

Western Civilization 101-01  
NMoor130

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Office Hours 10-11 MWF

**This course examines developments that created and shaped Western civilization between about 2000 B.C. and A.D. 1600. We will treat “civilization” as a complex form of cultural adaptation by peoples and societies. The story of Western civilization is the story of successive adaptations by different peoples and societies. Students will consider the problems faced by successive different peoples and societies and the solutions they evolved, in part by borrowing from the past. Because this process involves successive peoples and societies, it is common to consider Western civilization as a series of stages. One way to define the series in the time period we are considering is chronological: ancient, medieval, and early modern. Another way is by reference to different peoples: Greek, Roman, Germanic. We will actually be using both perspectives.**

**Students will meet each week in both lecture classes and smaller discussion sections. Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings in the textbook and in the assigned primary sources (on CD or on the web) before each class. Class and discussion section attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will cause the loss of a full grade. More than three will cause a student to be dropped from the course. There will be four exams in the course, various writing assignments, and occasional quizzes.**

**All writing assignments are to be turned in at the Discussion Section meeting.**

**Required text**

**Frankforter and Spellman, *The West. Culture and Ideals*. Vol. I. (Make sure this comes with the enclosed CD)**

**Class Schedule (*The West* = W)**

**8/20 Introduction and Organization                      W xxix-xxvii, 2, 50, 148, 248**  
**8/22 Discussion Sections**

***I. The Greek Experience: From Warriors to Citizens***

**8/24 Warrior aristocrats**

**8/27 Military and Political Changes                      W 60-71**  
**8/29 Discussion Sections**

8/31 The Persian War

W 71-78

9/3 No Class

9/5 Discussion Section

9/7 Athenian Democracy

W 78-85; *Antigone*; *Pericles' Funeral Oration* (both on CD in *The West* textbook)

9/10 Problems of Democracy/Responses

W 85-99; Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* selection = CD 2.3; ; *Apology of Socrates* =

<http://eawc.evansville.edu/anthology/apology.htm>

**Writing Assignment:** According to what Socrates says in the *Apology*, how has Socrates been trying to help his fellow citizens? Why? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

9/12 Discussion Sections

9/14 Fourth Century B.C.

W 85-99; *Republic*, *Allegory of the Cave* =

[http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/allegory\\_bb.html](http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/allegory_bb.html)

**Writing Assignment:** Based on what Plato writes in this selection, where does he think true reality lies? How can we perceive it? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

9/17 Hellenistic Age

W 100-109

9/19 Discussion Sections

9/21 FIRST EXAM

## II. *The Roman Experience: From Citizens to Subjects*

9/24 The Republic: Institutions and Values

W 110-114

9/26 Discussion Sections

9/28 Foreign Affairs

W 114-118

10/1 Problems and Solutions

W 123-132

10/3 Discussion Sections

10/5 Imperial Society

W 132-144

10/8 Roman Religions (including Christianity)

W 152-159

10/10 Discussion Sections

10/12 Late Roman Empire

W 144-147

10/15 No Class

10/17 Discussion Sections

10/19 SECOND EXAM

## III. *The Medieval Experience: Warriors Become Subjects*

10/22 German Background: Franks and Others W 159-190

10/24 Discussion Sections

10/26 From Kingship to Lordships W 191-204; ; Lord-Vassal Contracts =  
CD 6.6

**Writing Assignment:** According to these contracts, what does a vassal typically *have* to do for his lord? What does the lord do for the vassal?  
(Turn in to Discussion Leader)

10/29 From Lordships to Kingships W 204-213

10/31 Discussion Sections

11/2 Papal Monarchy W 210-213; Monastic and  
Papal Texts = CD 7.2, 7.3, 7.1  
Papal Texts: *Election Decree*,  
*Dictatus Papae* =

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/papal-elect1059.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html>

**Writing Assignment:** After reading the Papal Texts for 11/2 and 11/4 identify ideas or beliefs that are used as bases for asserting papal supremacy (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

11/5 Medieval World in Maturity W 214-234, 237-247

11/7 Discussion Sections

11/9 Medieval Mind Dante, *Commedia* selections =  
<http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm>  
<http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blpurgatorio018.htm>  
<http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm>

