

**Western Civilization 101-08 (GHP, GPM, GL)  
Fall 2008  
Ancient Near East – the Protestant Reformation**

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### **Introduction**

Welcome to the study of Western Civilization! This semester, each of the primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) we will be examining will concern the religious, political, and/or social and cultural development of western society. In addition to examining the contributions of these documents to western culture, we will be looking at two other questions. 1) How do individuals in pre-modern society understand their places in the world and 2) How do these individuals understand their relationships to one another?

In order to make good oral and written evaluations of the sources we will read, you must always consider the biases, both positive and negative, of the author and the nature of the source. All historical sources are not created equal; you'll need to make informed judgments about each of them. Since this is a history course, the topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological (beginning with Mesopotamian culture and ending with the Protestant Reformation), but we will be more concerned with analytical methods than with strict chronology. In other words, you will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than you will spend memorizing names and dates.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course you will be able to

- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- explain the significance of primary source document excerpts in relation to the origins of social, political, and religious elements of modern western society
- understand the differences and similarities among ancient, medieval, and early modern western culture.

### **Primary Sources (Required)**

Marvin Perry, et al. eds. *Sources of the Western Tradition: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Houghton Mifflin) ISBN 978-0618958559.

Anonymous. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, (Penguin Classics), ISBN 978-0140449198.

Plato. *The Last Days of Socrates*. (Penguin) ISBN 978-0140449280.

Anonymous. *Beowulf*. (Penguin) ISBN 978-140449310.

Machiavelli, Niccolo, *The Prince*, (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004) ISBN 978-0312149789.

### **Secondary Source (Required)**

Spielvogel, Jackson, *Western Civilization: A Brief History*, Volume I: To 1715, 7th edition (Thomson Wadsworth) ISBN 978-0495502869.

## **For Your Information**

**Attendance:** After you have missed four class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (ie from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

**Honor code:** Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG's academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the assignments. For specific explanations about UNCG's academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

**Assignment completion:** Failure to complete any part of the course – especially any of the four exams – will result in an “F” for the course.

**Computer Use:** You are more than welcome to use your laptop computer to take notes and to look at websites to which I refer during lecture. I reserve the right, however, to ask you not to bring your computer to class if I discover that you have been using it for personal purposes (e-mail, shopping, web surfing, etc.) during class. Not only is this rude to me as the instructor, it's incredibly distracting to your fellow students.

## **Reading Advice**

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for class discussion. Taking notes on the primary sources you will be writing papers on is especially important. It's much easier to note down important points as you read than it is to go back and find those points again once you've finished reading. Finally, I recommend reading each document more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you'll have plenty of time for re-reading.

## **Blackboard**

Be sure to check on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>) for course announcements, assignments, and links to important websites.

## **Adverse Weather Conditions**

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university's website ([www.uncg.edu](http://www.uncg.edu)). If the university is open, I will hold class.

## **Discussion Preparation and Writing Assignments**

For the purposes of evaluation (grading), we will focus on two interrelated skills. The first, active discussion of the material, requires reading the material before the day of the lecture with which it is connected so that you can contribute both comments and informed questions to the discussion.

## **Grade Breakdown**

Discussion & Quizzes	10%
First Midterm	20%
Second Midterm	20%
Third Midterm	20%
Final	30%

## **Discussion Preparation and Written Assignments**

**Discussion:** To participate actively in the class discussions, you will need to read the materials assigned for each lecture before the day of that lecture. Your discussion grade will be based not only on the quantity but also on the quality of your comments. Remember that asking a question about something you didn't understand in the readings is a good way of participating in the discussion.

**Quizzes:** There will be periodic reading quizzes based on the primary source readings. Midterms and Final: All four of these exams will be take-home assignments. Each of them will consist of two parts: identifications of passages from the primary sources (including their significance) and a longer essay based on primary source material.

**Exams (Midterms & Final):** All four of these exams will be take-home assignments. Each of them will consist of two parts: identifications of passages from the primary sources (including their significance) and a longer essay (two on the final) based on primary source material.

## **Lectures and Readings**

### **Section I: The Ancient World**

Monday, August 25 – Introductions – What is *civilization*?

Wednesday, August 27 – Mesopotamia: The Beginnings of Western Civilization

Primary Source Readings: *Gilgamesh*, 1-54 (Tablets I-VI).

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 1, 1-15.

Friday, August 29 – Mesopotamia: The *Epic of Gilgamesh*

Primary Source Readings: *Gilgamesh*, 54-99 (Tablets VII-XI).

Monday, September 1 – Labor Day – No class

Wednesday, September 3– Egypt: the Nile

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 1, 15-28.

Friday, September 5 – Egypt: the Pharaoh

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 1, 10-16.

