

**Western Civilization 101-03 (GHP, GL, GPM)  
Ancient Middle East – Age of Reformation  
Fall 2010, MHRA 1214, Tuesday 1800 – 2050**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1430 – 1730 & by appointment

**Introduction**

This semester we will be using primary sources (an object from the past or testimony concerning the past on which historians depend in order to create their own depiction of that past), and secondary sources (written after the period under discussion and generally employ analysis, synthesis, and interpretation) to examine the political, cultural, economic, social, and religious development of western society.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Develop a firm grasp of key themes in Western Civilization
- Write analytical essay exams using primary and secondary sources to support your arguments
- Understand the differences and similarities among ancient, medieval, and early modern western cultures
- Learn to simultaneously listen, read, write, and think

**Primary Sources**

Primary sources are available on Blackboard. Make sure to visit Blackboard often to download the primary source material. You are required to print out the primary sources and bring them to class.

**Text Book (required)**

Greer, Thomas H., and Gavin Lewis. *A Brief History of the Western World*. Vol. I. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2005.

**Academic Integrity**

You must abide by UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. Failure to do so will result in failing the class and having the incident referred to the Dean of Students. I am concerned about plagiarism from the internet. The lectures and the primary and secondary sources required for the class will provide you with sufficient information to complete all assignment and take home exams. For specific questions about UNCG's academic integrity policy, please refer to <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>

**Attendance**

Two unexcused absences allowed. You may be failed or dropped from the class if you have three or more unexcused absences. Excused absence criteria will be determined by the Instructor.

## **Readings**

Do all readings ahead of class. Bring hard copies of every reading to class.

## **Assignments/Exams**

Exams and short papers must be word-processed, double-spaced, use Times New Roman 12 point font, and have standard 1" margins. Only hard copies will be accepted and late work is generally not accepted.

## **Writing**

History and the way in which it is expressed are one in the same. Therefore, your writing must be well structured, insightful, and proofread. Writing outlines, coming to office hours, and utilizing the Writing Center are encouraged. Writing Center info:  
<http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>

## **Films**

Two films will be shown outside of regular class hours. If you cannot attend the film screening, it is your responsibility to track down a copy of the film and watch it on your own time. You must write a two page reaction paper for each film, and you may incorporate material from the lecture and readings if you like. The topic is open so be creative.

## **Note Taking**

You are responsible for taking detailed and accurate notes from lecture and from the texts. Copies of Power Points and the Instructor's lecture notes will not be distributed. You are encouraged to find a friend in the class and go over the notes soon after lecture (while it is still fresh in your minds) and fill in any gaps that you may have.

## **Blackboard**

Check it regularly for updates on primary source reading material and class announcements.

## **Exams**

All exams will be take home essays. Specific instructions for each exam will be given on the exam question sheets when they are handed out.

## **Group Project**

A group project presentation is due on the last day of class. Your group's size can range from three to six members and each presentation should last roughly 10 minutes. More details about the project will be provided at a later date.

## **Grade Breakdown**

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	15%
Movie Paper 1	5%
Movie Paper 2	5%
Group Project	15%
Discussion/Participation/Attendance	15%

CLASS 1 24 AUGUST 2010

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Topic: History, "Western Civilization," and the Ancient Near East

- Greer: xix-48

CLASS 2 31 AUGUST 2010

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Topic: The Hebrews, the Greek Polis, and Democracy

- Greer, 48-77
- Excerpts from the Talmud: Genesis 1, 2, 17, Exodus 19-20, Leviticus 1
- "Inscription Honoring Cyrus, King of Persia"
- Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, "The Funeral Oration of Pericles"
- Plato, *The Republic*, Chapters 1, 18

CLASS 3 7 SEPTEMBER 2010

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Topic: Greek Philosophy and the Arts

- Greer, 78-96
- Sophocles, *Antigone*
- Plato, *The Republic*, "Allegory of the Cave"
- Edith Hamilton, "Pyramus and Thisbe"

