

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA at GREENSBORO

Western Civilization
WCV- 102 – 03
Fall Semester – 2008
Moore Humanities (MHRA) Room 2209
Monday – 6:00 PM until 8:50 PM

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Office Hours
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM (Monday)
By Appointment
Office: MHRA – 3102

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND THE SCOPE OF THIS COURSE

This course introduces you to Western Civilization from the early modern era to the present. Topics include the expansion of Europe in the 18th Century, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars (WWI and WWII), and the Cold War. The course is designed to provide you with an ability to analyze and understand significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in modern western civilization. The course will enable you to better evaluate the western world's development and you should be able to better realize the world in which you presently live.

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 politics, cultures, socioeconomics, and the people who shaped "*civilization*" as we know it.
2. To understand the different cultures and traditions of Western Civilization that created conflict; and how societies negotiated changing circumstances and events.
3. Lastly, students will learn how change over time was influenced by conflict and how changes furthered advancements in Western Civilization. Students should also be able to relate the past with the present and understand the world with better context.

REQUIRED TEXT FOR THE COURSE:

A History of Western Society, Volume 2, 9th edition: Mckay, Hill, Buckler, Crowston, and Wiesner-Hanks. Houghton Mifflin Publishers

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1. Understand the importance of studying and learning about Western Civilization development and the influences on the world.
 2. Realize and comprehend the major influences of European and Western influences to the remainder of the world.
 3. Understand the development of western culture through politics, conflicts, social engagement, and economical development.
 4. Understand the influence of science, exploration, and religion on cultural development.
 5. 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.

DO NOT COME TO CLASS UNPREPARED 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.

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.

- **NOTE:** Class participation is a graded component of this course.

ATTENDANCE:

I will expect you to attend each and every 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

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 EXAMS. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WILL BE IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WHERE THE STUDENT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF AN ABSENCE AND HAS CONTACTED ME IN **ADVANCE**.

TESTS AND EXAMS

There will be 3 exams in this class, including a mid-term and a final. Exams are administered as take home exams and are comprised of essay type questions. Your answers to the exams will be typed and stapled to the exam.

RESEARCH PAPER

During the semester you will submit a research paper based upon sound research of both primary and secondary sources. Your paper will also contain a bibliography and sources will be footnoted. We will discuss the paper at length in a future class, as well as topics and other matters of concern.

COURSE GRADING

You will be graded on a 10 point grading scale.
Your final grade is based on the average of your exams, research paper, and class participation.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments are specified on the syllabus, you are responsible for the reading prior to class and will be held to the schedule listed herein, unless I announce a change. All readings are from the required text.

LECTURES / TEACHING / METHODOLOGY

My method of teaching is through the use of conventional lecture; I traditionally follow the outline of the text, which I believe makes the class easier to follow; I may use PowerPoint slides, illustrations, or other materials during class as well. You are expected to take notes during class and ask questions, discuss topics and overall, dialogue with me during class.

NOTE: I retain the right to change, modify, or alter class schedules, assignments, or other matters pertaining to the class as necessary. You will however, be advised in advance of any necessary changes, modifications, or alterations of the class.

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Western Civilization – WCV-102-03**

Fall Semester Schedule

**All chapters referenced below are from the required text
*A History of Western Society, Vol. 2, 9th edition***

August 25, 2008	Class Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Syllabus▪ Why study Western Civilization?▪ Is the study of Western Civilization pertinent today?▪ Discussion of the upcoming semester▪ Questions
September 1	NO CLASS – Labor Day Holiday
Sept 8	Chapter 19: The Expansion of Europe in the 18 th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The developments in Agriculture▪ Population Increases▪ Guilds▪ Mercantilism▪ Building a Global Economy Chapter 20: The Changing Life of the People <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Developments in Family Structure▪ Food, Medicine, and the Rise of a Consumer Culture▪ Religion and Popular Culture
Sept 15	Chapter 21: The Revolution in Politics, 1775-1815 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The American and French Revolutions▪ The Napoleonic Era
Sept 22	Chapter 24: Life in the Emerging Urban Society, 19 th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Growth of Urban Environments▪ Social Structure▪ Family Changes▪ Science and Thought
Sept 29	Chapter 25: The Age of Nationalism, 1850-1914 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nation Building▪ The Ottoman Empire▪ The Responsive National State▪ Marxism and Socialism▪ EXAM # 1: Chapters 21, 24, 25

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Fall Semester Schedule – Continued

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- October 6.....**Chapter 27: The Great Break-War and Revolution, 1914-1919**
- World War I
 - The Home Front and Mobilization for War
 - Bolshevik Revolution and Russia
 - The Treaty of Versailles
- Oct 13.....**Chapter 28: The Age of Anxiety, ca 1900-1940**
- Revival of Christianity
 - Freudian Psychology
 - Modern Art and Music
 - Movies and Radio
 - Germany and the Western Powers
 - **MID-TERM EXAM (EXAM # 2) – Chapters 27, 28**
 - **Due Oct 27th**
- Oct 20.....**NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**
- Oct 27.....**Chapter 29: Dictatorships and World War II, 1919-1945**
- Stalin and the Soviet Union
 - Mussolini and Fascism in Italy
 - Hitler and Nazism in Germany
- November 3.....**Chapter 29: Continued**
- The Second World War
 - The Holocaust
 - Japan’s Empire in Asia
 - The War in Europe and the Pacific
- Nov 10.....**Chapter 30: Cold War Conflicts and Social Transformations**
- Origins of the Cold War – Divisions of Europe
 - The Western Renaissance and Post War Challenges
 - Soviet Eastern Europe
- Nov 17.....**Chapter 30: Continued**
- Post World War II Transformations
 - 1968 – 1985: The Late Cold War
 - The US and Vietnam
 - Détente
 - Changes in Society

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Fall Semester Schedule – Continued

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- Nov 24.....**Chapter 31: Revolution, Rebuilding, and New Challenges**
- Declining Communism in Eastern Europe
 - The Revolution of 1989
 - Building a New Europe in the 1990's
 - **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
- December 1**Chapter 31: Continued**
- New Challenges in the 21st Century
 - The West and the Islamic World
 - **FINAL EXAM (EXAM #3) – Chapters 29, 30, 31**
 - **Due: Dec 8th**
- Dec 8.....**Class Wrap Up – Submission of Final Exam**
- Final Discussions
 - The Future of the Western World
 - Economic Declines
 - Questions