

Western Civilization 101H
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Text: *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics & Society*, Perry
Additional Readings (See Below)

Topical Outline:

What is Civilization?

Beginnings of Greek Civilization

Homer, *The Iliad*, Books 1,6,8,18,22,24

Classical Greece: Politics, Philosophy, War

Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*

Hellenism

Roman Republic: Government, Politics, Religion, Conflict with Carthage

Roman Empire: Caesar Augustus, Imperial Rome, Decline & Fall

Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Books 1-6

Christianity, Judaism, & the Roman Empire

Early Middle Ages: The birth of Europe, Feudalism

High Middle Ages: Roman Catholicism, Rise of Nation States, Medieval Life,
Towns, Universities

Late Middle Ages: Crises of 14th C., Hundred Years' War, Black Death

Renaissance: Machiavelli, Petrarch, Castiglione, Humanism

Reformation: Luther's break with Catholicism

Basis for evaluation: Two exams (non-cumulative), two papers (1. a topic having something to do with men & women, 2. a review/analysis of a history book or biography with relevance to this course), 5-8 pages each. Each component is worth 25% of the total grade. Class participation will also be factored in. Attendance is required. More than three absences will affect your grade.

The purpose of this course is to survey some of the greatest events, ideas, people, and literature of the Western tradition and to increase your historical awareness and understanding. Our goal is not to achieve complete knowledge of all the elements that make up Western Civilization but to begin (or continue) what I hope will be a lifelong pursuit of learning for you, as it is for me.