmen.

Midterm Exam 20%

An essay and passage identification exam that will cover the first half of the course material, including lecture, discussion and all readings. The date is listed on the course schedule.

Quizzes 10%, 20%, or 30%

I will offer three quizzes over the course of the quarter; students can take all three, or just one or two. All will be given in a closed, timed environment on Carmen. They will test basic, factual knowledge of the course material from lecture, discussion and all readings up to the time of the quiz. The second quiz will test material studied since the first, and so on; none is cumulative and each is worth 10%. Dates **and times** are listed on the course schedule. Each quiz will be 20 minutes, and the clock will start as soon as you open it in Carmen.

Final Exam 30%

This exam will cover the second half of the course material and will be identical in format to the midterm, plus one cumulative essay question. The date is listed on the course schedule.

Apuleius Paper 20%

A four page (double spaced) critical and analytical essay on the Roman novel, *the Golden Ass*. Written in the second century AD it is the only full-length Latin novel that survives from antiquity. It details, among other things, daily life in the Roman empire during this time, religious practices and beliefs, and the social structure of the empire. Students will develop a topic and question for this assignment after consulting with the instructor. Topics must be approved by week 5 of the quarter. Due date is listed on the course schedule.

Material Culture Project 20% or 30%

Students will select and analyze a piece of material culture from Greco-Roman antiquity or the Middle Ages in a manner of their own choosing. Examples include but are not limited to: major architectural monuments (the Pantheon in Rome, the Coliseum, etc.), objects of art history (wall paintings from Pompeii, relief sculpture on Gothic churches, etc.), or something expressly archaeological (the site of Roman Corinth, the classical Athenian agora, etc.). Topics must be approved by the instructor by week 5. Students may present their findings orally, with visual aids, to the class for an additional 10% grade (total 30%). Due date is listed on the course schedule.

Critical Response Papers 10%, 20% or 30%

Students may write up to three critical responses (two pages, double spaced) to the primary source readings in the class. I will offer these selectively, but no more than three may be submitted by any student, or just one or two. Each counts as 10% of your final grade. Sources, topics and due dates will be announced as the class proceeds.

COURSE MATERIALS

Available at SBX:

- Lynn Hunt, T.R. Martin, et. al. *The Making of the West: Peoples and Culture, A Concise History*. Bedford/St. Martins, 2nd ed., 2007.
This is the basic textbook for the course and comes with an online study guide. You may purchase any used copy you can find. One copy is on reserve at Thompson Library.
- *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. Triumph of Christianity in the Roman Empire: The Interpenetration of Cultures
 3. The Rise of Islam
- Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*. Trans. by P.G. Walsh, Oxford University Press.

Available on Carmen:

- The syllabus, full schedule and other documents relating to the assignments for the course
- Primary source readings: these will form the heart of class discussion and will be a central feature on the exams. They will be accessible in pdf format. Some secondary sources will be posted on Carmen as well. All are noted on the syllabus. ***Print these and bring them to class.***
- Powerpoint outlines: I will make these accessible to you before class, so you may print them out and bring them as an aid when taking notes, if you wish. ***They will not in any way provide you with the important content of my lectures!!***
- A discussion forum where I will place ***course announcements*** and where you can ask me questions related to the course. There will also be a forum for student discussion of course subject matter (e.g., for exam prep, assignments, etc.).
- Additional resources: I will post bibliography, visual resources, website links and other resources related to the subject matter of the course on Carmen.

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.

VARIA

Note taking: It is important that each student in this course takes full and effective notes. The PowerPoint outlines (which are mainly if not exclusively visual) will in no way represent the major content of the lecture; they are meant only as the briefest of guides for the day's content. Note taking is an idiosyncratic process, so you must ultimately construct your own system. ***But it is very important to take notes beyond the material on the PowerPoint!!*** I will post brief outlines of the day's lecture on Carmen before our class meeting, which you may print and bring to class as a guide.

Contacting me, email: I can be reached easily via email and I will make every effort to respond to your email promptly. Please be aware, though, that there will be times when I cannot respond immediately, for a variety of reasons. Please take care to write your emails in a reasonably professional manner, too. I am also happy to meet with you face-to-face. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss matters related to the course—I'm happy to help!!

Attendance: Although I do not have a formal attendance policy, it should go without saying that you must attend class in order to do well. Missing lectures and/or discussions will negatively impact your ability to perform well in this course.

SCHEDULE

The full schedule, with reading assignments and due dates, is available on Carmen.

It will be updated periodically, so check back often!!