

Syllabus

WCV101-05

Western Civilization I

Day & Time: T & TR 11:00am to 12:15pm Location: LIBR 032

Instructor: Mark Moser (Office—MCVR 223)

email: mamoser@uncg.edu

Office Hours Fall 2005: Tuesday and Thursday 3:15 to 4:30pm and by appointment

Required Text:

The Western Heritage, Volume One: To 1740, Brief Fourth Edition (Donald Kagan, Steven Ozment, Frank M. Turner—Prentice Hall, 2004).

Additional Required Readings:

Alexander the Great: Legacy of a Conqueror by Winthrop Lindsay Adams (Pearson Education, 2005).

The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350, A Brief History with Documents (John Aberth—Bedford/St. Martin's. 2005).

Objectives:

This survey course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of western civilization from antiquity through the end of the seventeenth century. Special emphasis will be placed on the development of western culture and how and why western civilization developed and spread in the manner it did. Because this is a very broad course we will touch on many topics which directly shaped western history, including: art, global exploration, the development of written languages, the impact of military conflicts, philosophical thought, the impact of religion upon western society, scientific discoveries, territorial struggles, and numerous attempts of societies at extending their cultural and political hegemony. Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to identify leading individuals, understand key events in their proper historical context, as well as interpret the significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments associated with western civilization which occurred prior to the modern era.

Grading:

You will have four (4) multiple-choice/short essay tests during the semester—each covering approximately the same amount of material (3 chapters). Tests will always begin promptly so make every effort to be on time! Test questions will come from information covered in your assigned text, *The Western Heritage*, handouts, additional required readings, and class lectures.

Your final exam, which I will discuss in more detail later, will be in essay format but will not be cumulative—it will only include material covered after Fall Break.

Average of Four Semester Tests	75%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Note: This course follows a 10 point grading scale.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for students to do their best in any college level class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. You will be allowed four (4) absences during the semester with no academic penalty. A fifth absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by one whole letter grade. I reserve the right to drop any student once they have missed six (6) or more classes. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of “W” must drop the class on or before the last day to drop without academic penalty. Habitual tardiness may also affect your final grade as well because two (2) tardies will count as one absence. Occasionally I will notify a student whenever his/her absences or tardies place them in danger of failing, but PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON ME TO KEEP YOU INFORMED!!! It is also your responsibility to see me immediately after class if you come in after attendance has been taken.

Students should contact me ASAP (before the next time the class meets if at all possible) after missing a test in order to request a makeup. All requests to take a missed test will be considered on an individual basis. Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to make up more than two (2) tests during the semester! Makeup tests will be allowed solely at my discretion and, if at all possible, should be taken prior to the next class the student attends. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact me and request to take a missed test. Absolutely NO makeup tests will be given more than one week after the scheduled test date. (Be aware that certain portions of makeup tests may prove to be more difficult than those originally scheduled.) *Also please note that I do not make any distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. You are either here.....or you aren’t.

Procedures:

Because of the breadth and scope of this course—and the amount of material we must cover—I will be doing a fair amount of lecturing. However, we will occasionally engage in some class discussion activities that I often initiate by calling on people to respond to questions about the weekly reading material from the textbook. How can you effectively participate in such a class discussion? Simple. Have your reading done before coming to class!!! My lectures primarily organize themselves around key points from the assigned chapters, but may also include relevant information not included or emphasized in your text. It will be to your advantage to have completed each week’s reading in advance for the following reasons: 1) it will make the lectures easier to follow because you will be at least somewhat familiar with the subject matter and 2) from time to time throughout the semester, as indicated above, you may be asked to work together in small groups to discuss specific aspects of the assigned readings. It is your

responsibility to keep up with the readings, attend class, and, whenever appropriate, to contribute to the class in a meaningful manner. Please bring your textbook with you to class each session! All materials covered in the course—the text, lectures, handouts, etc.—are fair game for test questions.

Course Outline:

Week One: August 16 & 18

Reading: Begin reading *Alexander the Great: Legacy of a Conqueror*
 Course introduction / class discussion on the meaning of “civilization”
 Lecture on early civilizations

Week Two: August 23 & 25

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 2 (continue reading *Alexander the Great*)

Week Three: August 30 & September 1

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 3 (class discussion of *Alexander the Great*)

Week Four: September 6 & 8

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 4
 *Test One—Through Chapter 3 (Tuesday, September 6)

Week Five: September 13 & 15

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 4 (continued) and begin Chapter 5

Week Six: September 20 & 20

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 5 (continued)

Week Seven: September 27 & September 29

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 6

Week Eight: October 4 & 6

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 7 (begin reading *The Black Death*)
 *Test Two—Chapters 4,5,6 (Tuesday, October 4)

Week Nine: October 13 (No Class Tuesday, October 11—Fall Break)

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 8 (continue reading *The Black Death*)

Week Ten: October 18 & 20

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 9 (class discussion of *The Black Death*)

Week Eleven: October 25 & 27

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 10
 *Test Three—Chapters 7,8,9 (Tuesday, October 25)

Week Twelve: November 1 & 3

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 11

Week Thirteen: November 8 & 10

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 11

Week Fourteen: November 15 & 17

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 12

Week Fifteen: November 22 (No Class Thursday, November 24—Thanksgiving)

*Test Four—Chapters 10,11,12 (Tuesday, November 22)

Week Sixteen: November 29 & December 1

Reading: *The Western Heritage* Chapter 13

*Final Exam—Tuesday, December 13 (12:00-3:00pm)