11/12 Art and Architecture W 234-247

11/14 Discussion Sections

11/16 THIRD EXAM

#### IV. *Early Modern Experience: From Subjects to Individuals*

11/19 The European Middle Class W 220-223; Petrarch, *Ascent of Mt. Ventoux*; =

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/petrarch-ventoux.html>

**Writing Assignment:** In the *Ascent of Mt. Ventoux*, how does Petrarch reveal his misgivings about the importance of human achievement in this world compared with the pursuit of salvation (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

11/18

11/21-23 No Class

11/26 Renaissance W 273-286

11/28 Discussion Sections Pico, *Oration on The Dignity of Man* =

11/30 This World	W 265-281, 285-296
12/3 The Church 1300-1500	W 260-265,
12/5 Discussion Sections	
12/7 Reformation and Responsibility	W 297-311
12/10 Entering the Modern Western World	W 311-320
3/15 Discussion Sections	
3/17 Religions in the Roman World	
3/20 Rise of Christianity	W 150-156; Paul, <i>Letter to the Romans</i> , Chapters 12-13; <i>Didache</i> = <a href="http://www.bibleontheweb.com/Bible.asp">http://www.bibleontheweb.com/Bible.asp</a> (fill in <i>Romans</i> and 12 in search windows) <a href="http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html">http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html</a>

**Writing Assignment:** How does the “way” prescribed in the *Didache* reflect the recommendations for a Christian life made by Paul in *Romans*, 12-13? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

10/14 Discussion Sections	
10/17 Christianization of Roman Empire	W 156-159
10/19 SECOND EXAM	
10/21 Transformation of Roman World	W 144-147, 159-173
10/24 Discussion Sections	
10/26 Franks to Charlemagne	W 175-189, 193-198
10/28 From Lordships to Kingships	W 189-193, 203-209; Lord-Vassal Contracts = CD 6.6

**Writing Assignment:** According to these contracts, what does a vassal typically *have* to do for his lord? What does the lord do for the vassal? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

10/31 Discussion Sections	
11/2 Papal Monarchy	W 209-213; Monastic and Papal Texts = CD 7.2, 7.3, 7.1 Papal Texts: <i>Election Decree</i> , <i>Dictatus Papae</i> = <a href="http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/papal-elect1059.html">http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/papal-elect1059.html</a> <a href="http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html">http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html</a>

**Writing Assignment:** After reading the Papal Texts for 11/2 and 11/4 identify ideas or beliefs that are used as bases for asserting papal supremacy (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

11/4 Medieval World View	W 237-247, 226-231; Dante, <i>Commedia</i> selections = <a href="http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm">http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm</a> <a href="http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blpurgatorio018.htm">http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blpurgatorio018.htm</a> <a href="http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm">http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm</a>
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11/7 Discussion Sections

11/9 THIRD EXAM

11/11 Early Modern Overview: Wealth and Power W 220-223

11/14 Discussion Sections

11/16 From Petrarch to Pico

W 273-285; Petrarch, *Ascent of Mt. Ventoux*; Pico, *Oration on The Dignity of Man* =

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/petrarch-ventoux.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/oration.html>

**Writing Assignment:** In the *Ascent of Mt. Ventoux*, how does Petrarch reveal his misgivings about the importance of human achievement in this world compared with the pursuit of salvation (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

11/18 The Secular Perspective

Machiavelli, *The Prince* =

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/machiavelli-prince.html> Read

Introduction, Dedications, and Chapters 14-19

**Writing Assignment:** What passages in *The Prince*, Chapters 14-19 reveal Machiavelli's view of people in general and the true ways of the world? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

11/21 Discussion Sections

11/23-25 Thanksgiving Break

11/28 Reformation background and overview

W 260-265

11/30 Luther

W 297-301; *Address to Christian Nobility of German Nation* =

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/luthad.html>

**Writing Assignment:** In what specific ways does Luther challenge the authority of the Church in his *Address*? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

12/2 Other Reforms

W 301-311

12/5 Discussion Sections

12/?? FOURTH EXAM

