

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
Western Civilization
WCV 101-08
Room: MHRA 2209
Monday 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM

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Office Hours: M – 5:00 PM-6: 00 PM
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND THE SCOPE OF THIS COURSE

This course is a Western Civilization course that is designed to provide students with a general understanding of those intellectual and cultural trends which have flourished in the West from the Ancient Near East through the mid eighteenth century. The study of Western Civilization is important in order to understand the historical, cultural, political, and religious constructs which gives the world meaning to each and every one of us. This class will provide information that allows students to uncover and investigate world views as they appear throughout history. In the end, students should have an excellent grasp of Western ideals, intellect, culture, and the importance of Western Civilization to their lives. In short, Western Civilization is important, because Western Civilization tradition is in many ways, your tradition also.

The study of history requires more than memorization of dates, names and events, although such facts are important. Understanding history means exposure to cultural, social, political, religious, and economic conflict among various groups of people. Appreciating history also requires examination of how historians perceive, interpret, and write about the past – not all scholars agree and their assertions present a mosaic that constructs a picture of the past in a context that allows for a better understanding of Western development.

COURSE GOALS

- 1 To understand Western development through the study of various cultures, societies, and people who made up “civilization” as we know it.
- 2 To realize and understand how Western Civilization developed through political, economical, and social changes over time.
- 3 To understand the different cultures and traditions of Western Civilization that created conflict; and how societies negotiated changing circumstances and events.

- 4 Lastly, students will learn how change over time was influenced by conflict and how changes created by conflict furthered advancements in Western Civilization.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts (available in the College Bookstore)
The Western Heritage: To 1740 (Kagan, Ozment, and Turner)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- 2 Understand the importance of studying and learning about Western Civilization development and the influences on the world
 - 3 Realize and comprehend the major influences of Greek, Egyptian, and Roman Civilizations to the remainder of the world
 - 4 Understand the development of cities and states through political, religious, and economical development in the Western world
 - 5 To develop knowledge of migrations in the West that formed the West.
 - 6 Understand the influence of religion on cultural development
 - 7 To comprehend the transitions involved in cultural assimilation and the changes that are reflected in culture, such as art and literature.
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READINGS, CLASS PREPARATION, AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course will require you to read and understand the various themes of history covered in the required text. As such, you will be held to the assigned readings for each class meeting, which means you should make notes during your readings, you should formulate questions about the various arguments, facts and material covered, and you should consult outside sources if you have difficulty understanding some aspects of the text. Outside sources are easily available from the Learning Resource Center (LRC) and in many cases, the Internet. **Please, don't come to class unprepared or with a total lack of ideas, questions, or comments.**

CLASS PARTICIPATION

It is imperative that you participate in class discussions each and every class meeting. I welcome dissenting views, comments, and I will expect you to discuss your ideas and interpretations of the assigned materials for each class. Believe me, class will go smoother, faster, and be far more enjoyable if everyone is prepared and can intelligently discuss the material – why not participate? The alternative: a lecture for a full period, a long drawn out class, and in all probability a lack of real understanding of the material.

In addition, I will occasionally bring copied articles for you to read about a specific topic – I will provide you with the copied article and it will become part of the assigned reading for the next class meeting. As with all readings, I will expect you to read the article, which will be used to supplement the text.

WHEN I ASK QUESTIONS TO THE CLASS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BE PREPARED AND ANSWER MY QUESTIONS. LIKewise, IF NO ONE VOLUNTARILY ANSWERS, I WILL DEFINITELY CALL UPON YOU. SO, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING – YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED EACH AND EVERY CLASS FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE MATERIAL BEING COVERED.

ATTENDANCE:

We only meet once a week, as this is the case, I will expect you each class unless you have an exceptional circumstance. Exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to, documented death in your immediate family or severe illness. If you find yourself unable to attend, then you need to e-mail me or better yet, give me a call, and let me know you will be absent and the reason why. It is your responsibility to let me know if you are going to be absent. Since we have a broad range of time and material to cover, it is imperative that you attend class. Being late to class and or leaving early is also a bad practice, if you enter class late, please enter as quietly as possible and see me at the end of the class period so that I can appropriately mark your status on my roll for that day. Consistent absences, tardiness or leaving classes early will be reason enough for me to impose a grading penalty; so don't put you or me in that position!

If you miss class, then you are expected to find a classmate with the notes from the class missed and catch up on any materials covered; to include, handouts, or other assigned readings for the next class. We cannot wait for you to catch up, that will only slow down your classmates and make learning difficult for everyone else.

NO MAKE UP WORK ALLOWED

BECAUSE THE CLASS ONLY MEETS ONCE A WEEK, IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE UP ANY MISSED WORK. THEREFORE, I AM NOT INCLINED TO ALLOW FOR ANY LATE WORK, NOR WILL I PROVIDE FOR MAKE UP WORK. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WILL BE IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WHERE THE STUDENT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF AN ABSENCE AND HAS CONTACTED ME IN ADVANCE.

QUIZZES AND EXAMS

During the semester you will have several **UNANNOUNCED** quizzes. The quizzes will provide you an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge on the subjects covered in class. In addition, there will be a MIDTERM EXAM and a FINAL EXAM that will be cumulative on the material covered up to the date of the exam.

