Western Civilization 101 Course Outline – Paleolithic Age Through the Renaissance

I. Introduction – explanation of course requirements and the beginnings of modern Civilization.
   A. Why study history?
   B. Paleolithic and Neolithic ages
   C. Mesopotamia and the Babylonian empire
   D. Egyptian civilization
   E. The Hebrew Kingdom – Israel

Test I

II. Classical Civilization – the Greeks and Romans
   A. Early Greece
   B. Greek Political systems
   C. Greek philosophy
   D. Athens and Sparta
   E. Alexander’s empire
   F. Early Rome
   G. The Roman Republic
   H. The Age of Dictators – Julius Caesar and Augustus
   I. The Roman Empire
   J. Pax Romana
   K. The Decline of Rome
   L. Why compare Rome with the United States?

Test II

III. The Growth of Modern Religions and the Byzantine Empire
   A. Polytheism and monotheism
   B. Judaism
   C. Christianity
   D. The Rise of Islam
   E. The Rise and Fall of the Byzantine Empire
   F. The Split within Christianity

Test III

IV. The Frankish Kingdom, Feudalism and the Crusades
   A. The creation of the Frankish Kingdom
   B. The Franks and the Papacy
   C. The Papal States
   D. Charlemagne’s kingdom
   E. The Treaty of Verdun and the Collapse of the Frankish Kingdom
   F. Feudalism – the end of empires and kingdoms
   G. The Holy Wars – The Crusades
   H. The Rise of the Bourgeoisie (middle class), towns and cities, capitalism, money, and banking

TEST IV
V. The Unification of modern England and France and the rise of Church and Papal power.
   A. The Battle of Hastings, 1066 AD, The unification of England
   B. Henry II and the Royal Court
   C. Church vs. King - Henry II and Thomas Beckett
   D. King John and Magna Carta
   E. The Hundred Years' War
   F. The Wars of the Roses in England
   G. The House of Tudor - England unified
   H. France under the rule of Philip IV (Philip the Fair)
   I. The Rise of Church authority in the Middle Ages
   J. Pope Gregory the Great
   K. The Reforms of the Cluny monastic movement
   L. The abolition of "Lay Investiture"
   M. The Sacraments
   N. Heresy and the Inquisition
   O. The Friars
   P. The Scholastics
   Q. Faith vs. Reason
   R. The Decline of Church authority

TEST V

VI. The Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, and European Exploration and expansion
   A. Rebirth in Italy
   B. Humanism
   C. The Art and Literature of the Renaissance
   D. Explaining the World in Natural terms
   E. The Decline of Church Authority
   F. Martin Luther
   G. The Protestant Reformation
   H. The Split in Western Christianity
   I. Calvinism
   J. Seeking an ocean route to India and the Indies
   K. Columbus
   L. European Exploration of the New World
   M. Summary of the Course

TEST VI, The Final Exam