

Syllabus

Required Texts:

Rogers, Perry M. Ed. Aspects of Western Civilization: Problems and Sources in History. Vol. II. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. [Paperback ISBN: 0-13-205049-4]

Purpose: This course surveys western civilization from about the end of the middle ages (1500 or so) to the late twentieth century. It offers students an opportunity to gain a basic understanding of the foundation of the modern western world through the study of ideas, individuals, and movements. It provides an opportunity to train the mind, to think critically, and to develop good study habits. In other words, it requires students to read, to study, and to think.

Description of Course Activities: Students will be asked to listen to lectures, to participate in the Discussion Forum, to analyze primary sources, to complete map quizzes, reading quizzes, exams, and other activities particular to a web-based course. The online course is the same as the on campus course and the summer and winter session version of the course is the same as the 15-week version of the course. Below you will find a more complete description of the course components. This syllabus is organized alphabetically.

Blackboard: All information concerning the course is in the Blackboard course management system.

Calendar: The calendar provides all of the due dates, lessons, readings, and assignments in one place. Note the due dates. You must read the calendar thoroughly.

Discussion Forum: The Discussion Board has several forums. Take advantage of the Ice Breaker to introduce yourself to the other class members. You may also submit questions to the Question to the Professor. I will respond promptly to questions.

Students have the responsibility to write a response to a question or statement in the exam units—Units 5, 10, and 15. This exercise will require each person to participate at least three times in the conversation. You must read, think, and respond. Full credit will only be given to those who post an original thought and who respond to the thoughts of several of their classmates (at least three responses).

Discussion responses must be posted by 12 noon of the day specified. However, you may post your responses **before** the due date if you wish.

Due Dates: Due dates are on the Calendar and in the Units. Please make note of the deadlines. All work may be submitted before the deadline. There will be no time extensions for any assignment unless the dean of students requests it.

Exams: Exams cover questions from the worksheets, lecture material, videos, and map items. The 50 questions are true/false, multiple choice, and matching. Exams must be taken in the period specified in the Calendar. Study guides for the three exams will be available several days before the exam. Exams will be open for a specified period. **Once you open the exam you will have to complete it. You can only take each exam once and you must complete it in the time designated (50 minutes). Taking more than the designated time will result in the loss of points.**

Extra Credit:

Reading: At the end of each chapter worksheet (see Worksheets on this syllabus) is an opportunity for extra credit. Please follow the [Extra Credit Instructions](#) for submission guidelines. **If you do not follow the guidelines**, you will not receive credit for your submission. You may earn 6 points of extra credit for this option. I will manually insert the extra credit grade for this option.

FAQ Quiz and Surveys: You may also earn extra credit (1 point each) for the FAQ quiz (note explanation below), the first week survey, a quantitative end-of-the-semester survey, and a qualitative end-of-semester survey.

FAQs: Students often have many questions about this class. To help you get started, go to the FAQ page. A practice quiz on the FAQs can earn you one point extra credit. The quiz will only be available during the first 5 days of the course. Be sure to take this FAQ quiz before starting the course. The point will appear in the Blackboard grade book.

Grading:

- Exams = 50 points
- Reading Quizzes and map quizzes=15
- Primary Source Analysis=25
- Discussion Forum=10

Grading Scale: A=Superior (100-90); B=Good (89-80); C=Satisfactory (79-70); D=Poor (69-60); F=Failing (59-0). A student who earns an “A” has performed with “distinction and excellence.” Pluses and minuses apply as indicated in Blackboard.

Honor System: The Honor System is just as much a part of the class as it is in the classroom. None of the quizzes or exams is open book. Treat them as you would if you were taking them in class.

Lectures: The lectures are MP-3 audio files. Each lecture has a PowerPoint file that you may complete as you listen. Lecture material appears on each exam.

Primary Source Analyses: Aspects of Western Civilization is a text of primary documents. Students will have three opportunities to analyze those documents. Instructions are under the PSAs tab in Blackboard.

Quizzes: Reading Quizzes for each unit may be taken at any time until the beginning of the exam period to which they apply. **Map quizzes** must be taken during the specified time period. **Once you open the reading or map quiz, you will have to complete it. You can only take each quiz once.**

Student Learning Goals: A few years ago the faculty developed a new curriculum with new student learning goals which represent ideals toward which each faculty will work. Although I will provide students with the opportunity to learn and to achieve those goals, I cannot guarantee that students will achieve them. A student's achievement is his or her decision. In other words, I cannot ensure that a student will demonstrate a general knowledge of anything if that student has decided that he or she does not wish to learn. Keep in mind your commitment to learning as you proceed through the course.

Student Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course, students, if they choose, will be able to identify major historical developments defining the Western experience, major countries in the West, major leaders, and documents of significance in the history of the West. They will have some understanding of how historians go about their craft, having had an opportunity to analyze many primary sources. They will also have an understanding of how the West has arrived at its current position in world affairs.

Tests and/or self-tests: Students will take reading quizzes, map quizzes (if available), the FAQ quiz, and exams, all accessed through Blackboard.

Unit/Lessons: The course is organized in Units/Lessons. Each unit has all the information and due dates required for the assignments.

Worksheets: In Blackboard under Unit/Lessons, beginning with Unit/Lessons 2, is a worksheet for each of the chapters indicated on the schedule. Each student is responsible for completing worksheet items that correspond to the reading. These items represent material that appears on the quizzes and the exams.

Written Work: Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and syntax are important for discussion and for any other work submitted to the instructor, for example, extra credit. They count in the grade as much as content. It is best to write your responses in Microsoft Word, turn on the Spelling and Grammar option under Tools, and pay attention to what Word tells you. On occasion, Word is incorrect, but I will know when that happens. After double-checking your written work, copy and paste into the appropriate forum. Posting with errors will lose you points.