

Western Civilization 101 (sections 01-04)

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Office Hours 12-1 MWF

This course examines developments that created and shaped Western civilization between about 2000 B.C. and A.D. 1600. We will treat “civilization” as a complex form of cultural adaptation by peoples and societies. The story of Western civilization is the story of successive adaptations by different peoples and societies. Students will consider the problems faced by successive different peoples and societies and the solutions they evolved, in part by borrowing from the past. Because this process involves successive peoples and societies, it is common to consider Western civilization as a series of stages. One way to define the series in the time period we are considering is chronological: ancient, medieval, and early modern. Another way is by reference to different peoples: Greek, Roman, Germanic. We will actually be using both perspectives.

Students will meet each week in both lecture classes and smaller discussion sections. Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings in the textbook and in the assigned primary sources (on CD or on the web) before each class. Class and discussion section attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will cause the loss of a full grade. More than three will cause a student to be dropped from the course. There will be four exams in the course, various writing assignments, and occasional quizzes.

All writing assignments are to be turned in at the Discussion Section meeting.

### Required text

Frankforter and Spellman, *The West. Culture and Ideals*. Vol. I. (Make sure this comes with the enclosed CD)

### Class Schedule (*The West* = W)

Mondays and Fridays all sections meet for lecture in Graham 313 at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays meet in individual Discussion sections:

01 = HHRA 1206 at 12 p.m.

02 = HHRA 2208 at 12 p.m.

03 = HHRA 1206 at 1 p.m.

04 = HHRA 2208 at 1 p.m.

1/8 Introduction: The Big Picture

W xxix-xxvii, 2, 50, 148, 248

1/10 Discussion Sections

1/12 The Polis

W 5-65

- 1/17 Discussion Sections  
 1/19 The Athenian Experience W 65-75
- 1/22 Democracy and Its Problems W 76-85; *Antigone*; *Pericles' Funeral Oration* (both on CD in *The West* textbook)
- 1/24 Discussion Sections  
 1/26 Rescuing Democracy: Rhetoric, Drama, History, and Philosophy W 89-98; Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* selection = CD 2.3; *Apology of Socrates* = <http://eawc.evansville.edu/anthology/apology.htm>  
**Writing Assignment:** According to what Socrates says in the *Apology*, how has Socrates been trying to help his fellow citizens? Why? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)
- 1/29 Plato: The Soul *Republic, Allegory of the Cave* = [http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/allegory\\_bb.html](http://www.historyguide.org/ancient/allegory_bb.html)  
**Writing Assignment:** Based on what Plato writes in this selection, where does he think true reality lies? How can we perceive it? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)
- 1/31 Discussion Sections  
 2/2 The Hellenistic Age W 100-109  
 2/5 Recapitulation  
 2/7 FIRST EXAM (In Discussion Section Rooms)  
 2/9 Rome: Conquests and Cultural Change W 110-117  
 2/12 From City-State to Empire W 117-132  
**Writing Assignment:** Write out answers to questions 5 and 6 on W 123 (Turn in to Discussion Leader)
- 2/14 Discussion Sections  
 2/16 Roman Empire: How it worked W 132-140  
 2/19 Being Roman W 141-144; Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, Book Four = <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/marcuaurelius1.html#BOOK%20FOUR>  
 (Click on Book IV in the contents list or scroll down to Book Four)  
**Writing Assignment:** In what sense, according to Marcus Aurelius' views, is everyone the same? What does everyone have in common? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)
- 2/21 Discussion Sections  
 2/23 Religions in the Roman World  
 2/26 Rise of Christianity W 150-156; Paul, *Letter to the Romans*, Chapters 12-13; *Didache* = <http://www.bibleontheweb.com/Bible.asp> (fill in *Romans* and 12 in search windows)

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html>

**Writing Assignment:** How does the “way” prescribed in the *Didache* reflect the recommendations for a Christian life made by Paul in *Romans*, 12-13?  
(Turn in to Discussion Leader)

2/28 Discussion Sections

3/2 Christianization of Roman Empire W 156-159

3/12 Transformation of Roman World W 144-147, 159-173

3/14 SECOND EXAM (Given in Discussion Sections)

3/16 Franks to Charlemagne W 175-189, 193-198

3/19 From Lordships to Kingships W 189-193, 203-209; Lord-Vassal Contracts = CD 6.6

**Writing Assignment:** According to these contracts, what does a vassal typically *have* to do for his lord? What does the lord do for the vassal?  
(Turn in to Discussion Leader)

3/21 Discussion Sections

3/23 Papal Monarchy W 209-213; Monastic and Papal Texts = CD 7.2, 7.3, 7.1  
Papal Texts: *Election Decree*, *Dictatus Papae* =

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/papal-elect1059.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html>

**Writing Assignment:** After reading the Papal Texts for 11/2 and 11/4 identify ideas or beliefs that are used as bases for asserting papal supremacy (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

3/25 Medieval World View W 237-247, 226-231; Dante, *Commedia* selections =

<http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm>

<http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blpurgatorio018.htm>

<http://italian.about.com/library/anthology/dante/blinferno001.htm>

3/28 THIRD EXAM (Given in Discussion Sections)

3/30 Early Modern Overview: Wealth and Power W 220-223

4/2 From Petrarch to Pico W 273-285; Petrarch, *Ascent of Mt. Ventoux*; Pico, *Oration on The Dignity of Man* =

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/petrarch-ventoux.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/oration.html>

**Writing Assignment:** In the *Ascent of Mt. Ventoux*, how does Petrarch reveal his misgivings about the importance of human achievement in this world compared with the pursuit of salvation (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

4/4 Discussion Sections

4/13 The Secular Perspective Machiavelli, *The Prince* =

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/machiavelli-prince.html> Read

**Introduction, Dedications, and Chapters 14-19**

**Writing Assignment:** What passages in *The Prince*, Chapters 14-19 reveal Machiavelli's view of people in general and the true ways of the world? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

4/16 Reformation background and overview W 260-265

4/18 Discussion Sections

4/20 Luther W 297-301; *Address to Christian Nobility of German Nation* =  
<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/luthad.html>

**Writing Assignment:** In what specific ways does Luther challenge the authority of the Church in his *Address*? (Turn in to Discussion Leader)

4/23 Calvin W 301-304

4/25 Discussion Sections

4/27 English Reformation W 307-310

4/30 Catholic Reformation W 304-306

4/31 Religious Wars W 310-320

5/4 FOURTH EXAM 3:30-6:30 in Graham 313

