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)


Secondary Source (Required)

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). 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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Midterm</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
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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).

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

Friday, September 5 – Egypt: the Pharoah
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.

Friday, September 12 – Hammurabi and Exodus

Monday, September 15 – Archaic Greece
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 3, 44-48.
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.

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.

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.

Section II: The Middle Ages

Friday, October 10 – Byzantium: the Roman Legacy in the East
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 7, 192-197.
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

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](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-dictpap.html), [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-reform2.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/henry4-to-g7a.html), [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-ban1.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-ban1.html)

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](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/stfran-lives.html); Perry, Chapter 8, 233-236.

Wednesday, November 5 – Statebuilding: England
Primary Source Readings: [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mcarta.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/mcarta.html)

Friday, November 7 – Statebuilding: the Papacy

Monday, November 10 – Women in the High Middle Ages
Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 8, 251-258.

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 the14th 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.

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.
Third Midterm due at the beginning of class.

Friday, November 21 – Italian Renaissance Politics
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.

Wednesday, December 3 – The Protestant Reformation: Calvin
    Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 322-324; Handout, Calvin.

Friday, December 5 – Legislated change: Reform in England
    Primary Source Readings: Handout, English Reformation

Monday, December 8 – Council of Trent & the Counter-Reformation
    Primary Source Readings: Perry, Chapter 10, 324-328.

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