

**Western Civilization 101-09 (GHP, GPM, GL, WI)
Spring 2007
Ancient Near East – the Protestant Reformation**

Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:45
MHRA 1206

Home Phone: 274-8318 (until 9 pm)

Instructor: Anne Barton
Office: MHRA 3103
Office Hours: T,R 10:30-noon
& by appointment
Office Phone: 334-4284
E-mail: acbarton@uncg.edu

Welcome to the study of Western Civilization! This semester, each of the primary sources (documents written in the period under discussion) we will be examining will concern the religious, political, and/or social and cultural development of western society. In addition to examining the contributions of these documents to western culture, we will be looking at two other questions. 1) How do individuals in pre-modern society understand their places in the world and 2) How do these individuals understand their relationships to one another?

In order to make good oral and written evaluations of the sources we will read, you must always consider the biases, both positive and negative, of the author and the nature of the source. All historical sources are not created equal; you'll need to make informed judgments about each of them. Since this is a history course, the topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological (beginning with Mesopotamian culture and ending with the Protestant Reformation), but we will be more concerned with analytical methods than with strict chronology. In other words, you will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than you will spend memorizing names and dates.

Discussion Preparation and Writing Assignments

For the purposes of evaluation (grading), we will focus on two interrelated skills. The first, active discussion of the material, requires reading the material before the day of the lecture with which it is connected so that you can contribute both comments and informed questions to the discussion.

Because this is a writing intensive (WI) course, we will also be exploring a wide variety of ways to write about history. Each of the writing assignments will aid you in becoming a better interpreter of the primary sources left to us by pre-modern people.

In-class writing: At the beginning of each class, students will take 5-10 minutes to answer a specific question which will serve as a starting point for the discussion. These timed writings will be collected and graded on a "+ √ -" scale with "+" being the highest score and "-" being the lowest.

5 Short Writing Assignments: These periodic 1 ½-2 page writing assignments will focus on the process of constructing a brief essay (introduction, evidence, conclusion) and help to prepare you to write the three longer essays.

3 essays of 4-5 pages: These essays allow students to focus on two of the forms of writing practiced by historians – argument and comparison. The first draft of the first essay will be returned to the students with comments (and no grade). Each student will be required to meet with the instructor to outline the changes he/she will make in the final version of this first essay. Students may submit the second and third essays one week before the due date to receive the instructor’s comments and advice, but multiple drafts of these two essays will not be required.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course you will be able to

- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- demonstrate familiarity with argumentative and comparative styles of writing about historical issues.
- explain the significance of terms (people, events, places, dates) in relation to the origins of social, political, and religious elements of modern western society
- understand the differences and similarities among ancient, medieval, and early modern western culture.

For Your Information

Attendance: After you have missed three class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (ie from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

Honor code: Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG’s academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the assignments. For specific explanations about UNCG’s academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

Assignment completion: Failure to complete any part of the course – in-class writings, discussions, periodic short writing assignments, or any of the three essays– will result in an “F” for the course.

Reading Advice

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for class discussion. Taking notes on the primary sources you will be writing papers on is especially important. It's much easier to note down important points as you read than it is to go back and find those points again once you've finished reading. Finally, I recommend reading each document more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you'll have plenty of time for re-reading.

Supplemental Reading

In many cases, the supplemental readings will come from the on-line readers the Ancient History Sourcebook or the Internet Medieval Sourcebook. When the readings are to be found on-line, I will put a link on our Blackboard readings page. Occasionally, the supplemental reading will be in the form of a paper handout.

Grade Breakdown

Discussion	10%
In-Class Writing	10%
Short Writing Assignments	15%
First Essay	15%
Second Essay	25%
Third Essay	25%

Required Texts

Marvin Perry, et al. eds. *Sources of the Western Tradition: From Ancient Times to the Enlightenment*, 6th edition (Houghton Mifflin, 2005) ISBN 978-0618473861.

The Epic of Gilgamesh, trans. Andrew George, (Penguin, 2003), ISBN 0140449191.

The Song of Roland, trans. Glyn Burgess, (Penguin, 1990) ISBN 0140445323

Machiavelli, Niccolo, *The Prince*, (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004) ISBN 9312149786

Recommended Text

Spielvogel, Jackson, *Western Civilization: A Brief History, Volume I: To 1715*, 3rd edition (Wadsworth, 2004) ISBN 053-4627226.

Lectures and Readings

Section I: The Ancient World

January 9: Introductions – What is *civilization*?

