

WESTERN CIVILIZATION TO 1789

Instructor

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Course

WCV 101-06
423 Graham
TR 12:30-1:45 PM
Spring 2004

REQUIRED TEXT: Marvin Perry, Western Civilization: A Brief History Vol I: To 1789 (4th Edition)
Penguin Custom Editions, The Western World (specific for this course)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to shape students' understanding of key historical periods and events from the first civilizations through the Enlightenment. This is a broad survey course which explains how and why western culture developed as it did over the last four thousand years. To accomplish this we must examine the major topics that have created our western heritage, such as politics, social movements, religion, art, literature, language, war, scientific discoveries, and philosophical and moral thought. At the end of the semester students will possess an understanding of key the political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments of western history which they will be able to integrate into their other studies and pursuits.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION:

1. Grade Composition: *3 Exams = 35 points each = 105 points total*

Exams will consist of 35 objective questions, worth 1 point each. The total scores of these three exams will comprise your final grade.

2. Attendance Policy: Each student is permitted *three* unexcused absences. Upon the *fourth* unexcused absence, I have the option of dropping the student from the course. Athletic or social events, extracurricular functions, late nights, hangovers, must-see TV, obnoxious roommates, non-tragic travel plans, alien abductions, or other like events are *NOT* considered excused absences. I do, however, make exceptions for verifiable illness, family tragedy, and major catastrophe. Regardless of cause, you are responsible for all information missed during your absence. I will *NOT* supply lecture notes to you for days you miss, so please do not ask. Make friends and bum the notes off of them like all good college students should.

Class attendance is an important part of your education and this course. This course revolves heavily around lectures and the intellectual discoveries made during class. Do not think of history as the boring memorization and recitation of names and dates. Think of historical figures and events as characters and moments in a complex tale in which you have a direct investment. If you are not in class, you miss this experience.

If you decide this course is not for you, it is your responsibility to properly drop the class through the Registrar's Office. Students who simply stop coming to class will inevitably receive an "F" at the end of the term due to the number of "zeroes" accumulated for missed exams.

3. Policy on Punctuality and Cell Phones/Pagers: Class begins at 12:30. Please arrive on time – walking in late disturbs class. Please turn off your cell phone and/or pager before coming to class. If you cannot find time out of your social life to miss calls for an hour and fifteen minutes, you should not be here. I reserve the right to drop those students who have chronic problems with punctuality and/or cell phone/pager etiquette.

4. Communication Regarding Class: The easiest way to contact me is via email. I will more than likely check my email immediately before class; my voice mail often suffers from neglect. I ask that each student provide me with an active email address so that I may send you any necessary announcements.

COURSE SCHEDULE

| DATE | TOPIC | PERRY | PENGUIN |
|---|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| PART I – THE ANCIENT WORLD: FOUNDATION OF THE WEST | | | |
| <i>Jan 13</i> | Course Introduction / The First Civilizations | <i>Pgs 2-26</i> | <i>NA</i> |
| <i>Jan 15</i> | The Ancient Hebrews and “The Job Problem” | <i>Pgs 28-40</i> | <i>Pgs 1-5</i> |
| <i>Jan 20</i> | Ancient Greek Culture and Literature | <i>41-45, 67-70</i> | <i>Pgs 6-13</i> |
| <i>Jan 22</i> | Ancient Greece in Historical Perspective | <i>45-56, 70-82</i> | <i>Pgs 14-26</i> |
| <i>Jan 27</i> | Ancient Greek Philosophy | <i>Pgs 56-67</i> | <i>Pgs 27-43</i> |
| <i>Jan 29</i> | Ancient Roman History and Literature: The Republic | <i>Pgs 85-100</i> | <i>Pgs 44-58</i> |
| <i>Feb 3, 5</i> | Ancient Roman History and Literature: The Empire | <i>Pgs 100-120</i> | <i>Pgs 59-70</i> |
| <i>Feb 10</i> | Exam #1 | | |
| PART II – THE MIDDLE AGES: THE CHRISTIAN CENTURIES | | | |
| <i>Feb 12</i> | The Fall of Rome and Early Christianity | <i>Pgs 122-130</i> | <i>Pgs 71-78</i> |
| <i>Feb 17</i> | St. Augustine and the Rise of Christianity | <i>Pgs 130-140</i> | <i>Pgs 79-88</i> |
| <i>Feb 19, 24</i> | The Medieval World and Feudal Society | <i>Pgs 142-169</i> | <i>Pgs 89-102</i> |
| <i>Feb 26</i> | Papal Power and the Crusades | <i>Pgs 169-180</i> | <i>NA</i> |
| <i>Mar 2</i> | The Rise of the State - Case Study: England | <i>NA</i> | <i>Pgs 103-115</i> |
| <i>Mar 4</i> | The High Middle Ages and Scholasticism | <i>Pgs 182-195</i> | <i>Pgs 116-130</i> |
| <i>Mar 16, 18</i> | Decline of the Middle Ages | <i>Pgs 195-208</i> | <i>Pgs 131-153</i> |
| <i>Mar 23</i> | Exam #2 | | |
| PART III – THE RISE OF MODERNITY: RENAISSANCE TO ENLIGHTENMENT | | | |
| <i>Mar 25</i> | The Renaissance and the Individual | <i>Pgs 210-226</i> | <i>Pgs 154-169</i> |
| <i>Mar 30</i> | The Reformation | <i>Pgs 226-236</i> | <i>Pgs 170-177</i> |
| <i>April 06</i> | The Counter Reformation | <i>Pgs 236-242</i> | <i>Pgs 178-181</i> |
| <i>April 08</i> | The Wars of Religion | <i>NA</i> | <i>Pgs 182-188</i> |
| <i>April 13</i> | The Rise of Absolutism in France | <i>Pgs 244-257</i> | <i>NA</i> |
| <i>April 15</i> | Limited Monarchy in England | <i>Pgs 257-261</i> | <i>Pgs 189-194</i> |
| <i>April 20</i> | The Emergence of Eastern Europe | <i>NA</i> | <i>NA</i> |
| <i>April 22</i> | The Scientific Revolution | <i>Pgs 278-291</i> | <i>Pgs 195-206</i> |
| <i>April 27</i> | The Enlightenment | <i>Pgs 291-312</i> | <i>Pgs 207-223</i> |
| <i>April 29</i> | Syllabus Adjustment Day | | |
| <i>May 06</i> | Exam #3 12-3 PM | | |