Monday, September 8 – Creation Narratives of the Ancient Near East

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 1, 21-22; Chapter 2, 26-28.

Wednesday, September 10 – The Hebrew Covenant

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 2, 29-42.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 2, 34-52.

Friday, September 12 – Hammurabi and Exodus

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/ancient/hamcode.html>, Exodus: 19-23.

Monday, September 15 – Archaic Greece

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 44-48.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 3, 55-69.

*First Midterm due at the beginning of class.*

Wednesday, September 17 – Homer's *Iliad*

Primary Source Readings: <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>

Friday, September 19 – The Classical Age of Greece: Philosophy Drama, History, Art, & Architecture

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 56-69; Plato, *Apology*, 31-70 and *Crito*, 71-96.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 3, 76-86.

Monday, September 22 – The Classical Age of Greece: the Peloponnesian War

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 62-64; 70-74.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 3, 69-76.

Wednesday, September 24 – Hellenistic Greece: Alexander's Conquests

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 89-97.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 4, 89-111.

Friday, September 26 – Rome: The Republic

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 4, 99-118.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 5, 113-134.

Monday, September 29 – Rome: End of Republic, Beginning of Empire

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 4, 119-123; Chapter 5, 125-140.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 5, 134-144; Chapter 6, 147-170.

Wednesday, October 1 – The Fall of the Roman Empire

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 5, 153-160.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 179-186.

Friday, October 3 – Early Christianity: Jesus & Paul

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 6, 162-165; 182-183.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 6, 170-177.

Monday, October 6 – Early Christianity: Creeds

Wednesday, October 8 – Early Christianity: Monasticism

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 6, 171-177.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 195-201.

## **Section II: The Middle Ages**

Friday, October 10 – Byzantium: the Roman Legacy in the East

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 7, 192-197.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 200-206.

*Second Midterm due at the beginning of class.*

Monday, October 13 – The Appearance of Islam

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 7, 197-203; *Beowulf*, 3-58.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 206-211.

Wednesday, October 15 – Beowulf

Primary Source Readings: *Beowulf*, 58-113.

Friday, October 17 – Clovis & the Franks

Primary Source Readings: Handout –Gregory of Tours

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 7, 187-191.

Monday, October 20 – Fall Break – No class

Wednesday, October 22 – Charlemagne & the Carolingian Empire

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 7, 205-212.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 8, 213-228.

Friday, October 24 – Agriculture & Peasants in the Middle Ages

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 8, 231-234; Chapter 9, 243-247.

Monday, October 27 – The Feudal Contract

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/agreement.html>, Perry, Chapter 7, 213-214.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 8, 228-231.

Wednesday, October 29 – The Investiture Controversy

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-reform2.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/henry4-to-g7a.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-ban1.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-ban1.html>

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 284-286.

Friday, October 31 – The First Crusade

Primary Source Readings: Handout, 4 Accounts of the First Crusade

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 294-300.

Monday, November 3 – New Religious Orders & Disorders

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/stfran-lives.html>;

Perry, Chapter 8, 233-236.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 287-291.

Wednesday, November 5 – Statebuilding: England

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mcarta.html>

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 271-276.

Friday, November 7 – Statebuilding: the Papacy

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 10, 286-287.

Monday, November 10 – Women in the High Middle Ages

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 251-258.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 9, 248-251.

Wednesday, November 12 – Gothic Art & Courtly Love

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 249-251.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 9, 265-269.

Friday, November 14 – Crises of the 14th century: the four horsemen of the Apocalypse

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 265-271.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 11, 303-318.

Monday, November 17 – the Decline (and Fall?) of the Papacy

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 271-273.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 11, 322-326.

### **Section III: Early Modern Europe**

Wednesday, November 19 – Italian Renaissance Art & Literature: Petrarch & Leonardo

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 273-280; Chapter 9, 282-289; 295-299.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 12, 337-334, 355-361.

*Third Midterm due at the beginning of class.*

Friday, November 21 – Italian Renaissance Politics

Primary Source Readings: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 39-81.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 12, 344-355.

Monday, November 24 – Machiavelli and *the Prince*

Primary Source Readings: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 81-123.

Wednesday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday – No class

Friday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Holiday – No class

Monday, December 1 – The Protestant Reformation: Luther

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 307-322.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 373-383.

Wednesday, December 3 – The Protestant Reformation: Calvin

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 322-324; Handout, Calvin.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 391-392.

Friday, December 5 – Legislated change: Reform in England

Primary Source Readings: Handout, English Reformation

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 389-391.

Monday, December 8 – Council of Trent & the Counter-Reformation

Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 324-328.

Secondary Source Readings: Spielvogel, Chapter 13, 395-399.

Monday, December 15 – *Final due in my office (MHRA 2102), by 9 a.m.*