RESEARCH / ANALYSIS PAPER AND PRESENTATION

You will be responsible for submitting a paper that combines research and your analysis of the research in a well-written, well-composed paper. Likewise, you will also be responsible for presenting your paper to the class. During your presentation, you will provide the class with the facts of your topic, a summary of your paper, and your

analysis. Analysis of your sources is critical, you may agree or disagree, but you should be prepared to explain your analysis. The paper shall be no less than 5 pages and no more than 7 pages in length. You will be required to utilize MLA formatting for your paper. Therefore, you will need to cite your sources and also provide a bibliography with your paper.

I do not expect papers that merely restate facts. In other words, you must compare and contrast your research, the text, and other sources that provide me with an educated, well-documented argument on the subject you're writing about.

Your paper will be based upon research; do not make up your mind about a subject or topic before you conduct your research. You will be required to use, at a minimum, the following sources for your research:

- 2 Internet Sources – these sources are to be from credible internet sites.
- 2 Article or Journal Sources from academic origins.
- At least 1 scholarly book on the subject or topic of your paper.

In total, you will be required to write your paper based on quality, academic sources and the list above is only a minimum requirement - to write a quality paper I would suggest using more!

After your paper is submitted, you will be required to make a presentation to the class. Your presentation should be approximately 5 to 7 minutes in length and you may use handouts, visual aids, or other materials for your presentation. Presentation of your paper is important, so do not take this aspect of the assignment lightly. If you write a well researched paper and you make a logical, well based argument, your presentation of the paper will be much easier.

PAPER FORMATTING

NOTE: I have referenced MLA as the standard for paper formatting, there is a great website that addresses MLA formatting for papers, it is:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html#General

You may also consult the MLA manual in the Jackson Library or the Writing Center if you have questions, or better yet if you don't have your own MLA manual, seek one out and purchase it. I promise that it will come in handy as you continue with your college education.

All papers will be typed, double spaced, and with margins no greater than one inch (left, right, top, and bottom). You will use quotation marks anytime you directly quote or summarize an outside source or use the ideas contained within a specific source. You may use block quotes for long quotes, although I discourage using them if it is avoidable. Block quotes often distract the reader and take away from the paper – instead of using block quotes, work in your ideas, views, and arguments with shorter quotes for support. As previously stated, your paper will have to incorporate a thesis – it will also contain an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.

None of the papers required are extremely long, so I expect well-written papers that are intelligently argued and supported by the sources.

COURSE GRADING

You will be graded on a 10 point grading scale.

The average of your quizzes	= 20%
Your mid-term and final	= 40%
Your Research / Analytical paper	= 30%
Class Participation	= 10%

HISTORY STUDY AIDS

The publisher of your text provides a website that is very helpful. It is free and available to all students in this class and is a great tool to enhance your studies and knowledge of history. I would suggest taking a look at the site and exploring it; I did and found it a very good site that is interactive; it has practice quizzes and other information that will help you. The web address is: <http://www.prenhall.com/kagan>

***I would highly suggest that you look at and use this site**

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments are specified below, you are responsible for the reading prior to class from the text and from any handouts, which will be given out prior to the next class meeting. The required text is:

The Western Heritage: to 1740 (Donald Kagan et al)

Handouts – provided in class, due for the next class meeting

**CLASS SCHEDULE: Western Civilization
Fall Semester, 2007 - UNCG**

- August 20, 2007: **Class Introduction to Western Civilization**
- What is Important about Studying Western Civilization
 - Class Requirements – Review of Syllabus
- August 27: **Chapter 2 – The Rise of Greek Civilization**
- Greek Origins
 - The Polis (Sparta/Athens)
 - The Persian War
- Sept. 3: NO CLASS - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
- Sept. 10: **Chapter 3 – Classical and Hellenistic Greece**
- The Golden Age of Athens
 - Plato, Pericles, and Aristotle
 - The Peloponnesian Wars
- Sept. 17: **Chapter 4 – Rome: From Republic to Empire**
- Rome to Julius Caesar
 - August Caesar
- Sept. 24: **Chapter 5 – The Roman Empire**
- Rome's Greatness
 - Constantine – Developments of Christianity
 - St. Augustine
- October 1: **Chapter 6 – The Early Middle Ages**
- The Birth of Europe
 - Charlemagne
 - Birth of Islam
 - Feudalism
- October 8: **Chapter 7 – The High Middle Ages**
- October 15: NO CLASS - FALL BREAK
- October 22:** **MID-TERM EXAM**
- Submit Topics for Research / Analytical Papers
- October 29: **Chapter 8 – Medieval Society**
- Medieval Estates
 - Scholasticism
 - Pope Leo X

- Nov. 5 : **Chapter 9 – The Late Middle Ages**
- The Black Death
 - Church Schism
- Nov. 12: **Chapter 10 – Renaissance and Discovery**
- Humanism
 - Pico / Machiavelli
 - Erasmus
- Nov. 19: **Chapter 11 – The Age of Reformation**
- Martin Luther
 - John Calvin
 - England's Reformation
 - The Jesuits
- Nov. 26: **Chapter 12 – The Age of Religious Wars**
- France / Spain / England
 - Phillip II
 - Peace of Westphalia
- Dec. 3 : **PAPERS DUE – CLASS PRESENTATIONS**
- Dec. 10: **Chapter 14 – New Directions in Thought and Culture in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries:**
- Class wrap up and final discussions.
- Dec. 17: **FINAL EXAM**