CLASS 4 14 SEPTEMBER 2010

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Topic: Alexander the Great and Hellenistic Culture • **Exam 1 handed out**

- Greer, 96-103
- Ehippus of Olynthus, *On the Burial of Alexander and Hephaestion*
- Plutarch, *De alex: Magni Fortuna and Virtuta Oratio*, excerpt on Alexander
- Sibylline, *Oracles*, excerpt on Alexander
- The Marriage Contract of Heracleides and Demetria

CLASS 5 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

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Topic: The Roman Monarchy and Republic • **Exam 1 due**

- Greer, 169-120
- Livy, *History of Rome*, "The Rape of Lucretia"
- Excerpts from Livy and Polybius on Roman virtues

CLASS 6 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

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Topic: Imperial Rome

- Greer, 120-151
- Augustus, *Res Gestae*
- David Brion Davis, *Slavery and Human Progress*, "Slavery and Imperial Expansion"
- Pliny the Elder, *Natural History*, "On Germans"

CLASS 7 5 OCTOBER 2010

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Topic: Early Christianity • **Exam 2 handed out**

- Greer, 157-184
- Gospel of Mark
- Joseph Campbell, *Transformations of Myth Through Time*, "From Darkness to Light: The Mystery Religions of Ancient Greece"
- Infancy Gospel of Thomas
- Eusebius, "The Conversion of Constantine"

FALL BREAK      12 OCTOBER 2010

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Topic: **No class**

CLASS 8              19 OCTOBER 2010

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Topic: The Creation of Europe • **Exam 2 due**

- Greer, 155-155
- Joseph Campbell, *Transformation of Myth Through Time*, “Where There Was No Path: Arthurian Legends and The Western Way”
- *Beowulf*, prologue – Chapter 13
- *The Song of Roland*, stanzas 81-166
- Charter of Homage and Fealty of Viscount of Carcassone, 1110
- Services Due from a Villein, 1307
- Magna Carta

FILM 1                      21 OCTOBER 2010              THURSDAY

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Film: *The Name of the Rose*. Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud (1986), 126 min  
MHRA 1214 7pm

CLASS 9                      26 OCTOBER 2010

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Topic: The Middle Ages and Christendom • **Film Reaction Paper #1 due**

- Greer, 192-243
- Charles T. Wood, “The Doctor’s Dilemma”
- Jack Goody, “Love, Lust, and Literacy”
- Foundation Charter of Cluny
- Rule of St. Benedict
- Andreas Capellanus, *The Art of Courtly Love*

CLASS 10                      2 NOVEMBER 2010

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Topic: The Crusades and the Plague • **Exam 3 handed out**

- Greer, 246-284
- Crusade readings

FILM 2                      4 NOVEMBER 2010              THURSDAY

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Film: *The Seventh Seal*. Directed by Ingmar Bergman (1957), 96 min  
MHRA 1214 7pm

CLASS 11                      9 NOVEMBER 2010

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Topic: The late Middle Ages, Humanism and the Renaissance • **Film Reaction Paper #2 due Exam 3 due**

- Greer, 291-362
- Francesco Petrarch, “The Ascent of Mount Ventoux”
- Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*

CLASS 12                      16 NOVEMBER 2010

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Topic: The Reformation and Counter-Reformation

- Greer, 364-400
- Erasmus, “The Shipwreck”
- Martin Luther, *Preface to the First Volume of Latin Writings*
- John Calvin, “Reply to Sadoleto”
- St. Ignatius Loyola, *Autobiography*

CLASS 13 23 NOVEMBER 2010

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Topic: Science, the Columbian Exchange, and Conquest • **Exam 4 handed out**

• Greer, 318-333; 418-433

Galileo, "Letter to Castelli"

Exploration readings TBA

CLASS 14 30 NOVEMBER 2010

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Topic: Group project presentations • **Exam 4 due** • **Final Exam handed out**

**FINAL EXAM 8 DECEMBER 2010**

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**Final Exam due**

**This is the first day of exams so please plan accordingly.**