

Instructor: Paul Mazgaj

Office: 213 McIver

Office Hrs.: Tues. & Thurs. 9:15-10:00; 1:45-2:15

And by appointment

E-Mail: pmmazgaj@uncg.edu

Books (to purchase):

Perry, Marvin *et al.*, *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics & Society*, Vol. I, 6th edition (Houghton Mifflin, 2004)

Beatty, John *et al.*, *Heritage of Western Civilization*, Vol. I, 9th edition (Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2004)

General Description. The purpose of this course will be to introduce students to the successive visions of the political community in early Western societies from Greek times through the Reformation. It will focus around several distinct phases in the evolution of the Western political ideas and institutions: the Ancient Greek; the Ancient Roman; the Early Christian; the High Medieval; the Renaissance and the Reformation. Emphasis will be on how political ideas and institutions were shaped by successive philosophic and religious ideas. Students will be asked to read two types of materials: first, a text (Perry) that will provide basic information about the historical backdrop; second, primary source readings (Beatty or E-Reserve) from important writers in the Western political tradition from Plato and Aristotle, through Augustine and Aquinas, to Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

[**Note:** Perry=textbook; Beatty=primary source readings; E-Reserve=readings that can be downloaded through Blackboard]

Part I: The Greco-Roman World

Week 1: Introduction/ The Greek Polis

Aug. 16: Introduction

18: Perry, Chap. 3, "The Greek City State"

Week 2: Greek Culture

Aug. 23: Sophocles, "Antigone," in Beatty, 44-72

25: Perry, Chap. 4, "Greek Thought"

Week 3: Greek Politics and Philosophy I

Aug. 30: Thucydides and Xenophon, in Beatty, 73-91

Sept. 1: Plato, "Last Days of Socrates," in Beatty, 92-119

Week 4: Greek Politics and Philosophy II

- Sept. 6: Plato, "Republic" E-Reserve; also Plato, "Republic: Allegory of the Cave," in Beatty, 120-26.
8: Aristotle, "The Politics," E-Reserve

Week 5: From Hellenism to the Roman Republic

- Sept. 13: Perry, Chap. 5, "The Hellenistic Age"
15: Perry, Chap. 6, "The Roman Republic"

Week 6: The Roman World: Republic to Empire

- Sept. 20: Cicero, "The Laws" E-Reserve and Dixon, "Roman Marriage" E-Reserve
22: Perry, Chap. 7, "The Roman Empire" and Veyne, "Pleasures and Excesses in the Roman Empire" E-Reserve

Part II: The Judeo-Christian World

Week 7: Ancient Hebrews and Early Christians

- Sept. 27: Perry, Chap. 2, "The Hebrews"; The Old Testament: "Genesis" and "Book of Job" in Beatty, 27-31 and 34-39
29: Perry, Chap. 8, "Early Christianity" and "Gospel According to Matthew" and "Epistle of Paul to the Romans" in Beatty, 191-198

Week 8: The Emergence of Medieval Europe

- Oct. 4: Augustine, "City of God" E-Reserve
6: Perry, Chap. 9, "The Heirs of Rome"

Week 9: Fall Break/Exam

- Oct. 11: **Fall Break**
13: **MID-TERM EXAM**

Week 10: Medieval Civilization at High Tide

- Oct. 18: Perry, Chap. 10, "The High Middle Ages" **DUE: Take-Home Section of Mid Term**
20: Perry, Chap. 11, "The Flowering of Medieval Culture"

Week 11: From Confidence to Despair

Oct. 25: Aquinas, "Selected Writings" E-Reserve and Catherine of Sienna, "The Dialogue" in Beatty, 285-290.
27: Perry, Chap. 12, "The Late Middle Ages" and Boccaccio, "The Decameron"
in Beatty, 291-98

Part III: The Origins of the Modern World

Week 12: The Renaissance and the Rebirth of Antiquity

Nov. 1: Perry, Chap. 13, "The Renaissance"
3: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, E-Reserve

Week 13: The Reformation and the Origins of Globalization

Nov. 8: Perry, Chap. 14, "The Reformation"
10: Perry, Chap. 15, "European Expansion"

Week 14: The Rise of the New State and Absolutism

Nov. 15: Perry, Chap. 16, "The Rise of Sovereignty"
17: Bossuet, "Political Economy" and Hobbes, "The Leviathan" E-Reserve

Week 15: The Rise of the New State and Liberalism

Nov. 22: Locke, "Of Civil Government" E-Reserve
Nov. 24: **Thanksgiving**

Week 16: The End of the Road

Nov. 29: Summing Up
Dec. 1: **Final Exam**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance is required, not optional. Only officially certified absences will be accepted. All unexcused absences will affect your grade; beyond two, they will *seriously* affect your grade.

2. This is a writing-intensive course. There will be two kinds of writing assignments, informal and formal:

Informal writing. The informal writing assignment will consist of a short commentary on the day's assigned reading *on randomly selected days* (maximum length: one page); it will be written at the start of each class. These writing exercises are designed to serve

three purposes: first, to give you regular practice in written expression; second, to get you mentally pump-primed for the class discussion that will follow; finally, and not least, to keep you on track with your reading. Be forewarned--you will be asked to write something regularly. As a result, you need to have completed the day's reading assignment *before every class*. These short, informal writing exercises may be requested on either the primary source readings or the Perry textbook and will not be "graded" in the ordinary sense. Instead, they will receive one of the following marks: a check (indicating satisfactory performance); a check plus (indicating a performance which is especially thoughtful, complete, or well-conceived); a check minus (indicating unsatisfactory performance). *A check minus cannot be redone*. It will signal to me that either you have not done the reading or you have not done it carefully enough. Better than average performance on these informal writing exercises will be counted positively in your "discussion grade." More than a few check minuses will begin to affect your grade; *a number of check minuses will, like absences, have serious consequences for your grade*. If you are not in class that day (or if you miss the exercise by coming late), you will receive a check minus.

Formal writing. The formal writing exercise will be a part of the mid-term exam. There will be two parts to the exam: first, an in-class portion which will consist of short essay questions; second, a take-home portion which will consist of one longer essay question (recommended length: five pages; typed, double spaced). The take-home portion will be turned in the next class day. I will critique this version and make recommendations for revision; it will not be graded. You will revise it and hand in a second, final version, which will be graded.

3.GRADING SCHEMA:

Your final grade will be composed of the following elements:

mid-term: 40%

final exam: 40%

discussion grade--20%

This course requires your *regular* attendance and *active* participation in class discussion. Your discussion grade--which, please note, is 20% of your grade--will be determined by the *frequency* and *quality* of your contribution to class discussion.

Therefore, please take note: your participation--and the frequency and quality of that participation--can seriously affect your grade.