

This course examines developments which created and shaped Western Civilization between about 800 B.C. and A.D. 1600. It is organized around five core questions:

1. What's special about the Greeks? (Or, why does the story of western civilization properly begin with them?)
2. Where does the "western" in western civilization come from?
3. Why are there countries?
4. What is the Church?
5. How did the West get rich, aggressive, and powerful?

Answering these questions will take us through the phases of "western" history conventionally called ancient, medieval, and early modern, and we will try to gain an understanding of the broad features and major patterns of events of each of these phases even as we concentrate on the specific questions listed above.

Students will write five essay papers, each dealing with one of the core questions. There will also be four objective examinations (short identifications) and periodic quizzes and short writing assignments on the text and web readings.

### **Required Books**

Perry, *Western Civilization*, vol. 1, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Note: this is *not* the Brief History version)  
We will also use much web material.

### **Class Schedule**

1/12	Introduction/Overview	
1/14	What's Special about the Greeks	P 75-99
1/16	Homer: The Aristocratic Outlook	P 52-56; <i>Iliad</i> , Book 1 <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.1.i.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.1.i.html</a>
1/21	The Greek <i>Polis</i>	P 57-58
1/23	Athens: Democracy and Its Problems	P58-69; outline chronologically 5 <sup>th</sup> century Athenian history from P 52-69 --1 page
1/26	Educating Democracy: Drama and History	P 89-98; <i>Antigone</i> (website: <a href="http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/4979/antigone.html">http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/4979/antigone.html</a> )
1/28	Leading Democracy: Rhetoric and	

	Education	P 78-79 (the Sophists)
1/30	Improving Democracy: Philosophia and the Polis	P 79-89; <i>Apology</i> , website: <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html</a>
2/2	EXAM #1	
2/4	Alexander and the Hellenistic World	P 103-117; paper #1 due
2/6	Rome: Pattern of History	P 142, 169
2/9	Republic: Conquests and Cultural Change	P 120-132
2/11	Crisis and Adaptation	P 132-146; Augustus website: <a href="http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/14resgestae.html">http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/14resgestae.html</a> ; writing assignment: discuss the problems which made the Republic unworkable
2./13	Empire: organization and administration	P 146-153
2/16	Being Roman	P 153-158
2/18	Religions in the Roman World	P 160-162, 172-184
2/20	Insiders and Outsiders	P 162-169
2/23	EXAM #2	
2/25	Transformation of Roman World	P 210-213; paper #2 due
2/27	Transformation of Mediterranean/ Near Eastern World	P 199-210
3/1	Franks to Charlemagne and Beyond	P 216-226
3/3	Rise of States: France and England	P 236-240
3/5	Germany and Italy	P 242-242
3/15	Beyond Western Europe	P
3/17	The European "System"	P
3/19	EXAM #3	
3/22	Late Roman Christianity: Beliefs and	

- Practices P 184-192; paper #3 due
- 3/24 Monasticism P 185; *Rule of St. Benedict*, website:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/rul-benedict.html>
- 3/26 Early Medieval Church P 213-215, 218-219 (inset on Boniface);  
242 (on sacraments)
- 3/29 Cluny, Otto, and Papal Reform P 242-243; Cluny, website:  
<http://www.ukans.edu/kansas/medieval/108/lectures/cluny.html>  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/chart-cluny.html>  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/papal-elect1059.html>
- 3/31 Investiture Controversy P 243-246; *Dictatus papae*, website:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html>
- 4/2 Papal Monarchy P 246-254; 4<sup>th</sup> Lateran Council, website:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/lat4-select.html>
- 4/5 New Orders P 252-253; St. Francis, website:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/stfran-lives.html>
- 4/7 Medieval World View P 259-270
- 4/12 EXAM #4
- 4/14 Overview: European Power and Wealth P 350-351, 374; paper #4 due
- 4/16 Trade P 229-235
- 4/19 Bourgeois Accumulation/Aristocratic  
Display
- 4/21 Renaissance: Validating this World P 301-310, 311-320; Pico, website:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/oration.html>
- 4/23 Renaissance Virtu and Power P 310-311; *Prince*, website:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/machiavelli-prince.html>
- 4/26 Portugal and Spain P 351-359
- 4/28 Economic Consequences P 359-370
- 4/30 Reformation P 324-344; Luther, websites:  
<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/luther-faith.txt>  
Luther's 95 Theses  
<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>  
(there is a study guide for the 95 Theses that is very helpful:

<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~lyman/english233/sg-95ths.htm> )  
*Luther's Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*

- 5/3 The "Western Mind" P 345-346
- 5/4 Europe in Global Context 1600 Paper # 5 due
- 5/10 EXAM #4