January 11: Mesopotamia: The first lawcode – Hammurabi

Readings: Perry—Chapter 1, sections 1-3 (3-12) & 8 (23-35); *Gilgamesh* (1-54);
Spielvogel 1-12

January 16: Mesopotamia: The *Epic of Gilgamesh*

Readings: *Gilgamesh* (54-99)

January 18: Egypt: the Nile

Readings: Perry Chapter 1, sections 4-6 (13-19); Spielvogel 12-20

January 23: The Hebrew Covenant

Readings: Perry Chapter 2, sections 1-6 (27-43); Spielvogel 22-36

First short writing due (Gilgamesh)

January 25: Hammurabi and Exodus

Readings: Supplemental reading

January 30: Archaic Greece & Homer's *Iliad*

Readings: Perry Chapter 3, section 1 (46-50); Supplemental Reading; Spielvogel 38-47

First draft of long essay due (Hammurabi & Exodus)

February 1: The Classical Age of Greece: 5th-century Athens

Readings: Perry Chapter 3, sections 2-14 (51-99); Spielvogel 47-56

February 6: Rome: The Republic

Readings: Perry Chapter 4, sections 1-5 (101-118); Spielvogel 73-86

Second short writing due (Peloponnesian War)

February 8: Rome: End of Republic, Beginning of Empire

Readings: Perry Chapter 4, section 6 (119-123) and Chapter 5, sections 1-7 (125-158);
Spielvogel: 86-91 and 93-106

February 13: Early Christianity: Jesus & St. Paul

Readings: Perry Chapter 6, sections 1-2 (160-165); Supplemental Reading; Spielvogel
107-111

Final draft of first long essay due

February 15: Early Christianity: Creeds & Monasticism

Readings: Supplemental Reading

Section II: The Middle Ages

February 20: Byzantium: the Roman Legacy in the East

Readings: Perry Chapter 7, section 1 (190-195); Spielvogel 125-128 and 145-147

February 22: The Appearance of Islam

Readings: Perry Chapter 7, sections 2-3; Supplemental Reading; Spielvogel 128-132 and 148-151

February 27: the Franks

Readings: Perry Chapter 7, sections 4-7 (201-211); Supplemental Reading; Spielvogel 131-142

March 1: Lord and Vassal

Readings: Chapter 7, section 8 (212-215); Supplemental Reading-Hugh of Lusignan; Spielvogel 142-145

Third short writing due (Franks)

March 6: Spring Break – no class

March 8: Spring Break – no class

March 13: The First Crusade

Readings: Supplemental Reading; *Roland*; Spielvogel 184-188

March 15: *The Song of Roland*

Readings: *Roland*

March 20: Women in the Middle Ages

Readings: Perry Chapter 8, section 9 (248-255); Supplemental Reading; Spielvogel 154-159

March 22 Gothic Art & Courtly Love

Readings: Spielvogel 166-168

Second long essay due

March 27: Statebuilding: England and the Papacy

Readings: Perry Chapter 8, section 10 (255-258); Supplemental Reading; Spielvogel 171-172 and 178-181

March 29: Crises of the 14th century: the four horsemen of the Apocalypse

Readings: Perry Chapter 8, section 11 (258-266); Spielvogel 191-207

Fourth short writing due (Magna Carta)

Section III: Early Modern Europe

April 3: Italian Renaissance Art & Literature: Petrarch & Leonardo

Readings: Perry Chapter 8, section 12 (267-273) and Chapter 9, sections 1-2 (276-283) and section 4 (287-289); Spielvogel 217-224

April 5: Italian Renaissance Politics

Readings: Machiavelli 39-81; Spielvogel 215-217

April 10: Machiavelli and *the Prince*

Readings: Machiavelli 81-123

April 12: The Protestant Reformation: Luther

Readings: Perry Chapter 10, sections 2-4 (301-311); Supplemental Reading; Spielvogel 231-237

April 17: The Protestant Reformation: Calvin & Zwingli

Readings: Perry Chapter 10, section 5 (311-315); Handout; Spielvogel 237-241

Fifth short writing due (Luther)

April 19: Legislated change: Reform in England

Readings: Supplemental Reading

April 24: the Council of Trent & the Counter-Reformation

Readings: Perry Chapter 10, section 6 (315-321); Spielvogel 242-245

April 26: Reminiscences: What is *civilization*?

Third long essay due (Machiavelli)